

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

HELD ON 12th FEBRUARY 2019 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

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

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Michael McGarvey, A/Director Water & Environment
Brendan McFadden - S.E.E. Area Manager, Roads &
Transportation
Fergus Towey - S.E.E. NRDO
Eamonn Brown - Area Manager, Housing & Corporate
Killian Smith - Executive Planner
Mairéad Cranley - Social Inclusion Staff Officer
David Friel - Coastal Officer
Michael Rowsome, S.S.O. Motor Tax/Corporate

GMD 21/19

VOTE OF SYMPATHY

The Committee passed a vote of sympathy in memory of John Harley, Shaun Harkin, Michéal Roarty and Daniel Scott who were tragically killed in a Road Traffic Accident. A minutes silence was observed by all in attendance at the meeting.

GMD 22/19

**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MD MEETING HELD ON
15TH JANUARY 2019**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, the minutes of the meeting of the Glenties MD Committee held on the 15th January 2019 were confirmed.

GMD 23/19

WORKSHOP HELD ON 15TH JANUARY 2019

The Committee noted the report from the Workshop held on the 15th of January 2019.

GMD 24/19

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

24.1

Development Applications

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Executive Planner in relation to statistics for the year ended 2018. In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher, the Executive Planner confirmed that withdrawn applications were not included in the presented statistics.

24.2

Enforcement

Members discussed the report previously circulated regarding the status of enforcement cases. In response to concerns expressed by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh regarding the 172 outstanding cases on record, the Executive Planner clarified that the Planning Service are dealing with legacy issues and that many of the cases have been resolved.

24.3

Planning Clinics

The Committee noted the scheduling of planning clinics on the 13th February, 27th February, 13th March and the 27th March.

24.4

Central Planning Unit

The Committee noted the ongoing work programmes in the areas of local area plans, town and village programme and the Hericoast Project.

24.5

Gola Island

In response to a recommendation from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Executive Planner undertook to liaise with the Senior Planner regarding anticipated progress in relation to the inability of Islanders to submit retention applications.

GMD 25/19

HOUSING

25.1

Grants

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager regarding the status of Housing Grants at the 4th of February 2019.

The Housing Manager advised Members that amendments to the grants scheme have been updated on the new forms on the Council website and further advised of the possibility that unsuccessful applications for Housing grants could be eligible for approval under the new scheme.

25.2

Casual Vacancies

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager regarding the status of casual vacancies as at the 4th of February 2019. Members were advised that (i) tenders are being sought for 11 vacancies with a deadline date of the month end and (ii) 5 vacancies have been offered to applicants on the Housing list.

25.3

Acquisitions

Members noted the report circulated previously in relation to the status of acquisitions at 4th February 2019 in respect of properties in Falcarragh, Dungloe and Derrybeg. The Committee were informed by the

Housing Manager that a further 10 no. acquisitions have been targeted in 2019 to accommodate families on the waiting list with a specific need.

25.4

Approved Housing Bodies

The Housing Manager informed the Committee that Clúid have completed a design for the re-purposing of their units in Dungloe and that they will revert to the Council and the HSE on completion of their internal deliberations.

The Housing Manager informed Members that Respond have revised their plans to increase the bedroom size in their units from 1 to 2 and that the Council have arranged further discussions with this AHB on the 20th February 2019.

25.5

Údarás Properties

The Committee were advised that Housing Construction are reviewing maps submitted by Údarás in relation to their properties in Fintown.

25.6

Painting Programme

The Housing Manager updated Members in relation to the status of their maintenance programme and confirmed the:

- Completion of 8 no. OPD's in Árd Cróine, Dungloe
- Scheduling of painting programme in Ballina and Arranmore.

25.7

SI Housing

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner, the Housing Manager informed Members that 2 applications are at land transfer stage and 2 applications are being assessed.

25.8

Housing Extensions

In reply to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill regarding the status of housing extension applications, the Housing Manager informed the Committee that 2 applications have been tendered and that the Housing Engineer is assessing an additional request for an extension. Cllr, Ó Domhnaill also requested clarification in relation to the role of the Architects office in this facet of the Housing service.

25.9

Housing Construction

The Committee expressed frustration at apparent inactivity in relation to Social Housing developments in the Glenties MD.

Cllr. Gallagher recommended the location of Housing Capital resources in the Dungloe office and a focused vision of social housing provision throughout the rural areas of West Donegal to assist in the retention of vital social and economic resources.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh and Cllr. Bonner outlined their disappointment at a lack of communication in relation to their submissions regarding proposals in respect of Gweedore and Dungloe respectively.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill expressed exasperation at (i) the reduction of the Dunfanaghy Housing development from 8 to 4 units, (ii) the delays in initiating a DCC direct house building programme and (iii) reduction in the availability of rental properties due to the Housing acquisition programme.

The Housing Manager (i) outlined restrictions on the release of information due to the nature of the tendering process, (ii) expressed optimism that a number of schemes will be progressed in the MD, (iii) informed Members that approval has been granted for the purchase of land in Dungloe and Falcarragh and (iv) Part 8 to be presented at the March Council meeting in respect of 4 no. houses in Dunfanaghy.

GMD 26/19

ENVIRONMENT

26.1

National Environmental Enforcement Priorities 2019

Members noted the report circulated previously from the Waste Regulation Officer.

26.2

Household Food Waste Bin

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda by the Waste Regulation Officer regarding the Council's support for the roll out of household food waste bins by means of Public Service Announcements on radio stations during February 2019 to be followed up by a brown bin awareness campaign in Summer 2019.

26.3

Tyre Regulations

The Committee noted the report from the Waste Enforcement Officer regarding the imposition of obligations on suppliers and collectors of tyres to ensure the environmental management of tyres.

26.4

Big Donegal Clean Up

Members welcomed the report from the Waste Awareness Officer regarding the launch of the Donegal Clean Up campaign during March 2019. Members were advised that applications for clean-up equipment are available in Council offices.

26.5

Green Schools

Members noted the report from the Waste Awareness Officer regarding support from An Taisce and the Council for the Green Schools programme on the Islands.

26.6

ECO - MERIT Business Workshop

The Committee noted the report from the Waste Awareness Officer regarding the success of the breakfast meeting attended by local businesses, the Council and Dungloe Tidy Towns. ECO MERIT is a 3 year environmental certification programme highlighting areas where businesses can reduce costs incurred on waste, energy and water.

26.7

Recycling Bring Banks

In response to a recommendation from Cllr. Gallagher regarding the necessity to improve the provision of glass and tin recycling facilities outside the Dungloe Civic Amenity Site, the Coastal Officer undertook to liaise with relevant officials in this regard.

26.8

Climate Adaptation

The Committee noted the report circulated previously and presented by the Coastal Officer regarding the formation of a climate adaptation Team in the Council.

26.9

Coastal Management

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer in relation to:

- (i) Beach Lifeguard recruitment for the 2019 bathing season.
- (ii) Initiatives to impact on marine litter reduction.
- (iii) Hedge cutting to improve beach access.
- (iv) Public Conveniences and Portaloo Infrastructure.

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner the Coastal Officer updated the Committee on progress to appoint a Consultant to conduct a coastal protection study.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to expedite completion of the Dungloe Public Convenience.

GMD 27/19

Community Development

The Social Inclusion Staff Officer updated the Committee in relation to proposals for participation in a Walkability Audit in Dungloe as part of the Donegal Age Friendly Programme on 6th March. The Walkability Audit will consist of a diverse group of people walking a selected 3 km route to observe and record positive and negative aspects of the town from a walker's perspective.

GMD 28/19

ROADS SERVICE

28.1

Magheroarty Road Tragedy

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill commended the efforts of Roads staff to grit and maintain roads and laneways in all areas affected following the recent road tragedy.

28.2

Pavement Asset Repair and Renewal Programme

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by Fergus Towey SEE, in relation to (i) N56 PARR Schemes planned, designed and procured by the Donegal NRDO for construction in 2019 and (ii) PARR Schemes being planned and designed for construction in 2020 subject to TII funding. In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher, the Roads Manager advised that he will meet the Dungloe Tidy Towns Committee along with the NRDO Project Manager regarding the Dungloe South Pavement Strengthening Contract prior to the commencement of construction.

28.3

Major and Minor Road Projects

Members welcomed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by Fergus Towey SEE regarding the following projects:

- (i) N56 Boyoughter to Kilkenny
- (ii) N56 Kilkenny to Letterilly
- (iii) N56 Letterilly to Kilrairie and Dungloe to Cloghbolie
- (iv) N56 Dungloe to Glenties - land acquisitions
- (v) Donegal Ten-T Priority Route Improve Scheme
- (vi) N56 Coolboy Kilmacrennan
- (vii) N56 Mountcharles Drumbeigh

Cllr. Slowey commended the updated information from the NRDO and expressed appreciation for the major investment in the transformative road projects ongoing in the County.

Cllr. Gallagher requested: (i) that an application to install lighting from Duddys to the shop in Leitir be submitted in the interests of health and safety of road users and pedestrians and (ii) commencement of resurfacing works on the cycle lane in Leitir.

Cllr. Bonner requested that remedial works be carried out on roads from (1) McLoone's pub in Maas to Kilkenny school & (2) scenic road to the top of Letterilly Hill. Both roads have been heavily trafficked to avoid traffic lights on the major road scheme.

28.4

Back of Muckish Road

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill outlined his involvement in negotiations with the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to secure funding for necessary works on the Back of Muckish Road. He said that prior to the allocation of substantial funding, documentation was

requested by the Department from Roads Service Headquarters and Cllr. Ó Domhnaill expressed annoyance and frustration that the outstanding request for documentation has resulted in the loss of project funding for a vital link used by citizens at the Glenties MD.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh empathised with the frustration expressed by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill regarding any loss of funding for a vital project in the MD.

Cllr. Gallagher highlighted the financial repercussions of the loss of funding necessitating the utilisation of the roads budget to address deficiencies on the back of Muckish Road.

Cllr. Slowey recommended that Councillors meet Roads Management in a workshop to obtain an update and response to concerns expressed by the MD Committee.

GMD 29/19

Dunfanaghy Area Community Network - Deputation

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh welcomed Gerard Dalton, Dan O'Mahoney and Shaun Boyce, representing the Dunfanaghy Area Community Network to the meeting.

The Committee were advised of the negative impact on visitors and residents due to a lack of casual trading regulation in Dunfanaghy.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill undertook to arrange a meeting with the Senior Planner to promote the necessity for implementation of casual trading bye-laws.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Slowey, the Committee recommended the commencement of a process to implement casual trading bye-laws in the Glenties MD.

In response to a query raised by the Dunfanaghy Area Community Network regarding the status of a commitment by the Roads Service to purchase a land bank from First Trust Bank in the sum of €80,000 to facilitate development in Dunfanaghy, Michael

McGarvey, Director, said the executive would obtain further information in this regard.

GMD 30/19

Cumann Traenach Baile na Finne - Deputation

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh welcomed Seán Ó Domhnaill, Áine Ní Ridire and Seamus De Brún from Cumann Traenach Baile na Finne to the meeting.

The Committee were informed (1) of the perilous financial situation of Cumann Traenach due to a major breakdown of the railcar necessitating expenditure in the sum of €17500, (2) risk to 10 local jobs in Fintown and (3) disappointment of unsuccessful application for Village Renewal Funding.

Cllr. Bonner advised the representatives of Cumann Traenach to make an application for DFI funding prior to the 9th of March.

Cllr. Slowey undertook to liaise with Minister McHugh regarding this project.

Cllr. Gallagher informed the meeting that it was imperative that a meeting between the Council, Údarás and Chief Executive of the Council be arranged to prioritise the retention and financial stabilisation of this community project.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill undertook to liaise with Cllr. Ó Fearraigh in their respective roles as Council and MD Cathaoirligh to outline their concerns to Minister Ring.

Michael McGarvey, Director, contacted Údarás prior to the conclusion of the presentation and confirmed that initial joint funding of €4000 from the Council and Údarás has been agreed to purchase sleepers to facilitate opening of the historic railway.

GMD 31/19

Request for Deputation

On the proposal of Cllr, Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, the Committee agreed to receive a deputation from Coiste Forbartha Cois Claidigh at the March MD meeting.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.