

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING HELD
IN THE LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY 2019**

MDL703/19 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr. Liam Blaney
Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
Cllr. Gerry McMonagle
Cllr. Adrian Glackin
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr. Michael McBride
Cllr. Ian McGarvey
Cllr. John O'Donnell

MDL704/19 **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Liam Ward, Director of Service
Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Patricia McIntyre, Area Manager
Joe Ferry, A/Senior Executive Chemist
Graham Diamond, Executive Planner
Christina O'Donnell, Development Officer
Linda McCann, Senior Staff Officer

MDL705/19 **APOLOGIES**

Cllr. James Pat McDaid
Cllr. Eugene Gallagher

The meeting was chaired by Mayor, Cllr. Ian McGarvey.

MDL706/19 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of 23 April 2019.

MDL707/19 **ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 23 APRIL, 2019**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 23 April 2019, were adopted.

MDL708/19 **CCTV BEECHWOOD, ARD O'DONNELL & ASHBROOK AREAS**

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

“That the Council consider the installation of CCTV coverage for the Beechwood, Ard O’ Donnell and Ashbrook areas of Letterkenny.”

The Members were advised that:

“An application is being prepared in conjunction with the Letterkenny Chamber and An Garda Siochana for extension to the existing CCTV System within the Town of Letterkenny. The proposed new cameras will provide coverage of the following areas High Road, Poles Star, Circular Road and Oliver Plunkett Road. Under GDPR, it is not advised to have CCTV in largely residential areas as to avoid any undue intrusion or invasion of privacy or infringe an individual’s civil liberties.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh advised that the residents in this area were persistently troubled with youths/people walking through the area.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan supported the motion and asked that a meeting was organised with the Garda Siochana to discuss community policing and the lack of resources.

MDL709/19 POTHOLES AT GLEANN TAIN & GORT NA GREINE

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

“That as a gesture of goodwill this Council takes on to fill the Potholes at Gleann Tain and Gort Na Greine estates until such times it is 'Taking in Charge' by the Council.”

The Members were advised that:

“The planning authority will explore all options for the completion of the Glentain/Gort na Greine Housing development. The Council is currently examining the upgrade of the water booster pump to deal with current deficiencies in this regard. These matters are currently being advanced by the Council's Housing, Water Services and Taking-In-Charge Teams.

The Roads Department is not in a position to carry out maintenance works in these estates at present as the Taking-In-Charge process is not complete. Every effort will be made to bring this process to a conclusion at the earliest possible date.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle asked that Roads worked with the other services of the Council in an effort to resolve the issues residents were incurring in these estates.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Glackin fully supported the motion and asked that the potholes would be filled.

Fergal Doherty advised that as the roads had not been taken over they were considered to be private and therefore roads could not carry out works as the Council would be liable for future maintenance and potential mis-feasance . Fergal also advised that sShould the estate be taken over, repairs could be carried out as part of that process and from the release of of the Bonds. Take over of estates is administered by planning, and roads would engage with planning regarding..

Cllr. McMonagle said that the Council had a number of tenants in these estates and asked that roads work with the other services to have the works carried out.

MDL710/19 WINDMILL VIEW FENCING

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

“That the Council erects a more robust and higher fence at the top of Windmill View to prevent it being used as a bolt hole and for protection of the estate residents.”

Members were advised that:

“The motion is noted and if adopted the Council will investigate to consider what works can be carried out to improve the existing fence.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle said that residents and the Garda had asked that the fence be raised to prevent people moving through the estate and welcomed the response.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Glackin supported the motion.

MDL711/19 BACK LANES AT SLIABH SNEACHT & OATFIELD TERRACE

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

“That this MD honours the commitments made by Letterkenny Town Council to the residents of Sliabh Sneacht and Oatfield Tce to tarmac their back lanes without further delay.”

Members were advised that:

“The back lanes at Sliabh Sneacht and Oatfield Tce are currently not included in the 3 year Restoration Improvement programme. The roads programme for 2020 will be reviewed at year end, at which time Members have the opportunity to introduce the back lanes to the Restoration Improvement programme.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle said that the former Town Council had given a commitment to tarmac the back lanes and said that there was one lane remaining in each estate to be done and asked that these would be included as part of the resurfacing works on Circular Road. Cllr. McMonagle was not happy with the response given.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Glackin supported the motion.

Fergal Doherty advised that this would endeavour to deliver this work under the 3 Year Restoration Programme.

Liam Ward said the issue of maintenance of back lanes in Council housing estates was raised previously and a mechanism for dealing with this was currently being considered.

MDL712/19 **50 KPH SPEED LIMIT AT TERMON N.S.**

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

"Calling on this Council to install a 50kph zone at the school in Termon."

The Members were advised that:

"This will be considered in any future review of Speed Limits."

On proposing the motion Cllr. O'Donnell said residents in the area requested that the speed limit was reduced taking into consideration the school, An Craoibhinn Centre, dangerous junction and Naonrai in this area.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride supported the motion and asked for an update on the crossing from the school to An Craoibhinn. Cllr. McBride proposed to extend the speed limit to the N56 Junction past the football pitch.

MDL713/19 **HEDGE CUTTING ON WILD ATLANTIC WAY MULROY DRIVE**

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

"Calling on this Council to cut all the hedges and over growth along the Wild Atlantic Way from Ramelton to Rathmullan and on the Mulroy drive around Cranford to show our tourists the beautiful scenery that is hidden behind the overgrowth."

Members were advised that:

“Section 40 of the Wildlife Acts 1976, prohibits the cutting of hedges, other than for road safety reasons, from March 1 to August 31. Outside of that period, the Council maintain hedges on non private areas, whilst the onus remains on private landowners to maintain their hedgerows.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. O’Donnell said this was raised by residents in the area and asked that works similar to the Milford to Kerrykeel road be carried out. He advised that this could be a joint venture with community groups and the Council and that a group be set up before 1/9/19.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey said speed was an issue with dangerous corners on rural roads and supported the motion.

MDL714/19 **GLEN VILLAGE TRAFFIC CALMING**

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

“Calling on this Council to install slow markings on all roads entering Glen Village as there are serious concerns over the speed of traffic travelling through the village.”

Members were advised that:

“This will be considered as part of the Road Marking Programme. The Council will also raise the speeding issue with the Gardaí. A 50kph speed limit exists in Glen.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. O’Donnell said residents were concerned, speed was an issue and speed signs were overgrown.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey said people were individually responsible for speeding and was dangerous for walkers and cyclist.

MDL715/19 **WATERMANS IMPROVEMENT AT CRIEVESMITH - BOMANY**

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

“As work is expected to get underway later this year for water mains improvements on Crievesmith - Bomany road, is it possible for the Council to carry out necessary improvements to the sewage system for the Crievesmith Park housing estate, Crievesmith Letterkenny, which are outdated and inadequate currently.”

Members were advised that:

“In the event that this motion is adopted by Letterkenny Municipal District Committee, Donegal County Council will endeavour to clarify the nature of the works required and if coordination of these works and the works suggested by Cllr. Glackin can be facilitated.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin said this was raised by residents when canvassing who were waiting on an upgrade for 30 years and asked that this be considered.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride supported the motion.

MDL716/19 TRAFFIC CALMING AT CHURCHILL VILLAGE

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

“That this Council implements speed restriction signs at either side of Churchill village in order to provide safety for pedestrians and people using the new play park in the village.”

Members were advised that:

“There is an existing 50KPH Speed Limit through Churchill Village fully signed in accordance with guidelines.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin said road safety had become an issue and asked that the Council erect signs highlighting children crossing due the high number tourists driving through the village.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride supported the motion and highlighted the great success of the play park.

Fergal Doherty agreed to look at signage for the village.

MDL717/19 SAFETY SIGNAGE AT GLENSWILLY OUTDOOR PRE-SCHOOL

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

“That the Council implements safety signage/speed restrictions at either side of the Glenswilly outdoor preschool at Barrack Glenswilly, especially taking into consideration the hump in the road from the Glenties direction at Barrack Crossroads that leads to a possible blind spot. These steps would lead to the safe movement of pedestrians and vehicles which drop off and pick up at the area.”

Members were advised that;

“Further information is required in relation to unsafe practices at the school, prior to implementation of restrictions on a rural Regional Road which in themselves may present further hazard.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin highlighted the volume of traffic using this road and asked that safety was in place and agreed to provide details to Fergal Doherty if required.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride supported the motion and asked that the road was improved.

Fergal Doherty advised that the business was private and the Council would seek to establish the reasons for the unsafe practices, i.e. inadequate parking, over utilising facilities in place.

MDL718/19 FOOTPATH & PUBLIC LIGHTING RAMELTON

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

“That this M.D. complete the intended Footpath from Ballyboe Bridge, Rathmullan to the Town past Gallagher’s house and provide Public lighting at this Junction.”

The Members were advised that:

“There is currently no budget available for these works, and will be considered in future funded programmes.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey highlight the number of pedestrians using this area in the summer and the importance of a footpath.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan supported the motion.

Fergal Doherty advised that this footpath was not on the 2019 Programme however could be considered in a future programme as agreed by the members.

MDL719/19 PUBLIC TOILETS SIGNAGE RAMELTON

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

“That this Council erect Public Toilet Signs at The Cup & Saucer Ramelton.”

The Members were advised that:

“Signage will be reviewed and upgraded as necessary.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey said this was raised previously and highlighted the importance of adequate signage for tourists.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan supported the motion.

MDL720/19 FOOTPATHS IN RAMELTON

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

“That this M.D. approve and provide footpaths around Ramelton i.e at Rectory Road to Cup & Saucer, Letterkenny Road to N.S, Medical Centre, Nursing Home, Church of Ireland and Chapel, Kilmacrennan Road to Drumonaghan Wood Walk.”

Members were advised that:

“All the Footpath locations are on our overall Footpath & Public Lighting List and will be considered along with all the rest if / when funding is made available.”

On proposing the motion asked that the request be considered and funding sought.

On seconding the motion supported the motion.

Fergal Doherty said that some of the footpaths raised were on the 2019 3 year footpath and public lighting Programme.

MDL721/19 HOUSING MAINTENANCE STAFF

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

“I propose that this Council begin to recruit additional housing maintenance staff to support the huge demand on our housing maintenance programme.”

Members were advised that:

“The Councils arrangements for getting work done to housing stock involves the utilisation of a combination of direct labour and local trades and contractors. This arrangement is working well and provides the Council with the capacity to respond appropriately to ensure that work is carried out in a timely way,

The appropriate response is generally determined having regard to the nature and extent of the work to be done particularly where an emergency response is required. For example, certain works such as the Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Programme and Painting Programme are by and large delivered on a programmed and planned basis via contractors because of the scale and one off nature of the work. Response repairs are primarily carried out by staff supplemented by local trades from time to time if necessary.

The Council continuously reviews how to achieve the best outcome for tenants and the Council between the doing of work by direct labour or by contractors and trades, with issues such as response times and value for money being key determinants in this regard.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan said that following a workshop on housing it was reported that the current system was working and a review/monitoring was in place to maintain housing stock. Housing Minister had advised that funding was available for resources and said not enough resources were available to tenants who needed maintenance repairs. Cllr. Brogan said that approximately €13m income was generated by housing rents and whilst he welcome the painting scheme there was not the same level of engagement since the abolition of the Letterkenny Town Council. Cllr. Brogan asked that a Liaison officer would build relationships with Residents Associations.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride supported the motion and said that when issues were raised they were not being expedited, resources were limited and it was important that staff was increased due to the volume of work in maintaining housing stock.

Patricia McIntyre advised that when the detailed analysis was complete it was agreed to revert to Members.

Liam Ward agreed to raise the matter raised with the Director of Services as this was raised on a number of occasions.

MDL722/19 TAKE OVER OF ESTATES

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

“I propose that this MD get an updated report on takeover of estates.”

The Members were advised that:

“The Taking-In-Charge Section within the Planning Department is available to present an update to the Letterkenny MD in relation to the Taking-In-Charge process across the entire Municipal District.

It is noted that a Workshop held earlier today dealt with a number of estates in the Mountain Top area and Carnamuggagh.

It is proposed that a date for a further Workshop is agreed at the MD meeting today to provide the opportunity to address all the estates in the Municipal District.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan noted the assurances raised in workshop that additional resources would be put in place. Cllr. Brogan acknowledged the work of the Council over the past number of years and highlighted the issues regarding Sewage Treatment Plants.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride supported the motion.

Liam Ward committed to providing a full briefing to members following the elections.

MDL723/19 **MAYORS BUSINESS**

Cllr. McGarvey updated the meeting on his attendance at the Bovril Collins Memorial in Station House Hotel, Opening of the Hugh Duffy Car Park and the attendance of the Ambassador from India.

Cllr. McGarvey thanked the Members, staff and Press for their cooperation and support during his year as Mayor and wished the members success in seeking re-election and retirement from politics.

Each of the Members in turn acknowledged the great work and energy of Cllr. McGarvey during his year as Mayor and wished each other well in the upcoming elections.

Liam Ward spoke of the challenges in 2014 in setting up the new MD structure and continuing with the Letterkenny Town Council focus on the town. He said the MD structure was good and acknowledged the role played by members and staff in advancing projects in the MD. He acknowledged the role of Cllr. McGarvey as Mayor during the past year.

MDL724/19 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Patricia McIntyre updated the meeting on the following:

- **International Yoga Day**
The Members agreed to a request from Indian Ambassador to partnership with Letterkenny in providing a venue for International Day of Yoga in July following on from his visit on the 4th April;
- **Hugh Duffy Family**
A Letter of thanks was received from Mrs Duffy and family to the Mayor and members for the opening of the Hugh Duffy Car Park.
- **Delegation from Rudolstadt**
Delegation from Rudolstadt on 27th September to 1st October 2019 which will be hosted by the Council. Cllr. Kavanagh added that the photography club from Rudolstadt had just left Letterkenny following a nine day visit and arrangements were in place for an exchange programme in the schools.

MDL725/19 **COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE**

The Members noted the report as circulated with the agenda.

MDL726/19 **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

The Members noted the report as circulated with the agenda.

726.1 International Parents Day – Bernard McGlinchey Town Park

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle permission was granted to Parent Hub Donegal to use the Bernard McGlinchey Town Park on 1st June 2019 from 2 – 4 pm.

726.2 Community Involvement Scheme

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh the implementation of the Community Involvement Schemes as proposed by the executive, and discussed in the previous workshop, was formally adopted.

726.3 TII Blue Banks % Art Scheme

Fergal Doherty requested feedback on proposals for Art Project for submission to the NRDO. Cllr. Brogan asked that Illistrin and Kilmacrennan National Schools would be consulted. Cllr. McBride asked that consideration be given to Colmcille Commemoration.

MDL727/19 **HOUSING AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

The Members noted the report as circulated with the agenda.

MDL728/19 **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Members noted the report as circulated with the agenda.

MDL729/19 ENVIRONMENT

The Members noted the report as circulated with the agenda.

729.1 *Old Watermain pipes*

Cllr. McBride asked what the policy was in relation to removing old asbestos watermain pipes following the new watermain being laid from Lough Salt to Letterkenny. Joe Ferry advised that factors such as length of time in ground, environmental risk/threat, cost and risk involved in removing would be considered.

Cllr. Brogan said that members should raise this with Irish Water on 20 May 2019.

Questions

MDL730/19 TAKEOVER OF GLENTAIN, GORT NA GREINE & ERRIGAL VIEW ESTATES

In answer to his question requesting an update on any progress with the takeover of Glentain, Gort Na Greine and Errigal View estates, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

“Glentain/Gort na Greine, Carnamuggagh

The planning authority will explore all options for the completion of the Glentain/Gort na Greine Housing development. The Council is currently examining the upgrade of the water booster pump to deal with current deficiencies in this regard. These matters are currently being advanced by the Council's Housing, Water Services and Taking-In-Charge Teams

Errigal View, Ballaghderg

The Taking-in-Charge Section has developed a site resolution plan for Errigal View and are currently quantifying the remedial costs associated with same. It is proposed to make an application for funding to the Department of Housing Planning & Local Government to meet the costs associated with the necessary upgrade of the foul pump station, and to look at all options available to bring the estate up to the standards required for Taking-In-Charge.”

MDL731/19 SIGNAGE AT RANN MOR WALK

In answer to his question requesting that the Council provide "Children at Play" signs for Rann Mor Walk, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

“Roads will arrange for erection of signage.”

MDL732/19 SOCIAL HOUSING LONG LANE PROPOSAL

In answer to his question requesting what had caused the delay in the building of houses at our site on the Long Lane, and when could we now expect for this contract to commence, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

“Tenders for the project closed in late 2018. A number of tenders were received and these were assessed. Detailed discussions were entered into with the contractor who was deemed to have submitted the most favourable tender. A Letter of Intent was issued to this contractor in Q1 2019. However, the contractor subsequently advised the Council that they were withdrawing their tender. As a result discussions were subsequently opened with the contractor who had submitted the next most favourable tender. This has resulted in an unforeseen delay to the commencement of the work on the project. The appointment of a contractor is a critical stage of the project and while every effort is made to expedite this part of the process, there are specific requirements in terms of the issuing of notifications and allowing time for appeals, etc that must be adhered to in order to ensure due process. The Council is committed to ensuring that the project commences on site as early as possible.”

MDL733/19 JAPANESE KNOTWEED AT PROPOSED HOUSING SITE

In answer to his question requesting was this Council aware of the presence of Japanese Knotweed at the proposed site for the building of 40 houses at The Glencar/ Elms site and had we received a report on the work that had been done to treat the suspected Japanese Knotweed at the site, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

“The Design Team commissioned by Apex has advised that Japanese Knotweed is not present on the site at Willowbrook.”

MDL734/19 GULLY AT UPPER ARD O'DONNELL

In answer to his question requesting that the Council put another gully in at the turning bay at the back of Bradley's house at Upper Ard O'Donnell, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

“The Area Roads Engineer will liaise with the Councillor regarding location and assessment of need for requested gully.”

MDL735/19 FOOTPATH AT RADHARC NA MARA, DOWNINGS

In answer to his question requesting when would work commence on the footpath from Radharc Na Mara cottages to the school in Downings, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised:

“Works programmed to commence in September.”

MDL736/19 PUBLIC LIGHTING AT RAY

In answer to his question requesting when would the new public lights be erected at Ray, Cllr. John O’Donnell was advised:

“Lights on the Rathmullan Road at Ray were erected in 2018. There are no plans for erection of any further lights at Ray.”

MDL737/19 DERELICT BUILDING IN RAMELTON

In answer to his question requesting what were the Councils plans for the derelict building at the quay in Ramelton where they had erected the hoarding, Cllr. John O’Donnell was advised:

“The Council received numerous representations about the state of this building and the risk to public if debris were to fall from the structure or if the public were to gain access to the building. Efforts are ongoing to establish ownership of the property but in the interim the temporary hoarding was erected to protect the public. The Council will continue its efforts to identify the owners and review the requirement for works to make the structure safe.”

MDL738/19 RECYCLING CENTRE CHURCHILL

In answer to his question requesting what were the possibilities of finding a new home for the bottle bank/recycling bins in Churchill which were at the site where the new play park was in place, Cllr. Adrian Glackin was advised:

“The banks were removed to facilitate the development of the new playground and outdoor gym. Unfortunately due to Health & Safety concerns the banks were removed.

Donegal County Council has been seeking to return the banks to the area and contacted the landowner of a potential site in the area, however, the landowner was not interested in facilitating the banks on their land. We continue to work with the community to identify a new site and if a suitable site is identified the recycling facilities will be made available again.

If there are any sites that may be suitable as a recycling facility please contact Éadaoin Healy and the necessary risk assessments will be carried out in conjunction with the service provider.”

MDL739/19 OLD HOTEL SITE IN MILFORD

In answer to his question requesting was there any progress on my motion at the January meeting about the Council purchasing the old Hotel site in Milford and giving

the public a say in what they would like to see on this site, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

“Following consideration of this motion at Letterkenny Municipal District, it was acknowledged that a Planning Application had been received by Donegal County Council for significant development on this site. The application was received on 6th February, 2019. The details of the proposed development is as set out below under Planning Reference 19/50139. The site is in private ownership. The planning application remains under consideration by the Planning Authority and has not been determined. In the above circumstances, it is not appropriate to advance the motion as considered at the January MD Meeting.

DEMOLITION OF EXISTING FLAT ROOF EXTENSION AND EXISTING APARTMENT TO REAR OF FORMER HOTEL AND (2) CONSTRUCTION OF 6 NO. TWO STOREY TERRACED DWELLINGS AND ALL ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS INCLUDING PROPOSED CAR PARKING, BINS/BICYCLE COMPOUND, VEHICULAR ACCESS TO REAR OF ADJACENT PROPERTIES, PROPOSED RETAINING WALLS AND CONNECTION TO EXISTING FOUL AND STORM SEWERS.”

MDL740/19 PROGRESS ON MOTIONS & QUESTIONS RAISED

In answer to his question requesting did this Council intend to deal with the many problems raised by me over the years, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

“The Council endeavours to follow up on all issues raised by the Elected Members. If there are specific cases which have not been closed out, it may be that investigations or assessments are on-going. The Council is happy to provide a status report if there is a specific or particular issue identified that has been raised over the last number of years.”

MDL741/19 DERELICT PROBLEMS IN THE MD

In answer to his question requesting what are the proposals to deal with the many derelict problems in our towns within our M.D., Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

“To date the capacity of the Council to prioritise the use of the provisions of the legislation has been limited and this, coupled with the likely review of the legislation flagged in discussions under the Rebuilding Ireland initiative, has contributed to its limited application across the country.

The scope of the usefulness of the Derelict Sites Act, in conjunction with other measures such as the Vacant Sites Levy, to facilitate regeneration opportunities is being examined by the Central Planning Unit in relation to potential cross-directorate approaches to urban and rural regeneration.

In this context, a targeted review of derelict sites in the central areas of our larger towns is being progressed in tandem with both the Local Area Plan preparation programme and also the opportunities that may arise from the Regeneration funding streams announced during 2018.”

MDL742/19 PARKING AT BANK TERRACE GRAVEYARD

In answer to his question requesting would this M.D. address the problem of obstruction on Bank Terrace and provide parking at Bank Terrace Graveyard, with a lining at least for safe walking, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

“The Bank Terrace area is included in the executive proposed C.I.S. schemes for 2019, and if passed, works will be carried out along this area to alleviate the problems there.”

MDL743/19 ERDF PROGRAMME

In answer to his question requesting an updated report on the ERDF Programme of work and the proposed Urban Regeneration proposals, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

“The application to the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund in 2018 for Letterkenny was successful with monies being awarded for the acquisition of a key intervention site, public realm works and 'masterplanning'. A spending profile for the years 2019 and 2020 was submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government as requested in February of this year and the Council is now awaiting a formal letter of offer from the Department. A recent update request to the Department has advised that the release of the letters of offer is imminent. In the interim work is continuing to resource the Regeneration & Development Team who are working on the preparedness of the project to commence on receipt of the letters of offer. It is anticipated that this work will see the public realm element of the project commence the necessary Part 8 planning process in May.”

MDL744/19 ROAD WORKS KNOCKBRACK TO PLUCK AND ROUGH PARK TO WOODLANDS

In answer to his question requesting when would works start on Knockbrack to Pluck and Rough Park to Woodlands as agreed in our Road Works Programme, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

“The roads between Pluck & Treanavinney and between the R245 and Woodlands will be tarred by the end of September 2019.”

MDL745/19 MOUNTAIN TOP WALK

In answer to his question requesting an update on the Mountain Top walk, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

“Funding of €10,000 was secured for the Mountain Top walk through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure scheme and work was carried out with the co-operation of the Letterkenny Area Roads team during Summer 2018 to open up the Mountain path from Woodlands to Calhame over Knockbrin. This used a lot of the funding as there was significant clearing and digger work required to clear this section of path.

An application is now made for funding for phase two of the works to develop the walk further with improvement works and interpretative signage from the 2019 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme Measure 1 and this will be submitted by closing date 31st May 2019 with funding announcements expected in Autumn

Signage materials have since been delivered and the way marker posts and advance warning signs (Walkers on Road) will be erected by mid May. A trail head map board is being developed and will be located one at Mountain Top and another at the Woodlands side.

The route is ready for use as a walk and if further funding is secured this year it will go towards improving the surface over Knockbrin and perhaps some trail furniture (picnic bench etc) and some interpretative signage explaining the history of the area and views from the summit.

The walk will be fully open in June 2019.”

MDL746/18 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be agreed following the elections.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor

Meetings Administrator