

## **MINUTES OF THE INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE CHAMBER, CARNDONAGH ON 15th MARCH 2016 AT 1.30pm**

### **Councillors Present:**

Cllrs Rena Donaghey, Paul Canning, John Ryan, Albert Doherty, Nicholas Crossan, Martin McDermott, Martin Farren, Jack Murray.

Apologies: Cllr Bernard McGuinness

### **Officials Present:**

John G McLaughlin, Director to Inishowen Municipal District, Aideen Doherty, A/Area Manager Housing & Corporate Services, Seamus Canning, Senior Staff Officer, Seamus Hopkins, Area Manager Roads & Transportation, Carol Margey, Senior Executive Planner, John Gallagher, Senior Engineer Water & Environment.

Apologies: Paddy Doherty, Divisional Manager

### **Reports Presented:**

Environment Section Update Report.  
Roads & Transportation Follow up Report.  
Planning Services Update Report.  
Housing & Corporate Services Update Report.  
Presentation by Donegal Youth Council  
Presentation by Sliabh Sneacht Centre

Cllr Rena Donaghey welcomed everyone to the meeting. She advised that the Area Manager for Roads & Transportation wanted to finalise the Roadworks Programme 2016 with the members. It was proposed by Cllr McDermott, seconded by Cllr Farren and agreed to adjourn the MD meeting until 2.30pm.

#### **16.18 Presentation from Donegal Youth Council**

Cllr Rena Donaghey welcomed the members of the Youth Council and their facilitator Martin Keeney to the MD meeting. Michael White, the current Chairman of Donegal Youth Council introduced his colleagues to the MD members and gave a brief overview of the projects and initiatives in which the Youth Council is involved.

#### **Pre Election Debate**

The group recently completed for a Pre-Election debate called "Let's Talk" in LYIT with 10 candidates attending. This is a Community Foundation for Ireland funded partnership project with the DYS World Wide Voices group and has been really interesting to hear the issues effecting young people from ethnic minorities in the county.

### **Road Safety**

The group are due to complete another road safety radio with GAA Health & Wellbeing Committee and Donegal GAA Road Safety Ambassador Ryan McHugh to launch a road safety campaign ahead of St Patricks Day and Easter period

**Young Carers Week** -Through involvement in Donegal CYPSC Young Carers Working Group, Youth Councillors are planning to have their Young Carers video shown in schools and Youthreach Centres across the county during the planned Young Carers Week from 18th-22nd April 2016.

**IN THE LONG RUN** - The Youth Council are involved in a new event which will be highlighting the issue of Human Trafficking called "In the Long Run". The group come to Donegal on March 30th and will be hosted by the Donegal Anti Human Trafficking Group.

**New projects** - Youth Councillors voted at their January meeting to make Bullying their main priority for project work in 2016. They hope to work to develop a series of animated videos.

### **NORWEGIAN PARTNERSHIP YEP PROJECT**

DYC are planning a youth exchange for the Youth Council in 2016, which has seen them develop a partnership with the Nordland Youth Council. The Norwegian group will now come to Letterkenny for a week on Easter Monday with the Youth Council returning to visit them in Bodo Norway on July 4th. An advanced planning visit took place last week with 2 workers from the Nordland Youth Council visiting Donegal.

Cllr Donaghey commended the Youth Councillors and stated that their schools and community should be very proud of them for the work they are doing and the leadership that they provide.

The MD members all praised the work of the Youth Council and commended them for their role in addressing issues such as drink driving, bullying and mental health awareness and for encouraging discussion of these issues with their peers.

### **16.19 Presentation from Sliabh Sneacht Centre**

Cllr Donaghey welcomed Gabriel Doherty and Danny Harkin of the Sliabh Sneacht Centre to the MD meeting.

Gabriel Doherty thanked the members and began to set out their plans for the development of the Centre at Drumfries as part of a Health and Heritage Trail in the county. Referring to the success of the Heritage Trail at Loop Head, Co. Clare, Mr Doherty stated that Donegal and Inishowen have the potential for attracting tourists with the development of a project of a similar nature to that at Loop Head. Mr Doherty added that the Sliabh Sneacht Centre intend to work with Failte Ireland, local tour operators and hotels to provide packages that would include the local attractions such as Dunree Fort Museum, the Famine Village at the Isle of Doagh, and cross-border attractions in Derry City.

Danny Harkin presented sample brochures for a Health and Heritage Tour and for a School Heritage Trip which included an Inishowen Heritage Exhibition, a Hume-O'Neil Exhibition and wildlife walks in the area.

Gabriel Doherty stated that the Sliabh Sneacht Centre will be making an application for funding under the Development Fund Initiative and he asked that the members give it favourable consideration.

Cllr Donaghey thanked the deputation and wished them well in their endeavours.

#### **16.21 Consideration of the minutes of the Inishowen Municipal District Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016.**

Cllr Albert Doherty stated that his comment in relation to Donegal County Council promoting recycling at the Carndonagh Trade Fair should have been specifically on the subject of the new Pay by Weight service.

On the proposal of Cllr Martin Farren, seconded by Cllr Jack Murray, the minutes of the Inishowen Municipal District meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016 were agreed.

#### **16.20 PLANNING**

Carol Margey, Senior Executive Planner stated that the update report had been circulated with the agenda. She invited members to put their questions to her.

The members all expressed their frustration trying to access the planning service and trying to contact individual planners, since the service was re-centralised to Lifford. The members were all of the view that it has become very difficult to represent constituents in relation to planning matters. The members asked that the Senior Executive Planner convey to the Divisional Manager and Director of Service their concerns in relation to the number of planning applications being returned or referred for Further Information.

The Senior Executive Planner responded that the planning service has seen great upheaval during the recession with planners moving to other services. However it is expected that the implementation of the new Workforce Plan will see the deficiencies in the service addressed. The Senior Executive Planner agreed to reflect the members concerns to the Division Manager. Members requested that the Director of Services Liam Ward and the Senior Planner Eunan Quinn be asked to meet with them to discuss proposals.

#### **16.22 COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE**

Cllr Martin McDermott enquired if a representative from Community and Enterprise will be attending meetings of the Municipal District in the future to take over from Aideen Doherty. John McLaughlin, Director of Service stated that it is his understanding that the post will be filled. He stated that the matter will be confirmed for the next meeting of the Municipal District.

##### **16.22.01 Donegal Walks and Trails**

Cllr Albert Doherty requested an update on the status of the Carndonagh River walkway.

#### **16.22.02 Public Participation Network PPN**

Cllr Doherty further asked that the members be informed of the representatives from Inishowen to the newly established Public Participation Network PPN.

#### **16.22.03 Foyle and Swilly Ferry Service**

Cllr Martin Farren expressed his disappointment that the ferry services are not yet in operation. He added that local tourism providers are affected because of the delay in getting the service up and running for the current season.

Cllr Donaghey asked for an update in relation to the Bunrana ferry service.

John G McLaughlin, Director to Inishowen Municipal District stated that he had requested the Divisional Manager for Community and Enterprise to provide an update on the status of the Inishowen ferry services to the members by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

#### **16.22.04 Eddie Fullerton Commemoration**

Cllr Jack Murray stated that 2016 is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the murder of Cllr Eddie Fullerton and asked for the agreement of the members to mark the anniversary.

Cllr Doherty supported Cllr Murray's proposal and suggested that the Sliabh Sneacht Centre as a venue to host a commemorative event.

#### **16.22.05 Celebration of local sporting achievement**

Cllr Donaghey informed the members that four Inishowen men had won gold medals at the World Tug of War Championships in Holland recently. The men are Paul Duffy, Bunrana, Liam Strain, Burnfoot, Adrian Lynch, Drumfries and Manus Doherty, Clonmany. Andrew McLaughlin won a silver medal and Cathal McLaughlin and Anthony Doherty narrowly missed out on a bronze. She commended the men on their success and proposed that a reception be held to acknowledge their achievement.

Cllr Crossan suggested that an event to honour several other local sports people should be held. Cllr Crossan cited Oliver Doherty, the Olympic Golfer, Nora Stapleton the Irish Rugby player.

Cllr Albert Doherty agreed with his colleagues and referred to the success of the Carndonagh Community School at the Dr Tony O'Neill Cup. Cllr Doherty also acknowledged the success of the Glengad soccer team as an example of local success on the sporting field.

Cllr Canning stated his view that a ceremony should be held in the municipal district and not at county level because of the difficulty in getting a date in the Mayor's diary.

It was agreed to give the matter further consideration at the next workshop meeting of the MD in April.

#### **16.22.06 Malin Head Development**

Cllr Martin McDermott requested an update on the improvement works to be carried out at Malin Head. It was agreed to consider the matter at the forthcoming workshop meeting with Liam Ward.

#### **16.23 ENVIRONMENT SERVICES**

Mr John Gallagher, Senior Engineer Water & Environment presented the Environment Update Report to the members.

#### **16.23.01 Pay by Weight**

The Senior Engineer informed the members that from July, each householder will be charged for their waste on a pay by weight basis and a service charge. He added that the advantage of pay by weight is that it gives the householder more control over their waste bills. The less the bin weighs, the less we pay so there is a great incentive to prevent waste, recycle and compost where possible.

The Senior Engineer added that the process is advancing nationally, with an emphasis on the obligations of the Household Waste Collectors to provide an acceptable system of collection. Non-compliance by the waste collectors will be reported to the NWCPO (National Waste Collection Permit Office), as well as leaving the collectors liable to Fixed Penalty Notice fines of up to €500 per offence.

The Connaught Ulster Waste Management Region will be organising a regional awareness campaign on Pay By Weight in association with the region's Local Authorities in the coming months. A Pay By Weight information leaflet will be circulated to members.

#### **16.23.02 End of Life Tyres**

The Senior Engineer advised that new regulations regarding the obligation by importers and retailers of tyres are expected shortly. This will improve the existing legislation to ensuring that such wastes are correctly disposed or recovered when their owners discard end-of-life tyres. A new Approved Body, REPAK ELT has been established to manage this process, which Local authority Waste Enforcement will be involved with over the coming months.

#### **16.23.03 WERLA Offices**

The Senior Engineer advised that Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA) offices have been set up in the three Irish waste regions, with Donegal and Leitrim County Councils responsible for the Connacht Ulster Region.

In Donegal the Connacht Ulster WERLA met with Donegal County Council Environment SPC on the 18th February 2016 and delivered a presentation to that meeting as to the role and current progress of the office. The WERLA offices will work in close conjunction with the Waste Management Plan Lead Authorities (WMPLA) to ensure that the objectives of the current Regional Waste Management Plan are carried out.

#### **16.23.04 Recycling**

Donegal County Council has secured 3 new Bring Bank sites in the County since the last report; these include Pettigo, Stranorlar and Letterkenny. The new Letterkenny site is to replace a site that had unfortunately become unavailable to the Council, but work is in progress to secure a further site in town, which will hopefully come on line in March. Currently there are 73 Bring Bank site in Co. Donegal, with over 330 glass and can banks and 70 textile banks in place.

#### **16.23.05 Big Donegal Clean Up '16**

Donegal County Council has branded this year's Spring Summer Clean ups as the #Big Donegal Clean Up '16 and is planning a launch mid March. Applications for clean up equipment are now available online and through the Council offices. Donegal County Council Environment Section is encouraging as many groups as possible to promote their clean up through social media and by sending in photographs and details so we can also promote through the Council's website etc.

#### **16.23.06 Waste Prevention Initiatives**

The Senior Engineer advised that Waste Prevention is a key priority in the new regional waste management plan. The Council will be implementing a number of waste prevention campaigns and initiatives per year over the lifetime of the plan.

#### **16.23.07 Beaches**

Donegal County Council has 21 beaches which are actively managed, tested for water quality or adhering to strict promotional initiatives such as Blue Flag or Green Coast awards. Designated Blue Flag and Green Coast beaches all must meet the same excellent water quality standard. To qualify for the Green Coast award, these beaches are often more remote and will not necessarily require the same infrastructure as Blue Flag standard beaches.

Referring to the members questions regarding Carnagarve bathing water, the Senior Engineer explained that the legislation governing the monitoring of bathing water comes from EU directive and is monitored and agreed in conjunction with the EPA. He further stated that the designation criteria are currently under review and he would update the members in due course.

Cllr Doherty expressed concern that the extra bin will mean additional charges to the customer, despite the stated aim to reduce costs by giving the household more control over its waste. He added that he is concerned that there will be an increase in fly-tipping throughout the countryside.

Cllr McDermott concurred with Cllr Doherty's concerns. He further queried the delay in determining the application for funding for Lagg beach.

John McLaughlin, Director of Service stated that the Council has made the application to the OPW. We must await the OPW's decision in the matter.

The Area Manager for Roads & Transportation confirmed that the signage proposed for Lagg has been ordered and delivery is expected today.

Cllr Canning suggested that waste could be reduced by emailing elected members more of their information rather than sending hard copies of documents.

He also queried how the end of life tyre regulations will be enforced. Cllr Canning requested that the Executive continue to keep under review the recoupment of funds to Tidy Towns groups as the current arrangement puts and additional administrative pressure on the local volunteers.

### **16.23.08 Buncrana Leisure Centre**

John Gallagher, Senior Engineer confirmed that there have been substantial interactions with the Department regarding the renovation of the Leisure Centre. He added that the consultant had sent additional detail to the Department as today. The Engineer stated that the project was well advanced.

Cllr Ryan confirmed that Mr Joe Peoples, Director of Service had stated that the funding model for the Buncrana Leisure Centre will be similar to that used to set up the Finn Valley Centre in Stranorlar.

Cllr Donaghey requested that signage to address the problem of dog fouling is erected at the entrances to Swan Park in Buncrana.

Cllr Donaghey further stated that Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April has been chosen for the Inishowen Clean-up day.

### **16.24 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

The Senior Executive Engineer Seamus Hopkins acknowledged the co-operation of the members at the Roads workshops over the course of recent weeks. He thanked his colleagues, Jimmy McLaughlin and Eamon Mahon and their team for their help and expertise in preparing the programme.

The Senior Engineer noted that the follow up report on the issues raised at the February meeting had been circulated.

Cllr Farren asked whether there had been progress in relation to the Battery Brae, Greencastle. The Senior Engineer confirmed that the matter is being followed up with the receiver appointed for the property.

Cllr Farren also stated that the bridge at Redcastle had been damaged by a car. The Engineer acknowledged that the Area Engineer is aware of the matter.

Cllr Murray stated that the playpark in Buncrana needed some minor repairs. The Engineer acknowledged that the issues have been reported to the Area Engineer.

Cllr Canning asked for an update on the sponsorship of the roundabouts.

Cllr Canning also stated that he had attended the CFRAM public meeting earlier and expressed his concern that the mechanisms being proposed by the OPW to alleviate flooding do not properly address the problem of surface water run-off during heavy rain.

The Senior Engineer confirmed that sponsorship at Bridgend roundabout would be in place soon as the new floral display has been completed by the gardener, George McDermott.

Arrangements for the roundabout in Buncrana are already in place.

Cllr McDermott stated that the bridge at Craignahorna still requires attention.

Cllr McDermott stated that the road from Carndonagh to Quigley's Point should be referred to Road Design Office to prepare a plan for upgrading the road in the event that funding becomes available.

Cllr Doherty stated that the road from Bree crossroads to Urblreagh School requires attention. He stated that when he raised the issue previously, Irish Water were due to complete works in the area. Cllr Doherty asked whether low cost safety measures could be considered along the stretch of road.

Cllr Doherty asked the Engineer to investigate slunks in the Ballyloskey Road. He further added that works to the hard shoulder of the road at Fodden are required. Cllr Doherty welcomed the follow up meeting held with Scoil Phadraig at Rasheny. Referring to the local Tidy Towns Committee, Cllr Doherty stated that the group is seeking to meet Council officials to discuss various issues of concern to them.

Cllr John Ryan stated that he continues to have concerns regarding traffic turning right along the stretch of the N13 between Magherabeg School and Newtowncunningham.

Cllr Ryan stated that there is a problem of cars speeding and overtaking on the Killea to Newtowncunningham road.

Cllr Crossan stated that a directional sign should be erected at Westbrook, Buncrana for Dunree Fort and Military Museum. He added that a pedestrian crossing should also be provided at Westbrook.

Cllr Crossan requested that the light at Crana Bridge be investigated.

Cllr Canning advised the Senior Engineer that road signage had gone missing in the Killea area.

Cllr Donaghey congratulated the Senior Engineer on the progress made to date at the Aghilly Road, Buncrana. She added that the local residents are pleased with the work done to date.

## **16.25 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES**

Aideen Doherty, Area Manager for Housing & Corporate Services stated that the Housing Update Report was circulated with the agenda and that she would take it as read.

### **16.25.01 Housing Workshop**

The Area Manager advised that a workshop will be held prior to the April MD meeting to update the members on the various programmes of work currently being undertaken in the Municipal District and to provide information on the status of new initiatives emerging from the Social Housing Strategy 2020. The Housing Workshop will begin at 11.30am.

It was further agreed to hold a second workshop to consider roads service issues including speed limit signage immediately afterward at 1pm.

It was agreed to defer the April meeting until Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm.

It was agreed that the plaque unveiling the seven trees at Malin will be held at 5.00pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

#### **16.26 SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS**

The members discussed the Schedule of Municipal Works for 2016. There was a lengthy discussion in relation to the works proposed and concern was expressed at the level of budget provision under specific headings. It was agreed to adopt the Schedule of Municipal Works for 2016 on condition that the Head of Finance is requested to attend a future meeting of the MD to discuss the concerns of the members. It was agreed to invite the Head of Finance and Director of Service for Community, Enterprise and Planning Services to meet the members on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 11am.

It was proposed by Cllr Donaghey, seconded by Cllr Farren and resolved that the Inishowen Municipal District hereby adopts for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016, the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2016, as required by Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) and in line with requirements of Circular LG27/2014/Fin21/2014.

#### **16.28 SISTER CITIES**

The Area Manager for Housing & Corporate Services informed the members that by way of follow up to the sisters city project a delegation from Charlestown, St Louis, Missouri will attend the Public Services Centre on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 11am.

The delegation is on a follow up to the exchange programme with Carndonagh Community School and that the invitation from the Mayor of Charlestown, St Louis to the elected members of the Inishowen Municipal District received in July 2015 inviting them to participate in the exchange programme and to take part in a festival at the end of May 2016 needed to be considered.

The members discussed the importance of developing the link with Charlestown, St Louis and it was agreed that two of the members should take part in the exchange.

It was proposed by Cllr Crossan, seconded by Cllr Ryan and agreed that the Cathaoirleach Cllr Donaghey and Cllr Albert Doherty should travel to Charlestown, St Louis to represent the Inishowen Municipal District.

#### **16.27 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to defer the April meeting of the Municipal District until Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 2pm.

**Certified:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_