

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF**  
**GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr. Enda Bonner  
Cllr. Mícheál Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig  
Cllr. Terence Slowey  
Cllr. Seamús Ó Domhnaill  
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher  
Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Michael McGarvey – A/Director Water & Environment  
Eamonn Brown –A/Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services  
Brendan McFadden – S.E.E Area Manager, Roads & Transportation  
Charles Sweeney – Area Manager, Community Development and Enterprise  
Frank Sweeney – Executive Planner  
David Friel – Coastal Officer  
Michael Rowsome – SSO, Motor Tax

**APOLOGIES:** Eunan Quinn – Senior Executive Planner

**GMD 110/16**      **MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING – 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 were agreed.

**GMD 111/16**      **REPORT FROM WORKSHOP – 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016**

The Committee noted the report from the Workshop held on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 in relation to the draft working document on the Casual Trading General Bye Laws 2016.

<b>HOUSING AND BUILDING</b>
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**GMD 112/16**

**SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAMME**

Members considered the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the A/Housing Manager in relation to the status of the following Social Housing Grants at the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016:

- Housing Aid for Older People Grants
- Housing Adaptation Grants
- Mobility Aids Grants

The Committee were advised that Housing staff are following up on outstanding further information requests issued to applicants.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill recommended the purchase of land banks in the MD to cater for the increasing Housing demand.

**GMD 113/16**

**CASUAL VACANCIES**

The Committee discussed the report circulated previously and presented by the A/Housing Manager in relation to the status of casual vacancies as at 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Members commended the new reporting format and recommended the inclusion of:

- Vacant S.I. Houses
- An additional column listing the dates on which properties were vacated (keys returned). Cllr. Slowey recommended the disposal of any properties that are unable to be let.

**GMD 114/16**

**DIFFERENTIAL RENT REVIEW**

Cllr. Gallagher reiterated a previous request to include the recent old age rent increase on the agenda of the next Council meeting as a priority and recommended adoption of a protocol to ensure referral of MD items to Plenary Council.

**GMD 115/16**

**TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME 2016**

The Committee welcomed the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016 report circulated at the meeting.

**GMD 116/16**

**SEWAGE TREATMENT INFRASTRUCTURE**

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to increase pressure on Irish Water to upgrade inefficient and problematic sewage treatment infrastructure at a number of Council Housing Schemes and commended assistance from the Housing Engineer in relation to the Gortnamona scheme in Dungloe.

**GMD 117/16**

**HOUSING MAINTENANCE – TENANT LIAISON**

The Housing Manager undertook to review what was previously agreed with Members in response to a recommendation from Cllr. Gallagher to initiate a pilot project to service and maintain boilers, windows and doors to minimise additional long term capital investment.

<b>CORPORATE SERVICES</b>
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**GMD 118/16**

**SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM CORRESPONDENCE**

The A/Director of Water & Environment informed Members of the SMT response to the correspondence submitted by the chairman of the Glenties MD in relation to:

1. Schedule of Municipal District Works 2016
2. Dungloe PSC Staffing

The Committee were advised that a revised SMDW Parks & Open Spaces distribution model will be considered during the 2017 budgeting process.

Members were informed that the SMT will continue to monitor the Workforce Plan for the Glenties MD and the A/Director of Water & Environment undertook to engage directly with members to ensure that:

1. their views are considered as part of the review and
2. access to services is improved

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill expressed disappointment that there were more staff from other organisations located in the Dungloe PSC in comparison to the anchor tenants and that Members in the Glenties MD were expected to tolerate a lesser degree of service than others MD's.

Cllr. Gallagher recommended that the SMT visit each MD annually.

Cllr. Bonner & Cllr. Ó Fearraigh expressed continuing frustration at the ongoing difficulty in attempts to liaise with the Planning Service. The Executive Planner informed Members that a directive has issued from the Director of Planning, in relation to the obligation of Planners to liaise with Members and that any shortcomings in this regard needs to be reported.

**GMD 119/16**

**RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION - DUNGLOE HYDROPOOL**

The Members welcomed a deputation from the Dungloe Hydropool Committee, represented by Seamus Rodgers, John O'Donnell, James Barrett and Thomas Donaghey.

The Deputation informed Members of;

- Difficulties encountered by patients at the HSE Learning Disability Centre at the Angle, Dungloe in accessing hydro pool Therapy.
- Completion of phase 1 of an extension.
- Refusal of HSE to commit to funding running costs on completion of Phase 2 of the project.
- Fundraising activities promoted by the local committee.

The Committee recommended that a letter issue to Denise Curran, HSE, Stranorlar requesting a meeting between MD Members and the HSE to advance proposals for the hydro pool development.

The Deputation also raised concerns over the lack of progress in respect of the proposed housing project for persons with intellectual disabilities in Dungloe promoted by the Parents & Friends Housing Association.

The A/Housing Manager undertook to advise Members of the current position of the project.

## **WATER & ENVIRONMENT**

**GMD 120/16**

### **ENVIRONMENT**

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer in relation to:

- (i) Big Donegal Clean up 16
- (ii) Spring Anti-Litter Awareness Campaign
- (iii) Dog Fouling
- (iv) Home composting
- (v) Recycling
- (vi) Waste and Litter Enforcement

**GMD 121/16**

### **PRIORITY BEACH WORKS**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer in relation to immediate works pending at Dooley, Killahoey, and Drumnatinney and the preparation of a list of beach priority works.

**GMD 122/16**

### **DESIGNATED BATHING AREAS**

Members welcomed the EPA award to Donegal County Council of additional Designated Bathing Areas at Dooley and Magheraroarty bringing a total of 21 such locations in Donegal out of a total of 140 beaches nationally.

**GMD 123/16**

### **COASTAL EROSION**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated previously and presented by the Coastal Officer in relation to the status of coastal erosion applications.

Cllr. Gallagher commended the efforts of the Environment Service to provide a solution to Maghera Coastal Erosion and requested the repair of a dangerous boardwalk at this location and also initiation of a marran grass pilot project.

In response to a query from Cllr. Slowey regarding the status of the Narin/Portnoo coastal erosion application, the A/Director of Water & Environment undertook to email Members an update on the status of this project.

**GMD 124/16**

**SEA MAMMALS**

The Committee noted the report presented by the Coastal Officer in relation to development of a draft policy to deal with beached sea mammals in conjunction with the County Vet.

**GMD 125/16**

**BEACH LIFEGUARDS**

Members noted the report in relation to the proposed appointment of seasonal beach lifeguards for 14 beaches and the procurement of supporting beach infrastructure such as ring buoys, stations and uniforms.

The Committee also welcomed the provision of a;

- (i) Pontoon hoist to Gartan Outdoor centre and
- (ii) Delivery of a beach wheelchair to Rathmullan Water Sports and Sailing School.

**GMD 126/16**

**PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the A/Director of Water & Environment;

- Regarding an assessment of Public Conveniences throughout the County in conjunction with the Health & Safety Officer.
- Proposals for improvement works throughout the County.

Cllr. Gallagher informed the Committee that the Dungloe Community Network is willing to voluntarily manage any proposed public convenience in Dungloe during the summer.

<b>COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE</b>
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**GMD 127/16**                    **TRAILS DEVELOPMENT**

The C & E Manager informed Members that the first meeting of the Railway Trails Stakeholders Group will be held in Aislann Ghaoth Dobhair on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April.

**GMD 128/16**                    **DONEGAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK**

The committee noted the report circulated previously in the respect of the status of the Public Participation Network and establishment of a dedicated website [www.donegalppn.com](http://www.donegalppn.com)

**GMD 129/16**                    **DONEGAL YOUTH COUNCIL**

Members noted the report circulated previously in relation to ongoing activities promoted by the Youth Council.

**GMD 130/16**                    **GAELTACHT SERVICE TOWNS**

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the Gaeltacht Act 2012 and the process by which Gaeltacht Service Towns can attain recognition as such.

**GMD 131/16**                    **ENTERPRISE**

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill highlighted the negative impact of increasing rate bills on small businesses in West Donegal, and requested an overhaul of the rating system to recognise the impact of minimal footfall, shorter opening hours and low profit margins on the viability of rural businesses.

The A/Director of Water & Environment undertook to communicate Members concerns to the Finance Director.



<b>ROADS &amp; TRANSPORTATION</b>
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**GMD 132/16**

**MULANTYBOYLE BRIDGE PROJECT**

The Roads Manager updated Members on the status of this project and the target date of mid June for completion of this project.

**GMD 133/16**

**ROADWORKS PROGRAMME**

The Roads Manager updated the Committee on the current status of the Roadworks Programme and notified Members of the recruitment of 5 no. seasonal outdoor staff to assist in the carrying out of roadworks.

In response to a query from Cllr. Slowey regarding necessary road improvements in Glenties prior to commencement of the Gaeltacht GAA championship, the Roads Manager undertook to liaise with Irish Water to expedite progress.

In response to a query from Cllr. Slowey regarding an application for prevention of coastal erosion at Narin/Portnoo, the Roads Manager undertook to meet with the Environment Service to progress this matter.

<b>PLANNING &amp; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>
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**GMD 134/16**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Executive Planner outlining the summary & status of planning applications in the MD.

**GMD 135/06**

**APPEALS**

Members noted the report circulated previously in relation to the 2 no. Appeals received during the period from 24/2/16 – 1/4/16.

**GMD 136/06**

**REFUSALS**

The Committee noted the 3 no. refusals issued during the period from 27/2/16 to 1/4/16.

**GMD 137/16**

**EU DIRECTIVE**

Cllr. Slowey criticised the increasingly onerous obligations being placed on rural dwellers in relation to their attempts to seek planning permission for rural developments.

Cllr. Gallagher contrasted the differences between locations receiving EU funding and those subject to EU Directives.

**GMD 138/16**

**PREPARATION OF TIER 2 LAP**

Members discussed the report from the SEP, CPU circulated at the meeting regarding submissions received during the Tier 2 Local Area Plan consultation period.

The Committee agreed to convene a workshop on the 14<sup>th</sup> June at 10am.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

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**Area Manager**  
**Municipal District of Glenties**

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**Cathaoirleach**  
**Municipal District of Glenties**