

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh  
Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill  
Cllr. Terence Slowey  
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher  
Cllr. Michéal Choilm Mac Giolla Easbuig  
Cllr. Enda Bonner

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Michael McGarvey, A/Director Water & Environment  
Brendan McFadden - S.E.E. Area Manager, Roads &  
Transportation  
Eamonn Brown - A/Area Manager, Housing &  
Corporate  
David Friel - Coastal Officer  
Sinead McClafferty - Assistant Planner  
Mairead Cranley - Staff Officer, Community  
Development  
Michael Rowsome, S.S.O. Motor Tax/Corporate

**APOLOGY:** Charles Sweeney - Area Manager, Community  
Development

**GMD 76/18**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF GLENTIES MD HELD  
ON 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

On the proposal of Cllr. Bonner, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the minutes of the meeting of the Glenties Municipal District Committee held on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were confirmed.

**GMD 77/18**

**WORKSHOP - 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

The Committee noted the report from the Workshop held on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in relation to proposed development at Burtonport Harbour.

**GMD 78/18**

**VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEMES**

Cllr. Gallagher expressed disappointment that the town and village renewal scheme proposed for Fintown was the single unsuccessful application out of the 12 submissions for funding in Co. Donegal. Cllr. Bonner also requested details as to the reason that this project was not approved for funding.

**GMD 79/18**

**ENVIRONMENT**

**79.1**

**Free Hazardous Waste Collection**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer regarding the availability of a free household hazardous waste collection service in the Dungloe recycling centre on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

**79.2**

**Mattress Amnesty Initiative**

Members welcomed the report previously circulated regarding the free collection of 1033 mattresses in Donegal.

**79.3**

**Litter & Waste Collection**

The Committee discussed the statistics in relation to (i) the tonnage of waste collected by the 3 no. Mobile Litter Units, (ii) Geopad statistics, (iii) Enforcement actions/complaints and (iv) Litter fines issued during the period from 1.1.2018 to 31.8.2018.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill expressed surprise that only 68 no. litter fines were issued in the 8 month statistical period and recommended:

- (a) greater civic responsibility in terms of waste disposal and
- (b) a leaflet drop to holiday homes outlining date/times of local waste collection service.

#### 79.4

#### Derrybeg Recycling Centre

In response to queries from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh and Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig regarding illegal dumping at this location, the Coastal Officer informed Members that the presence of CCTV cameras has discouraged unauthorised activity.

The Environment Director informed Members that an additional site has been secured in conjunction with Udarás in the Gweedore area.

The Coastal Officer also undertook to report on the number of litter fines issued in Derrybeg at the next meeting.

#### 79.5

#### Bikes 4 Africa Campaign

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda regarding the Councils support for the donation of old bikes to the recycling centre, during October which has been designated 'National Reuse Month'. The bicycles will be refurbished and eventually transported to Africa.

79.6

### **2018 Bathing Seasons**

Members welcomed the report circulated previously and presented by the Coastal Officer in relation to the allocation of beach lifeguards and incidents reported during the 2018 bathing season. Cllr. Slowey commended the success of the programme and the level of service provided by beach lifeguards throughout the County.

79.7

### **'Clean Coasts'**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer in relation to the 'Big Beach Clean' which took place at 24 beaches in the County. Members commended the Action Day carried out on Arranmore involving transition year students from Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada, Arranmore Cultural Initiative and Peter O' Donnell of Island Clean Coasts Group.

79.8

### **Beach Mapping**

Cllr. Gallagher commended the progress of the Council initiative to map all beaches in the County. The Coastal Officer welcomed increased coastal community involvement in the upkeep of beaches as an enhancement to the beach mapping service.

79.9

### **Coastal Protection**

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill recommended that a workshop be convened in relation to the increasing likelihood of further incidents of coastal erosion in light of emerging meteorological studies.

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner regarding the Narin/Portnoo coastal protection study, the Coastal Officer advised Members that erosion concerns at Narin, Maghery, Magheroarty and Carrickfinn are going to tender as one collective study.

79.10

**Invasive Species**

Cllr. Gallagher commended the success of the pilot project to eradicate the presence of Japanese Knotweed in the Dungloe area and requested the Environment Service to carry out an evaluation study to determine the suitability of rolling out this programme to other areas.

The Environment Director undertook to liaise with the programme coordinator and knotweed expert, Philip Rodgers.

The Roads Manager updated the Committee in relation to ongoing spraying of invasive species on roadside verges in the Municipal District.

79.11

**Ardara CE Scheme**

Cllr. Slowey expressed annoyance at the recent removal and cutting of trees in the Diamond, Ardara, without any consultation with the local community. Cllr. Slowey requested the Council to liaise with the CE Scheme Supervisor to inform them of the strength of local feeling regarding the felling of trees that were planted over 20 years ago to enhance the town environment.

GMD 80/18

**PLANNING SERVICE**

80.1

**Development Applications**

Members noted the statistical report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Area Planner regarding the status of development applications received during the year to August 2018. In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Area Planner informed the Committee of the relatively smooth transition to the new Local Area Development Plan and stated that there hasn't been any noticeable increase in further information requests.

80.2

**Enforcement**

Members were informed that updated statistics will be available at the next MD Meeting.

80.3

**Planning Clinics**

The Area Planner informed Members that Planning Clinics are scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> of November and 5<sup>th</sup> of December and that one planner is dealing with the Municipal District due to staffing resources.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill advised Members that any downgrading of the Municipal District Planning Service is unacceptable and that he has communicated his concerns to both the Planning Director and Senior Planner.

**GMD 81/18**

**ROADS SERVICE**

81.1

**Follow-Up Issues raised at September Municipal District Meeting**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated in advance of the meeting.

Cllr. Gallagher commended the progress on lining sections of the Dungloe-Fintown regional roads.

81.2

**Roadworks Programme 2018**

Members welcomed the progress report circulated in advance of the meeting and commended the Roads Service for the quality of works and improvements to the road network.

**81.3**

### **Bunbeg Footbridge**

The Roads Manager updated Members on the status of the proposed footbridge project on the R257 at Clady Bridge, Bunbeg. The proposed footbridge is within an SAC and the Roads Service has appointed an ecologist to carry out a survey in the vicinity of the existing structure. A number of freshwater pearl mussels have been found in proximity to the project location and the design developed in 2008 will be checked for compatibility with the Ecologists survey. The next stage of this project is to appoint a Consultant via a tendering process.

**81.4**

### **Irish Water**

The Committee expressed frustration at the slow pace of progress in relation to permanent reinstatement works on a number of projects.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to expedite the attainment of a solution prior to the issue of any further road opening licences to Irish Water.

Cllr. Slowey recommended that the CEO intervene in future discussions with Irish Water.

The Roads Manager advised Members that the Roads & Water Service Directors are involved in current negotiations with Irish Water.

**81.5**

### **Restoration Programme 2019-2021**

The Roads Manager informed the Committee that a Workshop will be convened at 9.30 a.m. on November 5<sup>th</sup> to add schemes in respect of 2020 and 2021 to the existing 2019 programme. Members were advised that the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport have set a deadline date of the 9<sup>th</sup> of November for submission of the 3 year restoration programme.

81.6

**Public Lighting**

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner, regarding the status of public lighting at Meenacuing, the Roads Manager advised that an update will be available at the November meeting. Cllr. Bonner requested that his allocation in the sum of €3000 be allocated to Brian O Donnell's road on Arranmore.

81.7

**Flooding**

In response to a request from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh to address flooding incidents at Corveen, the Roads Manager informed the Committee that a workshop will be convened in January 2019 to discuss a 2019 drainage programme.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill recommended that the Council dedicate roads staff to monitor incidents of flooding throughout the area.

81.8

**Meenaroy Bridges**

In response to concerns express by Cllr. Gallagher and Cllr. Bonner regarding a number of recent accidents, the Roads Manager advised that he has liaised with the Letterkenny Roads Manager with responsibility for both bridges. The Committee were advised of the long term aim to re-design both bridges in addition to recent parapet repair and provision of safety signage.

81.9

**Tullies Bridge**

In response to a query from Cllr. Slowey, the Roads Manager advised that the Council are revising the design to improve value for money efficiencies.

81.10

**Back of Errigal Road**

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill highlighted the necessity to resurface a stretch of the back of Errigal road towards Glenveagh.



The Roads Manager outlined work carried out at this location, issues arising from the presence of blanket bog and the necessity for the return of specific improvement grants to facilitate completion of works at this locus.

**GMD 82/18**

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**82.1**

### **Social Inclusion**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community Development Staff Officer regarding social inclusion related issues in Donegal.

**82.2**

### **Intergenerational Choir - 'Ceol le Chéile'**

Cllr. Gallagher congratulated the Social Inclusion Unit on the establishment of the Intergenerational Choir to enhance the health and well-being of those living in the County.

**82.3**

### **Youth Council**

Members noted the report circulated previously and presented by the Community Development Staff Officer regarding work undertaken by the Youth Council and the forthcoming elections for the period 2018-2020.

**82.4**

### **Comhrá 2018**

The Committee noted the report from Oifigeach na Gaeilge regarding Comhrá 2018.

82.5

**Fintown Village Renewal**

Cllr. Gallagher requested an update from the Community Development unit regarding the unsuccessful application submitted for Village Renewal in Fintown, and requested the Council to liaise with the Minister for Rural and Community Development. Cllr. Bonner requested a response from the Community Development Service to the refusal of this application.

82.6

**Tourism**

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council's recently appointed Tourism Officer to market the Donegal walking routes including Bealach na Gaeltachta as a priority.

Cllr. Slowey informed the Committee of work carried out by Inga Bock in this regard and requested the Community Development Service to liaise with her and recommended that an invitation issue to Ms Bach to attend a Municipal District meeting.

82.7

**Glenties Playground**

Cllr. Bonner recommended that this facility be added to the Council's Insurance Policy.

**GMD 83/18**

**HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES**

83.1

**Ministerial Correspondence**

The Committee noted correspondence to and from the Departments of:

- (1) Housing, Planning and Local Government &
- (2) Culture, Gaeltacht and the Islands.

**83.2**

**Grants**

The Committee welcomed the updated reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to:

- (i) Housing Aid for Older People
- (ii) Housing Adaptation
- (iii) Mobility Aids.

**83.3**

**Casual Vacancies**

Members discussed the report circulated previously and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of 17 no. casual vacancies as at the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

The Committee were advised that (i) works are ongoing at 9 no. vacancies with an end of October contract completion date and (ii) tenders have been received in respect of 8 no. vacancies and are currently being assessed by the Housing Engineer.

**83.4**

**Acquisitions**

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the status of acquisitions in Glenties, Falcarragh and Dungloe. Cllr. Slowey commended the Council's purchase of 6 no. long term lease properties in Glenties.

**83.5**

**HAP Scheme**

Cllr. Gallagher requested details of the number of people availing of the HAP Scheme in addition to those on the Housing List to determine the overall housing requirement in the Glenties Municipal District.

The Committee stressed the importance of commencing a House Building Programme to provide security of tenure for Social Housing applicants.

83.6

**Approved Housing Bodies**

The Housing Manager updated Members on the status of negotiations with Respond and Clúid.

83.7

**Homelessness**

Cllr. Bonner informed the Committee of recent concerns expressed by Voluntary Housing Bodies in relation to homelessness and the Housing Manager responded to queries from Cllr. Gallagher in this regard.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE  
MEETING.**