

**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 11th October 2016 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr. Enda Bonner
Cllr. Terence Slowey
Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Michael McGarvey, A/Director Water & Environment
Eunan Quinn, Senior Executive Planner
Brendan McFadden, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Charles Sweeney, Area Manager, Community, Culture & Enterprise
Mairead Cranley, Staff Officer, Community, Culture & Enterprise
David Friel, Coastal Officer
Eamonn Brown, A/Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services
Fergus Towey, Executive Engineer NRDO
Michael Rowsome, S.S.O Corporate & Motor Tax

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill
Cllr. Micheal Cholm Mac Giolla Easbaig
Frank Sweeney, Executive Planner

GMD 275/16 HOUR OF MEETING

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Fearraigh seconded by Cllr. Slowey members agreed to commence the meeting at 12 noon.

**GMD 276/16 MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON 28th SEPTEMBER 2016**

On the proposal of Cllr. Bonner, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on 28th September 2016 were agreed.

GMD 277/16 **Planning & Economic Development**

The Senior Executive Planner updated Members in relation:

- to the ongoing recruitment process
- proposals to assign an Executive Planner to each MD
- proposals to have an Executive Planner in attendance at MD meetings
- necessity to have a Planner fluent in Irish & English in MD

Members voiced their continuing frustration in relation to:

- increasing percentage of refusals in the Glenties MD
- difficulties in liaising with planning staff
- inability to convene site meetings
- necessity to decentralise planning service to Glenties MD
- necessity for planning service to facilitate families obtain planning within constraints of legislation

The Senior Executive Planner informed the Committee that the proposed planning appointments will facilitate restructuring of the planning service to address the concerns highlighted by Members.

Members were further advised that 45% of refusals were due to technical matters, that the annual review of decisions is in progress and that a report will issue regarding different constraints and issues throughout the County.

GMD 278/16 **County Development Plan**

In response to a query from Cllr. Slowey regarding continuing refusals in areas where there has been large scale infrastructural investment in sewerage systems, the Senior Executive Planner advised that this issue is being considered in the context of the review of the County Development Plan.

GMD 279/16

Save Our Strands Group - Oyster Farms

Cllr. Gallagher discussed the attendance of the group representing Cruit Island & Keadue communities at the Islands Committee meeting, and expressed disappointment at the lack of meaningful consultation by the Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine.

The Senior Executive Planner confirmed that the Planning Authority was not involved in the application process as the proposed development is below the High Water mark.

On the proposal of Cllr. Bonner, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh the Committee requested the submission of Members concerns and reservations regarding the unsuitable locations of both proposed Oyster farms on Cruit Island & Keadue Strand to the Minister for Food, Agriculture & Marine.

GMD 280/16

Workshop Request

The Committee agreed to convene a workshop at 10am on November 11th 2016 in relation to:

- (1) EU funded Hericoast Project and
- (2) Selection of one Tier 3 & one Tier 4 town/village for detailed consideration of regeneration/renewal capacity.

Community and Enterprise

GMD 281/16

The Community & Enterprise Manager updated the Committee in relation to:

- The library service
- World Mental Health Day
- ASCENT Programme
- Rural Recreation Projects
- Bealach na Gaeltachta
- Letterkenny to Burtonport Greenway Project

Cllr. Slowey commended the activities undertaken by the Community & Enterprise Service and informed Members of a conference that he recently attended on Suicide Prevention.

GMD 282/16 **European Bike Trail**

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher, the Community & Enterprise Manager undertook to obtain further details in relation to the status of this scheme in Donegal.

GMD 283/16 **Social Inclusion Week**

The Committee welcomed the Social Inclusion Booklet of events circulated at the meeting and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager.

Cllr. Slowey commended Community & Enterprise staff for their contribution to the success of the recent event held in Ardara for elderly people as part of Social Inclusion Week.

GMD 284/16 **Campervan Facilities**

The Community & Enterprise Manager updated Members in relation to campervan pilot schemes at Maghery and Magheraroarty.

Cllr. Bonner & Cllr. Slowey requested the Council to address the utilisation of Council car parking at Narin by campervans, notwithstanding the availability of local private facilities.

Environmental Services

GMD 285/16

David Friel Coastal Officer updated Members in relation to the following aspects of the Water & Environment Service, circulated with the agenda:

- 2016 Tidy Towns Competition
- Activities & Events organised to promote October as 'Reuse' month

- Smoky Coal Ban & Halloween Bonfires
- Free Hazardous Waste Collections
- Dog Fouling
- 2016 Bathing Season Report

GMD 286/16 **Environment Enforcement**

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer in relation to environmental complaints and fixed penalty notices served under the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh emphasised the importance of liaising with Tidy Town Groups and requested the Council to implement a 'name and shame' policy to minimise illegal littering.

Cllr. Gallagher commended the increased interaction between Councillors and Environment Staff.

GMD 287/16 **Dungloe Bay**

Cllr. Gallagher recommended that the Council liaise with the EPA and Marine Institute to monitor water quality regularly in Dungloe Bay to encourage greater use of this valuable resource, on confirmation of water quality improvement.

GMD 288/16 **Deputation**

Members welcomed the deputation from the Dunfanaghy Area Community Network, represented by Gerard Dalton, Aoife Cleary and Patrick Durning to the meeting.

The Deputation circulated the Committee with correspondence from Bus Companies and the National Roads Office regarding local roads in the Dunfanaghy area.

In response to concerns raised by DACN regarding the road width at the top of the town and the pitch point on entrance to the village from Falcarragh, the Roads Manager undertook to arrange a meeting with DACN.

Roads and Transportation

GMD 289/16 **Follow Up Issues**

Members welcomed the update circulated previously by the Roads Manager.

GMD 290/16 **Roadworks Programme 2016**

The Roads Manager updated the Committee in relation to:

- Tenders in respect of Road Schemes on Tory & Arranmore
- Flooding & Severe Weather Programme of Works
- Ardara Footpaths
- Pole Road Reinstatement proposals
- N56 Fanaboy Scheme
- Creeslough Scheme

GMD 291/16 **Members Roads Issues**

The Committee highlighted the following issues for follow up by the Roads Service:

- Lettermacaward church car park and fence at Boyles House
- Killult White Lining
- Road Signage at Log Cabin Creeslough and Pete Greenes Bend Dungloe
- Ranafast Road widening requirements by bus operators.

Housing & Corporate Services

GMD 292/16 **Request for Deputation**

On the proposal of Cllr. Bonner, seconded by Cllr. Slowey the Committee agreed to receive a deputation from the Dungloe Community Network at the MD meeting on November 11th 2016.

GMD 293/16 **Housing Grants**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated previously and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of Housing grants at 4th October 2016.

GMD 294/16 **Casual Vacancies**

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager regarding the status of casual vacancies as at 4th October 2016.

The Housing Manager informed the Committee that it is anticipated that 15 no. tenancies will be created prior to Christmas as a result of current offers and completion of repairs.

GMD 295/16 **Staffing Issues**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager regarding recent and proposed staff changes in the Dungloe PSC.

GMD 296/16 **Tenants Handbook**

The Housing Manager informed the Committee that the handbook has been sent to the National Adult Literacy Agency and that the Tenants Handbook will also be translated into Irish.

GMD 297/16 **SI Housing**

Cllr. Gallagher requested that this issue be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

