

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY-MILFORD MEETING,
HELD ON 12 JULY 2022 AT 2:00 P.M.**

MDL307/22 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly (Mayor), Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, Cllr. Liam Blaney, Cllr. Kevin Bradley, Cllr. Donal Coyle, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh (online), Cllr. Michael McBride (online), Cllr. Ian McGarvey, Cllr. John O'Donnell

MDL308/22 OFFICIALS PRESENT

Eamonn Brown, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services; Bernadine McGee, Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services; David McIlwaine, S.E.E. / Area Manager, Roads & Transportation; Elaine McEntee, Executive Planner; Joe Ferry, Senior Executive Chemist; Grace Korbel, Local Enterprise Office

MDL309/22 MEMBERS APOLOGIES

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan

MDL310/22 OFFICIALS APOLOGIES

Liam Ward, Director of Service; Francis Conaghan, Development Officer

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly.

MDL311/22 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Donal Coyle McGarvey the Minutes of Meeting of the MD Meeting on 14th June 2022 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Kevin Bradley the Minutes of the MD AGM on 14th June 2022 were adopted.

MDL312/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting.

MDL313/22 FOOTPATHS IN DR. MCGINLEY ROAD ESTATE

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, the following motion was adopted:

“That we include the upgrade to the footpaths at Dr McGinley Road Estate on our Three-Year Footpath Programme as they are in need of repair.”

Members were advised that:

“The Roads Section are currently preparing a draft programme for the 2022 Footpath and Public Lighting programme to be presented to the members at a Workshop. This section of Footpath will be considered for prioritising as part of this process.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle acknowledged the great job was done on resurfacing of the roads in the estate but noted that the footpaths would now need to be looked at. He welcomed the response given and hopes that this work will be prioritised. He stated that he is looking forward to the workshop on the 2022 Public Lighting & Footpath Programme. This is an old estate with most Residents living there a long time.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh stated that he was happy to second the motion which has been raised before. There is one section at the end of the estate that is particularly bad. He welcomed the response given.

MDL314/22 REMEDIAL WORKS FOR FAIRGREEN HILL

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, the following motion was adopted:

“That our Housing Section revisit and complete the remedial works agreed for Fairgreen Hill including the completion of the Green area, fixing of fencing and walls in the estate and upkeep of the general appearance of the empty houses in the estate.”

Members were advised that:

“The request has been passed to the Housing Engineer for review and follow up. Members will be advised accordingly in terms of agreed works required and timeline for completion.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle referred to an allocation of €20,000 that had been made for Fairgreen Hill prior to Covid. Some work was done towards providing a play area for children. The works stopped due to Covid and the area is now overgrown again and is an eyesore. Fences in the estate also need to be replaced. An area of fencing was damaged after a vehicle crashed into it and sections of it have been ripped out. There are also houses in the estate that have been left vacant due to MICA and these are now attracting unwanted attention. Cllr. McMonagle noted that he had received a phone call from the Housing Engineer who has agreed to meet him on site to discuss what needs to be done there. He welcomed this interaction from the Engineer.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh said he was happy to second the motion noting that Cllr. McMonagle has been working on this issue for a while and had outlined it well. The estate needs attention.

MDL315/22 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROUPS IN MANORCUNNINGHAM

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Donal Coyle, the following motion was adopted:

“That the Community Section in this Municipal District work with the interested groups in Manorcunningham to help and support them draw up plans to access funding from the various Funding opportunities that are available through Clar, Town and Village Renewal etc.”

Members were advised that:

“The Community Development section of Donegal County Council has met and continues to liaise with interested groups in Manorcunningham to explore funding options on identified priorities for the community. The community groups are encouraged to hold local conversations regarding their priorities for the village and its surrounding area and Donegal County Council will work closely with the groups to achieve these goals. The Council are currently working with the development group in Manorcunningham on a Town & Village application for 2022.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle noted that there are interested Community Groups in the area who need advice on how to access funding. Manorcunningham is not covered under CLAR funding so would have to access funding from the Town & Village Renewal Programme. He has arranged meetings in the past between the Groups and Francis Conaghan and noted that an expression of interest has been submitted. He thanked Francis Conaghan for his interaction with them noting that they need help with the funding.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Donal Coyle stated that he was happy to second the motion. Local groups need encouragement. He welcomed the motion as this has often been raised at workshops. The village needs a revamp. There is a small window for grant applications and this needs to be worked on now so that the group are prepared to make a submission when the time comes.

Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly stated that this had been raised at a workshop recently and he is aware of the groups in the area. He thanked Cllr. McMonagle for raising the motion.

MDL316/22 RESURFACING OF GLENCAR ROAD FROM CHESTNUT GROVE PAST THE GRANGE

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Kevin Bradley, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council have the Glencar Road from Chestnut Grove up past The Grange resurfaced as a matter of urgency as this stretch of road is in a terrible state and in bad need of repair.”

Members were advised that:

“This section of Road will be considered for prioritising as part of the 2023 Restoration Improvement programme.”

On proposing this motion Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly noted the response that this section of road would be prioritised on the 2023 programme. He is happy with the response but unhappy that the work would not be done this year. It is a short section of road and is in bad shape. He asked that the resurfacing be included this year if possible. He noted that some remedial work has been done on the road. It is a busy road in a highly populated area and the footpaths there are used regularly.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kevin Bradley noted that the motion had been summed up well stating that it would be appreciated if the work could be done this year. It is a main thoroughfare and a busy access road to the town.

David McIlwaine stated that temporary works would be done in the meantime and unless additional Restoration Improvement funding is received this year the resurfacing could not be considered.

MDL317/22 SPEED RAMPS ON DR. MCGINLEY ROAD

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Kevin Bradley, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council implement speed ramps on Dr Mc Ginley Road from the junction up to Packie Kelly's entrance please as the residents fear of a serious accident waiting to happen.”

Members were advised that:

“In accordance with Donegal County Councils road Safety Measures assessment appraisal process an appraisal of the safety concerns at this location will be carried out. Following this assessment recommendations will be made of the optimum solution and the location considered for prioritization for future funding if required.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly stated that he was happy with the response. He had met with the Residents up there. There are heavy goods vehicles using the road, there are garages and other units there. Vehicles are speeding and there is no consideration for children playing in the area. He is happy that this will be reviewed and thanked David for the response. Small speed tables or ramps would resolve the issue.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kevin Bradley noted that he was happy with the response. When roads are resurfaced the issue of speed arises.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle added his support to the motion. He had raised a motion a few months ago and was told that this is a private road and the no ramps could be put on it.

David McIlwaine advised that he needs clarification on the section of road that Cllr. Kelly is referring to and that he would discuss this with him after the meeting.

MDL318/22 NON-SLIP SURFACE FROM TEAGASC TO ROUNDABOUT AT OPTUM

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Kevin Bradley, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council look into installing a non-slip surface from the entrance at Teagasc to the roundabout at Optum on the Mountain top/Carnamuggagh Road please.”

Members were advised that:

“An assessment will be carried out on this section of road to establish if a non-slip surface is required. If required funding will be sought to carry out the necessary works.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly stated that he was happy with the response that an assessment would be carried out to establish if a non-slip surface is required. He has received phone calls recently in relation to this. When it rains cars are sliding on when entering the roundabout. He is happy that this will be assessed to make it safer for motorists.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kevin Bradley stated that he was happy to second the motion.

MDL319/22 CAMERAS OR SECURITY FOR PARKS AND LOCAL PLAY AREAS

On the proposal of Cllr. Kevin Bradley and seconded by Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council erect camera or security of some description in our parks and local play areas around Letterkenny as a matter of urgency.”

Members were advised that:

“There are CCTV cameras in both Bernard McGlinchey Town Park and Ballymacool Park.

There are 11 CCTV cameras in Bernard McGlinchey Town Park.

There are 8 CCTV cameras Ballymacool Park.

To install cameras in any other areas required that area to pass a Privacy Impact Assessment justifying the need under data protection.

In addition to this there is a significant infrastructural cost involved in setting up a secure CCTV system.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kevin Bradley noted the response stating that he is aware of the CCTV cameras in the two Parks. He is referring to green areas such as at Glencar, Glenard Park etc. Security is needed in these areas as there is partying taking place in these areas at night-time. He noted that there is no funding for this but asked that it be investigated. Security firms could be employed to walk around these areas at night.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly stated that the motion had been summed up well

MDL320/22 TRAFFIC PROBLEM ON THE WINDYHALL ROAD

On the proposal of Cllr. Kevin Bradley and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council as a matter urgency address the traffic problem on the Windyhill Road.”

Members were advised that:

“Applications have been made for funding for improvement works to DTTAS and the NTA for funding to carryout improvement works to this location. There is currently no update on the provision of this funding. Possible methods of carried out improvement works to this road are being considered when potential solutions have been identified an update will be provided to the members.”

On proposing his motion Cllr. Kevin Bradley stated that there is a lot of traffic on this road and there have been three accidents in one week there. He noted that there is currently no funding for this, but something needs to be done. The speed on this road is unbelievable. The Gardaí are under resourced and cannot be monitoring the speed on the road. Motorists coming off this road at Killylastin are flying through the junction. He clarified that he is referring to the upper side of the Windyhall Road.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey stated that he knows the road well. It is a dangerous road and needs to be made safe for road users. If possible, laybys should be added.

MDL321/22 RADAR SPEED SIGNS AT LOCAL GRAVEYARDS

On the proposal of Cllr. Kevin Bradley and seconded by Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council consider Radar speed signs at all our local Graveyards.”

Members were advised that:

“If motion is passed the Roads Service will consult with the elected members regarding the specific locations and carry out an assessment if these signs are appropriate at these locations. There is currently no funding available for these works.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kevin Bradley noted that there is no funding available. There are elderly people visiting the graveyards at Leck, Conwall and Gortlee and speed of traffic past the graveyards is awful. These signs are used in other villages.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly stated that he was happy to second the motion. The radar speed signs are a great job telling drivers to slow down.

MDL322/22 SAFETY MEASURES AT EXIT FROM ASHLAWN TO BALLYRAINE ROAD

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

“That the Council consider safety measures at the exit from Ashlawn estate to Ballyraine Road.”

Members were advised that:

“There is currently traffic lights operating at this location and ramps on the approach from Ashlawn. We will carry out an assessment to consider if

additional signage is required to advise traffic of the possibility of pedestrians crossing in front of the Ashlawn exit.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh stated that this issue had been raised with him by Residents. There is too much traffic using this exit and a one-way system should be considered. It is particularly dangerous for elderly people in the area walking there. This needs to be looked at to see what can be done.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle stated that he was happy to second the motion and noted that Cllr. Kavanagh had outlined the situation well. The problem is that the junction is an exit on to a main road. Cars must stop back from the junction and cannot see pedestrians approaching. This needs to be reviewed.

David McIlwaine stated that he will look at what other options there might be for the junction. Signage can be considered or an entry only option. He will get back to the Members on this.

MDL323/22 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MEASURES AT WESTHILL JUNCTION WITH CONVENT ROAD

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. Michael McBride, the following motion was adopted:

“That the Council consider pedestrian safety measures at the Westhill junction with Convent Road.”

Members were advised that:

“In accordance with Donegal County Councils road Safety Measures assessment appraisal process an appraisal of the safety concerns at this location will be carried out. Following this assessment recommendations will be made of the optimum solution and the location considered for prioritization for future funding if required.”

On proposing this motion Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh noted that this a busy area with pedestrians. There are schools in the area and cars and buses turning. He noted that funding was provided under Active Travel for the new one-way system. This junction needs to be looked at also. The distance across the road is wider than normal. An island in the middle of the road or an extension of the footpath out would help. Portsdale is an example of what could be done.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Michael McBride stated that he was happy to second the motion which had been outlined well. There is a high volume of traffic in the area especially during the school year.

MDL324/22 TRAFFIC COUNT THROUGH ARD O'DONNELL TOWARDS CATHEDRAL

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

“That the Council do a count on the volume of traffic using the road through Ard O'Donnell towards the Cathedral, and also consider measures to address speeding on this road.”

Members were advised that:

“Arrangements will be made to carry out Traffic Counts at this location and assessment will be arranged to establish if any measures are required.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh advised that this had been brought to him by Residents. There is a huge volume of traffic in his residential area. It is dangerous and ramps would reduce the speed on the road. He welcomed the response given.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle said he was happy to support the motion as this issue has been raised before. Residents are concerned as the ramps there are shallow and not deterring traffic. He welcomed the response that traffic counts will be carried out as they will merit the need for traffic calming.

Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly added his support to the motion as this is an issue now especially since the one-way system has been introduced.

MDL325/22 SIGNAGE FOR RAMP ON APPROACH TO ABBEY VILLAS, MANORCUNNINGHAM

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Coyle and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council erect signage on the approach to Abbey Villas in Manorcunningham to indicate the presence of an impending ramp.”

Members were advised that:

“The Roads Section will arrange for these signs to be erected.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Donal Coyle welcomed the installation of ramps in the village noting that Residents are happy with them. However, for motorists driving up the hill they must go around a bend and don't see the ramps in time. Signage is needed to alert them to the presence of ramps. He welcomed the response given.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle noted that the issue had been outlined well. The issue is that drivers don't see the ramps until the last minute. Signage would be helpful.

MDL326/22 CUT BACK HEDGE AT PORT ROAD ROUNDABOUT

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Coyle and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council cut back the hedge at the Port Road Roundabout, at Kelly's, to allow visibility for pedestrians using the enhanced footpath from the Dry Arch.”

Members were advised that:

“The Roads Team have included this in the works programme and this work will be carried out in the next few weeks.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Donal Coyle noted that works on the four lanes have been completed on the outward lane and that design for the gap opposite the Cullion Road will be completed shortly. Several people are now using the new footpath for walking from the Dry Arch Roundabout to the Polestar Roundabout. This area is currently a blind spot for them. He welcomed the response given.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey noted that it is important that hedges are cut back that are growing out over roads obstructing views. He referred to another road at the “dipper” which is also dangerous. Users may be unaware of the risk involved.

MDL327/22 NO OVERTAKING SIGNS FOR LISTILLION AND CULLION ROAD JUNCTIONS

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Coyle and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council request Transport Infrastructure Ireland to erect "NO OVERTAKING" signs at the Listillion and Cullion Road junctions on the N13 for traffic approaching Letterkenny.”

Members were advised that:

“This request has been forwarded to the TII for their consideration.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Donal Coyle noted the response given stating that numerous requests have been sent to TII and there has been very little response. Previous requests have been made for a slip road for the entrance

at Listillion off the N13 but TII are not willing to provide this. At the Listillion and Cullion Road junctions cars travelling from the Dry Arch Roundabout and wanting to turn right are having to sit in the middle of the road. Other vehicles are flying past and there have been a number of near misses. This could lead to a head on collision. There are diagonal white lines there, but these are ignored. No Overtaking signs would need to be erected and hopefully this could be done by the next meeting in September. Cllr. Coyle added that a slip road will be needed in the future, but that signage might alleviate the problem for now.

David McIlwaine advised that he would talk to TII but that this is outside of his remit.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey stated that a slip road is needed as a safety measure. A report should be requested from TII clarifying what can be done.

MDL328/22 PROJECT ON CORN MILL AT DRUMONAGHAN, RAMELTON AND THE SALMON POOL

On the proposal of Cllr. Ian McGarvey and seconded by Cllr. Donal Coyle, the following motion was adopted:

“That Donegal County Council Development Team explore the potential of a project on the vacant Corn Mill at Drumonaghan, Ramelton and the potential for the Salmon Pool.”

Members were advised that:

“The Mill is that located at Bridge End & the Green (north of the river/west of the Bridge) as referenced on pages 16 & 17 of the Ramelton Action Plan. This area is outside the Town Centre but was included in the Action Plan due to its significance to the industrial development of Ramelton. Action 1 of the Action Plan identified the need for the repair of these buildings as a Priority & their potential to form part of an industrial heritage trail was also referenced. However, this Action and the Mill does not come within the scope of the current RRDF funded public realm project.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey referred to the Corn Mill which is lying derelict. Development of the Mill would be beneficial to the area. There is a walkway proposed out there. The owners don't live here but have been in touch. There was a proposal that Donegal County Council should purchase the Salmon Pool. There used to be a lot of salmon there and there is still plenty there. The potential of this should be looked at. Cllr. McGarvey stated that he had spoken to Garry Martin about this and he was happy to look at this. A report should be prepared on what can be done.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Donal Coyle stated that he is familiar with the Corn Mill and Salmon leap. There is great opportunity for investment there but he noted that this does not come under the scope of the RRDF but there may well be other funding that could be considered. This should be mentioned at the next Rural Development meeting.

Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly noted that he is familiar with the area and commended Cllr. McGarvey on his knowledge of the area.

MDL329/22 TENDERS FOR 13 ROAD PROJECTS IN NEED OF FUNDING

On the proposal of Cllr. Ian McGarvey and seconded by Cllr. Donal Coyle, the following motion was adopted:

“That our Road Engineers seek Tenders for the 13 Road Projects that have been identified in urgent need for Funding.”

Members were advised that:

“There has been no update when funding will be allocated to these schemes. Prior to tenders being sought preparation of documents and a degree of design work depending on the nature of the project will be required. Thus, without funding it is not possible to progress projects to the stage where tenders can be sought. In addition to this price for tenders are time limited and with the current variations in costs tendering projects without a clear commencement date would not be seen as beneficial.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey noted the response given stating that this is a deviation from what the Council should be about. A document had been produced by an Architect and a local Resident in relation to the thirteen projects which had been circulated to the Members. He referred to the Letterkenny-Milford road which is listed for works in the fourth year of the programme noting that this work will never be done. There are days when traffic is backed up to Magherennan and to the Silver Tassie. It is not possible to predict what the projects would cost; tenders should be sought to get an idea of funding needed.

David McIlwaine advised that preliminary designs would need to be done before any tenders could be sought.

Cllr. McGarvey noted that there are people who are competent to do this work. The costs should be assessed first and given to the Department. Variation is

costs will happen. Preparatory work could be done on exits onto the Letterkenny-Milford road. Trucks cannot pass each other on the road. He asked that a report be done on the thirteen projects and proposed that the Council borrow twenty million and do the work in two tranches.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Donal Coyle stated that he was happy to second the motion and noted that it is not the first time has been raised. A similar motion had been raised in relation to access from Letterkenny through Ramelton, Portsalon and on to Fanad Head. There is potential there for Tourism, but access is a huge problem. The road is narrow, and buses are not able to travel on parts of the road and must reverse at times. There is the lighthouse in Fanad and the Great Arch which attract tourists.

David McIlwaine referred to the workshop held in July 2020 when the programme priority was agreed and sent to the Department. The programme remains as it is, and estimates were included. The costs have changed a lot since then. The Council cannot tender for work without clarification that there would follow through with funding.

Cllr. McGarvey stated that he respected the response but something concrete needs to be done. There is an obligation to the public. He asked for a response back.

David advised that he could provide more detail on the programme. The Cathedral one-way system is number one on the programme. Some of the money is from the Active Travel programme. Meenirroy is second priority and funding has been sought for it.

Cllr. McGarvey referred to recent traffic counts and questioned the figures as he had not seen the line across the roads.

David advised that traffic counts are now done by camera rather than line on the roads.

MDL330/22 ROLE FOR DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL THROUGH IRISH WATER ON FUTURE NEEDS

On the proposal of Cllr. Ian McGarvey and seconded by Cllr. John O'Donnell, the following motion was adopted:

“That Donegal County Council demand a role through Irish Water to promote and be consulted on the future needs of this Municipal District going forward.”

Members were advised that:

“See attached response.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey stated that Irish Water are a disaster and that people are being robbed. He referred to a case where a man got a quote for forty thousand to bring a pipe 85 yards. He had sent a letter to Liam Ward and he was not happy with the response he received. It is not right that Donegal County Council say they have no responsibility. The National Representatives an obligation to look about the County in Dublin. A main should be laid to facilitate other houses out that road.

On seconding the motion Cllr. John O'Donnell noted Cllr. McGarvey's passion in representing the people and noted his frustration with Irish Water. The wishy-washy answers Irish Water are giving are not good enough. They are quoting astronomical charged for connections. There are difficulties getting through on the direct line. Only one contractor can do the work. When estates were built the contractors did the work themselves.

Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly stated that all the Members share their frustrations re trying to contact Irish Water. He had reported a burst on Monday, and they have only called out today. He suggested that a meeting with Irish Water and the Executive be facilitated after August.

Cllr. McGarvey thanked Cllr. O'Donnell for seconding his motion. He referred to work he had done in the past laying a watermain for a group water scheme. The person he referred to is very disappointed with the response he got from the Council.

Eamonn Brown noted that Cllr. McGarvey had represented the issue well and advised that he will advise the Director of the discussion. The letter of response issued acknowledges the situation.

The Members confirmed that they supported Cllr. McGarvey with his motion.

MDL331/22 HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES IN HOUSING ESTATES WHEN MICA WORK COMMENCES

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael McBride and seconded by Cllr. Kevin Bradley, the following motion was adopted:

“That a workshop of Donegal County Council take place to discuss the health and safety issues that will arise in housing estates when MICA work commences.”

Members were advised that:

“A new Division has been set up within Donegal County Council, Social Housing Remediation Project, the role of this new Division is to assess and remediate social housing units that are damaged by defective concrete

blocks. A number of staff have recently been assigned to this new Division and they are currently engaging with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding funding for the project. In advance of any remediation works being carried out on social housing units it is intended that workshops with the Members will be held to fully advise the Members on the proposed remediation works."

On proposing the motion Cllr. Michael McBride stated that he was happy to hear that the issue had been addressed. He noted that the response refers to Council Housing. His motion relates to estates with Council, privately owned and private rented dwellings. There is a problem in that work will be done on some houses and some won't qualify including those not registered with the PRTB. Lorries will be in and out to estates along with other machinery. Children at other houses in the estate cannot be expected to stay inside when work is ongoing. The safety of others in estates needs to be considered. He noted that the response given addresses some of his questions and he looks forward to workshop being held before work starts. Health and safety will be a major issue.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kevin Bradley stated that he was happy to second the motion.

Eamonn Browne confirmed that Donal Walker had committed to having a workshop in September. He will revert to the Members with a date for the workshop.

MDL332/22 CONTACT ESB RE STREET LIGHT AT LEITIR JUNCTION ON OUTSKIRTS OF KILMACRENNAN

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael McBride and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, the following motion was adopted:

"That Donegal County Council contact the ESB asking them to commission the streetlight at the Leitir junction on the outskirts of Kilmacrennan."

Members were advised that:

"This streetlight will have the head fitted and will be operational within the next four weeks."

On proposing the motion Cllr. Michael McBride acknowledged the response given adding that he was delighted to see that the light would be operational within the next four weeks.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh stated that he was happy to second the motion and noted the positive response which is good news.

Cllr. McBride thanked Cllr. Kavanagh for seconding his motion.

MDL333/22 SAFETY BARRIER AT LENNON FOOTBRIDGE ON KILMACRENNAN TO TRENTAGH ROADS

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael McBride and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, the following motion was adopted:

“That Donegal County Council erect a safety barrier at the Lennon footbridge on the Kilmacrennan to Trentagh Road as it is extremely dangerous when the river is flooded.”

Members were advised that:

“An assessment will be carried out on this location to establish if a Safety Barrier is the appropriate solution. If the need for a Safety Barrier is established this location will be included in the priority list for Safety Barriers on Non-National Roads. There is currently no specific funding for Safety Barriers on Non-National Road.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Michael McBride noted the response that an assessment will be carried out. At the footbridge the river will rise to the edge of the road when there is flooding. This happens several times a year. A barrier twenty to twenty-five metres long would cover this and should be considered.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh stated that he was happy to second the motion to improve safety.

David McIlwaine advised that he will have a look at this. There is currently a lack of funding for safety barriers. The barriers must be designed to a certain standard and this increases the cost of them.

MDL334/22 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AND TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT 4 WAY JUNCTION IN KILMACRENNAN

On the proposal of Cllr. John O’Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

“Calling on this Council to install a pedestrian crossing and traffics light at 4 way junction in Kilmacrennan village as a matter of urgency.”

Members were advised that:

“In respect to the raised Safety concern at this location will be referred to the DCC Roads Safety Engineer for review. They will report back on the need and scope of a potential HD17 Site then all options will be considered to deal with specific safety issue identified.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. John O'Donnell noted the response that this would be referred to the Road Safety Engineer. This motion has been raised several times and no safety review or surveys have taken place. There were accidents there again last week. Someone drove through the junction and he has video footage of that. The speed of motorists through Kilmacrennan is unbelievable. This junction is the main thoroughfare to the Church, the School, football pitch etc. There is nothing to indicate that there is a junction ahead, no road markings and no flashing lights. He is now requesting that traffic lights be installed. There have been a number of incidents there and the Road Safety Engineer has not been out. The Gardaí have seen these on CCTV.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey noted that this has always been a safety concern and that he had proposed a one-way system for there. Traffic lights are not a solution unless signage is put in place at the top of the town to alert motorists. This has gone on for years. A bypass was proposed at one time, but this was not possible. He asked for a report back on what work can be done to address this.

David McIlwaine agreed with what was said. There are a lot of issues at the junction with traffic coming from other roads. There are issues with speed and visibility. He will raise this with TII. There is also an issue with the gradient of the road. He will follow up and get back to the Members. A one way would work theoretically.

Cllr. O'Donnell thanked Cllr. McGarvey for supporting his motion and asked that this be made a priority and that a response be prepared for the September meeting by the Road Safety Engineer.

MDL335/22 PUBLIC STREET LIGHTS ON SHORE ROAD, RAMELTON

On the proposal of Cllr. John O'Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

"Calling on this Council to install public streetlights on the Shore Road Ramelton."

Members were advised that:

"The Shore Road is included in the Ramelton Rural Regeneration Scheme. Upgrading of the public lights will be considered as part of this project."

On proposing the motion Cllr. John O'Donnell stated that this had been raised before by him and by Cllr. Ian McGarvey. He is aware of the Scheme and noted that the upgrading of public lights will be considered as part of the scheme. There are currently no lights on this road.

David McIlwaine confirmed that lights are included in the project.

Cllr. O'Donnell stated that he had tried to contact Staff members in relation to the scheme but got no response back. He asked if someone would arrange to liaise with them and get back to him.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey stated that this is an ongoing dilemma and that he is not satisfied with what is being done. This is a busy road and he asked for a response for the next meeting.

David McIlwaine advised that Planning would be the service to respond on this.

Cllr. O'Donnell thanked Cllr. McGarvey for seconding his motion. He noted that the Regeneration team are working on this but that they had not responded to him. He asked when this work would be done as it could be years away. These lights were on the Public Lighting programme but now are under Regeneration works.

Elain referred to other possible funding streams under CLAR and Town and Village Renewal.

Cllr. O'Donnell clarified that the works had been on the three-year Public Lighting programme but is now being covered under Regeneration. This needs to be sorted as lights are needed there.

Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly noted that a date for the Public Lighting workshop is to be agreed during the meeting.

David confirmed that this would be dealt with later in the meeting.

MDL336/22 PLAYGROUND BESIDE CAR PARK IN PORTSALON

On the proposal of Cllr. John O'Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

“Calling on this Council to install a playground beside the car park in Portsalon.”

Members were advised that:

“The Council will assess the site in terms of its suitability, however there are no current funding schemes available in respect of new playground development.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. John O'Donnell stated that this was the third time he raised this motion. He noted the response that the site will be assessed but that there is no funding available. There has been no engagement with the

local Group. He asked that the Council work with the local Golf Club as they have proposals to raise the fence. The Council should engage with them on their plans and with the previous Committee to arrange for delivery of a playground.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey noted that this had happened in Rathmullan some years ago. The Community Group were very active and got it done.

Cllr. O'Donnell asked for a report back on the suitability of the site.

MDL337/22 MAYORS BUSINESS

337.1 Men's Health Awareness Week

Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly advised that he had attended the event in the Courtyard Shopping Centre on 15th June. Cllr. McMonagle was also there. There were several stands there providing information. He commended Letterkenny CDP on their hosting of the event.

337.2 Rally Briefing

Cllr. Kelly attended the Rally briefing held on 17th June in the PSC. Deputy Mayor Ciaran Brogan, Cllr. Kevin Bradley and Cllr. John O'Donnell were also there. He added that it was great to see the event back as it brings in a lot of money and people and is good for local businesses. It was a very successful event and the Gardaí were happy with the outcome of the whole event.

337.3 Rally Finish

Cllr. Kelly was present on 19th June at the finish ramp. This was a great event with a lot of people attending.

337.4 Launch of new Tipper Lorries

On 20th June Cllr. Kelly attended the launch of the Council's 3 new tipper lorries.

337.5 Pride Flag

On 20th June Cllr. Kelly raised the Pride Flag at the Public Services Centre

337.6 New Water tanker and Incident Command Unit at Letterkenny Fire Station

Cllr. Kelly attended the handing over of the new Water Tanker and Incident Command Unit at Letterkenny Fire Station.

337.7 Presentation of Cheques to Charities from North West 10k

Cllr. Kelly attended the presentation of cheques in the Mount Errigal Hotel to the 10K Charities, Donegal Diabetes Parents Support Group, No Barriers Foundation and Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Ireland (Donegal Branch). A total of €66,000 was raised and the three Charities received €22,000 each.

337.8 Meeting with Romanian Ambassador

Cllr. Kelly met with the Romanian Ambassador, his wife and daughter in the PSC along with Liam Ward and Eamonn Brown on 24th June. They discussed their connections with Romania and looked at the Letterkenny Plan and heard the Ambassador's views.

337.9 Foodfest

Cllr. Kelly attended the Foodfest organised by Letterkenny CDP on 24th June. He acknowledged the work and dedication of the group and events run by them. He noted the involvement of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle in the group.

337.10 Letterkenny Tennis Club

Cllr. Kelly attended the opening of the new tennis court at Letterkenny Tennis Club on 10th July. This is a great facility which is kept well.

MDL338/22 CORRESPONDENCE

338.1 Presentation by Atlantic Technological University on Letterkenny Regional Sports Activity Hub

Eamonn Brown advised that a request had been received from Henry McGarvey of the ATU to make a presentation to the Members.

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael McBride, seconded by Cllr. Donal Coyle it was agreed that a slot would be given to the ATU at the September M.D. Meeting.

It was agreed that the next M.D. Meeting would be held on 20th September. A fifteen-minute slot will be given to the ATU with time for Questions and Answers after.

338.2 Workshop on Minor Tourism Related Works Grant Scheme 2022

Eamonn advised that a request has been received from Martina Tuffy for a date for a workshop with the Members to discuss and approve grant aid for applications received. The closing date for the scheme was 6th June 2022.

It was agreed to hold the workshop on Monday 25th July 2022 commencing at 10 a.m. prior to the Roads Workshop.

MDL339/22 PLANNING SERVICE

The contents of the Planning report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

Elaine McEntee advised that Letterkenny-Milford Municipal District has the highest level of applications of the five M.Ds. There have been changes to Staff to cover absences etc.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle referred to an enforcement case where documentation had been submitted but nothing has been done on this and no response has been received. He noted that the Planner is on annual leave, but someone should have been assigned to look at it.

Elaine advised that she cannot speak on the case but will request an update from Carol Margey and will get back to Cllr. McMonagle.

Cllr. McMonagle noted that the issue of lack of resources in Planning has been raised before.

Elaine agreed that Planning is under resourced and enforcement is secondary. There are issues with staff retention with only one-year contracts being offered.

Cllr. McMonagle referred to an extension at Ballyraine National School noting that the footpath is too narrow and that gardens of houses behind the school are exposed to the public.

Elaine advised that this should have been addressed in the planning permission. She advised Cllr. McMonagle that complaints should be submitted online.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh referred to a request from the Community Centre for a letter from Planning which is needed for funding with a closing date of Thursday.

Elaine advised that she is aware of this and there had been a discussion on it earlier today. She will follow up with Frank Sweeney.

MDL340/22 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The contents of the Community Development Division report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh referred to the Ceol Le Cheile Choir who will lose their funding shortly. The ATU was providing accommodation for them to practice in. He asked if there is any other funding stream they can avail of.

MDL341/22 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

The contents of the Roads report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

341.1 2022 Restoration Maintenance & Improvement Programmes

David McIlwaine advised that a progress report has been provided in the monthly report.

341.2 Construction of Bus lay-by and Pedestrian Crossing on Kilmacrennan Road, Letterkenny

David advised that an update on this project is included in the report.

341.3 Workshop for the 2022 Public Lighting & Footpath Programme

David advised that a workshop is needed to agree the allocation of the remaining €238,850. The date for the workshop was agreed earlier for Monday 25th July 2022.

The Members raised the following items: -

- Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh referred to the new traffic island at St. Eunan's College. There is a drop kerb on one side of the crossing, but it is high on the other side. He asked if this could be looked at.
- Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly asked if there is an update on funding for Meenirroy. There was another accident on Tuesday last. He asked that pressure be kept on so that work can be started.
- Cllr. John O'Donnell referred to staffing issues with Engineers being moved around. This should be raised with Human Resources. Where staff are being moved around who are at the same level and filling the same role they should be consulted first as to whether they want to move.
- Cllr. Michael McBride referred to hedges growing out at Churchill Station and asked that they be cut back.

David McIlwaine responded as follow: -

- In relation to Cllr. Kavanagh's query on the kerbing at St. Eunan's College David advised that he would raise this with site Management as it may be that work is not finished yet.
- In relation to Cllr. Kelly's query on funding for Meenirroy David advised that he would keep in touch with the Department to get funding through as soon as possible.
- David agreed with Cllr. O'Donnell that there have been Staff changes recently but hopefully this will settle when everyone is in place. He will update the Members in the next month.
- David advised Cllr. McBride that he will pass the request on to the Area Team to get the work done on the hedges.

The contents of the Housing and Corporate Services report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

342.1 Mayor's Reception

Eamonn Brown reminded the Members that the Mayor's Reception for the Letterkenny Cricket Club will take place at 7.00 p.m. this evening.

342.2 Staff Changes

Eamonn advised the Members that Brenda Ferguson has moved to the Social Housing Remediation Project. Mark Gallagher has replaced Brenda as the new Housing Engineer for the M.D.

342.3 Workshop on Funding for Back Lanes

Eamonn advised the Members that funding for the back lanes would be discussed at the Roads Workshop on 25th July. He asked the Members to contact him in relation to areas they want included.

The Members raised the following items: -

- Cllr. Michael McBride referred to his request for the Mayor's Reception for the Letterkenny Cricket Club noting his disappointment that he is unable to attend. He wished everyone well.
- Cllr. McBride referred to demonstration by the MICA Group at the Dáil and Seanad on Wednesday last requesting amendment to the Bill. It was disappointing for the Group that the Bill was put through without considering their requests. Their first meeting was held in 2016 and it is disappointing that no time could be allocated now to deal with outstanding issues. He asked that a letter be sent to the Minister expressing dissatisfaction with how this has been handled. He asked that Mayors of other M.Ds. be asked to co-sign the letter and that it be sent from all the Councillors. This is an absolute disgrace.
- Cllr. Gerry McMonagle agreed with what Cllr. McBride had said. He referred to the number of vacant properties on the waiting list every month. Referring to the MICA crisis and the Ukraine Refugees needing accommodation he stated that a proper building programme is needed for social and affordable homes. It takes ages for Part 8 applications to be processed and then to get the contractor on site. This needs to be turned around quicker.
- Cllr. McMonagle referred to recent situation where a number of refugees arrived in the town unannounced which is causing concern to the residents in the estates. They are asking how this happened. The estates concerned are Cnoc Ard and Meadowbank. He asked that the Council find out what is happening and let the residents know. The community needs to be prepared for anything like this happening. The residents need be kept updated on what is happening. He is currently waiting on a response from IPAS. This is a case of overcrowding also and he asked who approves this.

- Cllr. Ian McGarvey stated that there should be some notification of any group arriving in a town and it should be discussed with the residents. The current demand on Local Authorities will become much greater. A Department Official should be asked to come here to discuss this with the Members. The National Representatives need to be more active.
- Cllr. John O'Donnell referred to the HAP Section in the PSC noting that one full time employee has been lost. He referred to a case where a HAP tenant had to move accommodation and lost the new property.
- Cllr. O'Donnell noted that people applying for grants are in need of them. In some cases, they have been waiting for six to ten months and no one has looked at their applications. People in private houses can proceed but this is not the case with Council houses. It takes longer for those applications. They should be treated as a matter of urgency and get the works done.
- Cllr. O'Donnell noted that there was no response to Question No. 53 but noted that Eamonn had advised him that a response will be provided.
- Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly requested an update in relation to keys for remaining properties at Cnoc Ard. He had been advised that the roof repairs have been completed.
- Cllr. McMonagle expressed concern at the number of workshops and different strategies but the situation is not getting better. There is a lot of work to be done.
- Cllr. McGarvey referred to a property in Rathmullan which was purchased from the Council. The house is in bad condition with a plank supporting the ceiling, windows cracked etc. A report has been done on the property which was bought in good faith from the Council.

Eamonn Brown responded as follow: -

- Eamonn noted Cllr. McBride's disappointment that he is unable to attend the Reception for the Letterkenny Cricket Club.
- Eamonn advised that he would draft a letter to the Minister in conjunction with Cllr. McBride.
- In relation to Cllr. McMonagle's query on vacant properties Eamonn advised that there are currently 23 on the list, ten of which have been offered to applicants with thirteen left. He agreed that this process needs to improve. Consideration has been given to giving a paint allowance to new tenants rather than painting properties. This should speed up turnaround time.
- Eamonn acknowledged comments in relation to need for more social housing. The national target was for 879 whereas the Director requested approval for 1300. The Housing Capital Team met this morning. It is intended to have a workshop with the Members at the end of September/beginning of October to discuss targets.

- Eamonn agreed that work is needed on the strategy to 2026. There is a big responsibility on the Housing Capital Team. A huge effort is needed and there are staff in place now to work on this. Everyone is working towards the same end and it is hoped that make inroads on the strategy.
- Eamonn advised Cllr. McMonagle that the Council are not involved in the recent arrival of refugees to the town.
- Eamonn referred to Cllr. O'Donnell's query on staffing, noting that staff are currently stretched but are working as efficiently as they can. He advised that he would look at any file where there is a query.
- In relation to processing of grants a request has been made for a second Clerk of Works. This has been approved and will address the backlog.
- Eamonn advised that keys for Cnoc Ard are being issued today. Two of the units are for repair following damage to the ceilings.
- Eamonn agreed to provide figures at the next meeting on relet waiting times. Applicants are given two weeks to accept then properties are reoffered if not accepted.
- In relation to Cllr. McGarvey's query Eamonn advised that he cannot discuss a particular case in the public forum but agreed to engage with Cllr. McGarvey on the issue.

MDL343/22 ENVIRONMENT

The contents of the Environment report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

The Members raised the following items: -

- Cllr. Gerry McMonagle commended the Environment Section on work done on provision of wheelchair and toilet facilities at beaches.
- Cllr. Donal Coyle asked that bins be emptied more often at the beach in Rathmullan. Alternatively, more bins need to be provided.
- Cllr. O'Donnell asked for an update on his request that a SLA be set up with a contractor to provide a quarterly deep clean of the toilet facility in Rathmullan. He also asking for information on the cleaning schedule.
- Cllr. O'Donnell asked that the Council follow up on request to Irish Water to repair the sewer line in Rathmullan.
- Cllr. Gerry McMonagle referred to sixteen bags of grass on the Circular Road that need to be lifted. This is a disservice to the people who are doing the work when the bags are not collected.
- Cllr. O'Donnell asked if there is any possibility that the Ukrainian families could be involved in scheme work. They would only need a translator and they are looking for work.
- Cllr. Coyle asked if the families need to be here for a period of time before they can work.

- Cllr. O'Donnell noted that they can work but are struggling with the language.
- Cllr. Ian McGarvey noted that insurance can be a big problem. A group organiser is needed for community work.
- Cllr. McMonagle noted that some of the Ukrainians are working on the Cathedral Quarter.

Joe Ferry responded as follows: -

- In relation to Cllr. Coyle's request in relation to emptying of bins Joe advised the will bring this to the attention of the relevant section.

Eamonn Brown responded as follows: -

- Eamonn advised that Paddy Doherty and Patricia McIntyre are working with the National Working Group and he will put forward the Members suggestions to them.

MDL344/22 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, I.S. & EMERGENCY SERVICES

The contents of the Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly welcomed Grace Korbel to the M.D. meeting.

344.1 Local Enterprise Office

Grace Korbel advised that 17 applications for grant aid have been received this year with 81 participants in mentoring and 738 attendees at the training.

Cllr. John O'Donnell noted the work that the LEO are doing with people stating that they are doing a good job.

QUESTIONS

MDL345/22 FOOTPATH FROM CNOC ARD TO MULLAGH BAN, MOUNTAIN TOP

In answer to his question requesting an update re. his motion pertaining to the provision of a Footpath from Cnoc Ard to Mullagh Ban Mountain Top, Letterkenny, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

"The Roads Team are currently preparing a priority list of schemes to be presented to the Members at a workshop to agree the 2022 Footpath and Public Lighting Programme. As part of this process this footpath will be considered for prioritising."

MDL346/22 UPGRADE OF WATERMANS AT PLUCK/ROSSBRACKEN

In answer to his question has there been any further response from Irish Water re. his Motion calling for the Upgrade of the Water Mains at Pluck/Rossbracken areas to prevent the continued water outages through burst water mains, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

"This item has been forwarded to Irish Water.

Raised LRSD in favour of Councillor McMonagle and assigned to Seamus O'Brien Irish Water Regional lead."

MDL347/22 RENAMING OF ROAD TO LECK VIEW TO "EUNAN BLAKE ROAD"

In answer to his question has there been any progress re. his motion around the Renaming of the Road down to Leck View to "Eunan Blake Road", Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

"The Leckview Lane, as it is commonly known, is in private ownership and not a County Road. If the owner applies to have the lane taken over by the Roads Service and such application is approved, the naming of the lane can be considered at that time."

MDL348/22 FUNDING FOR MEENAROY BRIDGE

In answer to his question requesting an update on what progress is being made to secure funding for Meenaroy bridge please, Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly was advised:

"Funding is being sought to carry out these works. No confirmation has been received on the availability of funding for this project."

MDL349/22 FUNDING TO EXTEND FOOTPATH AND CYCLE LANE FROM CONWALL TO NEWMILLS

In answer to his question requesting an update on if any progress is being made to secure funding to extend the Footpath and Cycle lane from Conwall to Newmills Corn and Flax Mill please as I feel very strongly that every avenue needs to be explored to get this project up and running, Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly was advised:

"Currently the only roads funding available for the construction of a footpath at this type of location is the footpath & Public Lighting programme. The scale and the estimated cost of this project is greater than the funding currently available as part of this programme. Alternative sources of funding are being sought but as yet none have been identified."

MDL350/22 SAFETY CONCERNS AT EDUCATE TOGETHER NATIONAL SCHOOL

In answer to his question requesting an update on what progress has been made regarding his previous motion on the safety concern's at Educate Together National School please, Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly was advised:

"The Roads Team are currently carrying out surveys of this location and reviewing potential solutions. When these are completed the members will be provided with an update."

MDL351/22 NEW STONE NAME SIGN FOR ARD O'DONNELL

In answer to his question requesting an update on when the new stone name sign for Ard O'Donnell will be provided as previously agreed, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, was advised:

"The response to the previous motion regarding the new stone name sign advised that the Residents Association should contact the Roads Section to agree the type and location. When this approach is received, we will discuss these issues and investigate possible sources of funding for the erection of the sign."

MDL352/22 OVERFLOW CAR PARK AT BERNARD MCGLINCHEY TOWN PARK

In answer to his question asking could the Council now make the overflow car park at Bernard McGlinchey Town Park a permanent parking facility, and look at other possible parking solutions for the park, as people are often leaving because they cannot find a parking spot, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

"An application for funding for the upgrading of the overflow car park at Bernard McGlinchey Town Park through the Minor Tourism related works Grant Scheme has been submitted. The projects allocated funding from this scheme have yet to be prioritised."

MDL353/22 TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ON N14 AT CARRICKBALLYADOOEY, MANORCUNNINGHAM

In answer to his question can the Council look at traffic calming measures on the N14 at Carrickballyadooey, Manorcunningham, as speeding is causing a serious danger for residents entering onto the very busy road, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

"In respect to the raised Safety concern at this location will be referred to the DCC Roads Safety Engineer for review. They will report back on the need and

scope of a potential HD17 Site then all options will be considered to deal with specific safety issue identified.”

MDL354/22 APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR WASTEWATER SERVICES FOR VILLAGES AND SETTLEMENTS

In answer to his question has the Council made application seeking funding under the “Waste Water Collection and Treatment Needs for Villages and Settlements without access to Public Waste Water Services” as per my motion at the May meeting 2022, Cllr. Donal Coyle was advised:

“Donegal County Council's (DCC) Rural Water team attended a webinar on the 15th June 2022 which was organised by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to discuss the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme (MURWP) 2022-2025. The webinar focussed on eligibility criteria for Measure A8 of the MURWP - Waste Water Collection and Treatment Needs for Villages and Settlements without access to Public Waste Water Services.

The Closing date for applications for this Measure is 15th September 2022.

The DCC Rural Water team is currently working on a number of suitable applications for this programme and will update the Elected Members at the September MD meetings.”

MDL355/22 DERELICTION PROBLEMS IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

In answer to his question when is it intended to deal with the Dereliction problems in our Municipal District by Council, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

“The ‘Housing for All’ strategy has placed a new focus on this issue. This strategy will require a review of vacancy and dereliction across the county, accompanied by a list of where priority interventions, including potential CPO actions, may lie within the overarching aims of regeneration and provision of housing options. A high-level examination of vacancy in the region has already been published by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly that will also inform the work of Council. A Vacant Homes Officer will be appointed to follow through with identified priorities. The Council has also recently received approval for the appointment of a Town Regeneration Officer to lead out on the work in this area. It is intended to bring a further update to members on this heading when the necessary resources are in place.

Resources have also been applied to the preparation of focused baseline studies using the Town Centre Health Check approach, which is backed by the Heritage Council.

This and other strategies have been included in work which has been done in a number of towns, including Letterkenny, Ballyshannon, Bundoran, Donegal Town, Buncrana, Moville, Ramelton, Ballybofey/Stranorlar, Dungloe, Rathmullan and Carndonagh with further assessments planned during 2022.”

MDL356/22 DAMAGE TO PROPERTY BY LARGE TRUCKS GOING THROUGH RAMELTON

In answer to his question will our Road Engineers deal with the longstanding damage to property by large trucks going through Ramelton, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

“Through both the NTA Safe Schools and the Rural Regeneration Projects improvements to the Roads Network in Ramelton are being examined. The Roads team will review this specific issue and consider solutions.”

MDL357/22 HSE DAY CARE SERVICE IN RAMELTON NURSING UNIT

In answer to his question will this Council ask the HSE to provide the Day Care service in the Ramelton Nursing Unit for the Area it previously serviced, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

“If the motion is adopted by Members the Executive will write to the HSE as requested seeking clarification on the matter.”

MDL358/22 UPDATE ON NEW TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question requesting an update on the new traffic lights in Letterkenny, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised:

“Following the installation of the Traffic Signals testing was carried out over a period as part the validation process. After this period the timing of the signals were adjusted to allow for the optimum flow of traffic. From observations and reports received since this process has been completed the traffic signals have been working efficiently.”

MDL359/22 ORIS FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT – CARRIGART TO DOWNINGS

In answer to his question when is it expected that the ORIS Funding which the footpath from Carrigart to Downings is part off, may be announced going on past experiences, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

“It would be expected that announcements in relation to the 2022 Outdoor Infrastructure Scheme Measure 2 & 3 would be made in the final quarter of the current year.”

MDL360/22 MASTERPLAN FOR MILFORD

In answer to his question when is it expected to have the Masterplan completed for Milford, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

“The Town Masterplan for Milford is to be delivered by the Regeneration and Development Unit led by Paul Kelly, Senior Executive Planner.

The focus of the team to this point has been in relation to the advancement of the RRDF Category 1 application for Ramelton and also in relation to advancing the RRDF project in Rathmullan with the Rathmullan - the Way Forward group.

As these projects have been progressed, it is proposed that the next priority will be to advance the Masterplan for Milford. A clear timeline for this project is not available at this time.

It will be necessary to hold a Workshop with MD members in September 2022 to set out the project parameters and also the proposed timeline for the delivery of same.”

MDL361/22 FOOTPATHS ON KILMACRENNAN ROAD, MILFORD, DRUMBERN ROAD, MILFORD AND GREY ROCKS, MILFORD

In answer to his question when is it expected to begin construction on the footpaths namely Kilmacrennan Road Milford, Drumbern Road Milford and from Grey Rocks Milford towards the Fire Station, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

“Tobin Consultant Engineers have been appointed to the projects; the schemes will now be progressed in accordance with the NTA Project Approval Guidelines. This will commence with Prelim Design and Statutory Approvals.

We await a proposed programme of works from the Consultant, but it is hoped that topographic surveys can be undertaken at the start of August.”

MDL362/22 FOOTPATH FROM CARRIGART TO DOWNINGS

In answer to his question when will works commence on the footpath from Carrigart to Downings, Cllr. John O’Donnell was advised:

“This development has been submitted under the 2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme under Measure 2 & 3; it is hoped that notification of successful projects will be known before year end.”

MDL363/22 NEW TOILET BLOCK IN DOWNINGS

In answer to his question when will works commence on the new toilet block in Downings, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised:

"The Council are in the process of engaging consultants to progress the planning application and other requisite consents. It is hoped that this appointment can be finalised in September which will facilitate local engagement and submission of the planning application in due course."

MDL364/22 COUNCIL HOUSES BUILT IN 2021 AND NUMBER PLANNED FOR THIS YEAR

In answer to his question how many Council new houses did the Council build in 2021 and how many do we plan to complete this year to be occupied by end of the year, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised:

"A response will be provided in due course."

MDL365/22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly welcomed James Pat McDaid to his new role as Building & Facilities Supervisor in the Letterkenny PSC and wished him well in the role. He also wished Paul Duddy well in his new role.

Cllr. Kelly reminded the Members that the Mayor's Reception would take place at 7.00 p.m.

MDL365/22 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 20th September 2022 in a venue to be confirmed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor

Meetings Administrator

Response to Motion No. 19

The government published a Water Sector Transformation Policy Paper, "**Irish Water – Towards a National, Publicly-Owned, Regulated, Water Services Utility**", in February 2021.

This paper referenced the process facilitated by the Workforce Relations Commission (WRC), which has been ongoing with a view to assisting the parties to devise a mutually agreed operation framework to replace the Service Level Agreements which have been in place since 2014. The government asked the parties to engage to agree a framework for a stable operating structure for the future delivery of water services.

Meetings have been ongoing since July 2021 between the representatives of the management side (CCMA, LGMA, DHLGH and Irish Water) and the trade unions under the auspices of the WRC and a final meeting was held on the 20th of June 2022.

The outcome of this engagement is the "**Framework for Future of Water Services**", which addresses staff issues relating to the future delivery of water services. There will be significant detail to be agreed on the migration of services to the Single Public Utility (Irish Water) and Donegal County Council will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure that this will be done as seamlessly and efficiently as possible.

Donegal County Council recognises the magnitude of the change programme that the delivery of the transformation policy for the sector involves and will work to support staff much as possible.

As the detail of the implementation plan to deliver on the framework is developed, we will provide updates and information to staff and Elected Members.

Michael McGarvey
Director of Water & Environmental Services