

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING HELD IN THE LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2017**

**MDL 242/17 MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MDL243/17 OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Suzanne Bogan, Waste Information Officer  
Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation  
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate & Housing Services  
Ciaran Martin, Development Officer  
Linda McCann, Senior Staff Officer  
Martin McDermott, Executive Planner  
Liam Ward, Director of Service

**MDL244/17 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael McBride and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle the meeting was adjourned to allow the Deputation from "Donegal Youth Council" complete their presentation.

The meeting was chaired by Mayor, Cllr. James Pat McDaid,

**MDL245/17 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2017**

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael McBride and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 were adopted.

**MDL246/17 DRAINAGE ON PRIVATE LANDS IN KILMACRENNAN**

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

*Calling on this Council to sort out the large volume of water which was running off the road and from behind the Council houses in Pairc na Coille at Massreagh, Kilmacrennan as a matter of urgency because other home owners and land owners were being flooded.*

The Members were advised that:

*This related to a drain on private property over which the Council had no remit. The water was not running onto or off the public road.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. O'Donnell advised that Council staff had examined this and in his opinion the culvert was not sufficient to deal with the volume of water coming from private developments on higher ground. Cllr. O'Donnell asked that the Council provide the necessary materials and machinery to allow the affected landowner carry out the necessary drainage on his land which has been impacted considerable by these developments which the Council granted planning permission for. Cllr. O'Donnell stated that it was unfair for this landowner, who was present at this meeting, to have this burden put on his land which had no issue with flooding prior to the development in this area. The development also included a social housing estate and Cllr. O'Donnell felt that the Council had some responsibility towards assisting the landowner in alleviating this problem.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride fully supported the motion which he had raised previously on behalf of the landowner concerned.

Fergal Doherty advised that as this was a non-public road the Roads Department was prohibited from carrying out any works.

Cllr. O'Donnell was not satisfied with this response and asked that the Council provide the necessary materials and machinery to assist the landowner in carrying out the necessary drainage works.

***MDL247/17*** **OLD ABBEY - KILMACRENNAN**

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

*Calling on this Council to allocate much needed funding for the preservation of the Old Abbey in Kilmacrennan.*

The Members were advised that:

*Roads had applied to the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht, as well as the Heritage Council, for funding under various programmes. The Council had not been successful in either application, due to the competition nationwide for Heritage projects. The required permits and conservations plans in relation to Kilmacrennan had been procured/developed in readiness for funding. In order to progress actual conservation/preservation works at Kilmacrennan, an estimated minimum amount of €30-€40k is required to mobilise conservation operations on site. (Costs are high due to Ministerial requirements for involvement of*

*Archaeologists/Conservation Architect/Engineer and scaffolding/Stone Mason etc.). The Council proposed to reapply for funding next year.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. O'Donnell stated that this motion had been brought before to the Municipal District Meeting previously and expressed disappointment in not receiving funding. Cllr. O'Donnell stated the works were a matter of urgency and the Abbey/graveyard posed a safety risk. Cllr. O'Donnell stated that it was unacceptable that works would be delayed a further year and that families were unable to visit the graves. He asked that further funding sources be investigated and the Minister be contacted to seek emergency funding and Oireachtas Members were invited to visit the Abbey which has huge historical value.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride stated that he had previously raised this on numerous meetings and that this is still used as a burial ground with restricted access. Cllr. McBride stated that this was the education place of Colmcille and the 1500 years celebration would take place in 2021 and highlighted the urgency in having the works carried out prior to this. A Committee had been set up locally to seek funding for this celebration and was very disappointed that funding was not received to carry out this much needed works.

Cllr. O'Donnell asked that the Council write to the Minister and Oireachtas Members to visit the Abbey.

**MDL248/17 ROAD AT RED HOUSE ON CARRIGART / CRANFORD ROAD**

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

*Calling on this Council to act as a matter of urgency to widen the corner and make it safe at the red house on the Carrigart to Cranford road as there had been another accident there where there could have been someone seriously injured.*

The Members were advised that:

*There were currently no Specific Improvement Schemes being funded by the Government, for realignment works.*

*Whilst this road was already included in recommended surfacing programmes, the executive were recommending prioritisation for surface dressing, the 500m section of road on the R245/19 in Carrick on the Carrigart to Milford road (locally known as Red House Corner), over a previously agreed section of the same road.*

*As part of the 2017 Restoration Maintenance programme a 500m section of the R245/21 at Umlagh on the Carrigart Lackagh Bridge road was selected for Surface Dressing on the RI programme, such that an allocation of €17,875.00 was agreed to complete these works. Deterioration of this section since, renders it likely more*

*appropriate for the RI programme, whereby a structural overlay was a more suitable treatment for this section of road.*

*Accordingly, the executive recommend that the allocation of €17,878.00 would be transferred from the R245/21 at Umlagh to the R245/19 at Carrick and that the 500m section at Umlagh be included in the 2018 Roads Restoration Programme.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. O'Donnell highlighted the large volume of accidents over the past number of years and asked that the Council realign the dangerous corner. Cllr. O'Donnell asked that the Council seek emergency funding and a breakdown of the cost for this realignment.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle fully supported the motion and expressed concern on taking money from an agreed road to use on another road. Cllr. McMonagle stated that this highlights the insufficient funding available to the Municipal District.

Fergal Doherty advised that funding cannot be transferred from Restoration Maintenance or Restoration Improvement programmes to realignment works and what was proposed was a solution that allowed for the Surface Dressing of this section of road, otherwise the Members could wait until such times as Specific Improvement Grants were re-introduced. There were no indications from central government that Specific Improvement Grants were to be re-introduced in the near future, and when they do, the MDL have a long list of projects for consideration.

#### **MDL249/17 TOILET FACILITIES AT BALLYHIERNAN BAY, FANAD**

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

*Calling on this Council to investigate the possibility of providing toilet facilities in Ballyhiernan Bay/Beach in Fanad due to increased foot fall brought by the Wild Atlantic Way promotional initiative.*

The Members were advised that:

*This would be examined and a report would be brought to a future meeting.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin stated that due to the high number of tourists to the area as a result of the success of the WAW and Fanad Lighthouse it was necessary to have property facilities for tourist to ensure repeat visitors to the area.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully supported the motion and highlighted the need for such facilities at our beaches.

**MDL250/17 LOUGH COLM, MILFORD**

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

*That this Municipal District demand that Irish Water immediately comes before and addresses this Council about the critically low level of water in Lough Colm, Milford.*

The Members were advised that:

*This motion if passed would be referred to Irish Water.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney informed the meeting that the Lough Colm was 9 ft to 10 ft below its optimum level at present and this was a huge concern for residents in Milford. Cllr. Blaney stated that Irish Water should be updating Members of the proposals in the area as there was considerable money being spent. Cllr. Blaney advised that he considered a chemical treatment plant in Gort Lough would have been a sufficient solution to the water supply in the area and that residents in Rathmullan are concerned that there will be a continued dependency on Gort Lough which has high THMs.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride fully support the motion and advised that he has raised this at Plenary Council this month also. Cllr. McBride asked that Irish Water confirm how many cubes of water was needed to meet the demands in this area and was there capacity to meet demand in Lough Keel and Lough Salt.

Cllr. Blaney asked that a meeting is arranged on site as there were serious concerns that the sources were not available to meet demands.

**MDL251/17 ROAD SAFETY ON CARRIGART / CRANFORD ROAD AT RED ROOF HOUSE**

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

*That roads section of this Council identify the reasons as to why so many vehicles are going off the road on the Carrigart side of the red roof house at Carrick, Carrigart and identify solutions as soon as possible.*

The Members were advised that:

*There are currently no Specific Improvement Schemes being funded by the Government, for realignment works.*

*Whilst this road was already included in recommended surfacing programmes, the executive were recommending prioritisation for surface dressing, the 500m section*

*of road on the R245/19 in Carrick on the Carrigart to Milford road (locally known as Red House Corner), over a previously agreed section of the same road.*

*As part of the 2017 Restoration Maintenance programme a 500m section of the R245/21 at Umlagh on the Carrigart Lackagh Bridge road was selected for Surface Dressing on the RI programme, such that an allocation of €17,875.00 was agreed to complete these works. Deterioration of this section since, renders it likely more appropriate for the RI programme, whereby a structural overlay was a more suitable treatment for this section of road.*

*Accordingly, the executive recommended that the allocation of €17,878.00 be transferred from the R245/21 at Umlagh to the R245/19 at Carrick and that the 500m section at Umlagh be included in the 2018 Roads Restoration Programme.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney advised that cars were going off the road on a regular basis and considered road surfacing was not the right solution as the road was very narrow with numerous corners and therefore did not agree with the solution proposed. Cllr. Blaney asked for immediate action and that Engineers re-examine in particular the first corner at the red roof house. Cllr. Blaney asked for a report to the next meeting on why accidents are happening and a cost plan for immediate works and future plan for realignment works.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey stated that this was a longstanding problem and fully supported the motion. Cllr. McGarvey highlighted the volume of tourists using this road who were unfamiliar with the road.

Liam Blaney advised that he would go with the Engineer's recommendation on condition that this would alleviate the accidents and that Umlagh would receive funding in 2018.

Fergal Doherty advised that the works proposed in the response would significantly improve this part of road with the addition of signage and chevrons put in place.

On the proposal of Cllr. John O'Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney it was agreed that the allocation of €17,878.00 be transferred from the R245/21 at Umlagh to the R245/19 at Carrick and that the 500m section at Umlagh be included in the 2018 Roads Restoration Programme.

Cllr. McMonagle stated that funding should be sought where there are continuous accidents. The Members asked that funding is sought to realign this stretch of road as a long-term solution to the problem.

#### **MDL252/17 DESIGNATED URBAN CENTRE GRANT SCHEME**

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

*That the Member were updated on the current status/progress of the €500,000 allocated to Letterkenny under the "Designated Urban Centre Grant Scheme" including a proposed works schedule.*

The Members were advised that:

*To date the Council's Roads and C&E design teams had focused on the Joe Bonner Link Road and the Social Enterprise Centre elements of the DUCGS projects. This was to ensure that these projects, which had a significant design component, could be delivered within the DUCGS funding deadline. Work had yet to commence on the Town Centre Linkages element but it was expected that this would commence later this year.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride expressed concern at the lack of work carried out and the risk of losing the funding approved. Cllr. McBride asked for clarification on when Part VIII would be available.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey fully supported motion.

Liam Ward fully acknowledged the concerns raised by Cllr. McBride and advised that the funding period had been extended for a further year to December 2019. The funding received included three elements as outlined in the response, Social Enterprise Building €1m, Joe Bonner Road €750,000 and town centre linkages €250,000 with local matched funding to be provided through the Council. Mr. Ward advised that a clear commitment had been given to having the project delivered and that this will include Part VIII.

#### ***MDL253/17*** **STREET CLEANING**

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

*Could the Council have the streets of all our municipal tidy towns entries swept prior to adjudication (normally around rally weekend).*

The Members were advised that:

*Arrangements were made for sweeping of Ramelton, Kilmacrenan, Milford, Rathmullan, Kerrykeel, Downings, and Carrigart, in addition to regular sweeping of Letterkenny Town.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride highlighted the great work of the Tidy Town Committees throughout the Municipal District. Cllr. McBride asked that the Council write to the Tidy Towns and ask that adjudication was delayed or brought forward taking into consideration the high volume of visitors to the county for the Donegal International Rally.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey fully supported the motion.

Fergal Doherty advised that the Tidy Towns adjudication was random and groups were unaware of when they would be carried out.

**MDL254/17 BROADBAND ON N56 AT BLUE BANKS**

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

*That Donegal County Council ask Eircom if it was possible to extend its broadband (copper) along the N56 at the Blue Banks, Kilmacrennan where the planned roadworks take place in the near future.*

The Members were advised that:

*DNRDO confirmed that new EIR ducting would be provided under the scheme proposals along the full length of the new verge. In addition, DCC spare ducting would be provided on the adjacent verge. Therefore, any future proposals by EIR could be accommodated within the scheme.*

*In agreement with Government departments, Eir had committed to rolling out Fibre Broadband services to an extra 300,000 homes nationwide, of which ~25,000 would be in Donegal, by the end of 2018. The coverage routes could be viewed on [http://www.openeir.ie/Our\\_Network/](http://www.openeir.ie/Our_Network/). It was evident from these maps that the area in question, the "Blue Banks" would be covered under this rollout. Any other buildings in this area not on the Eir Route would be covered under the National Broadband Plan. Further details and coverage could be viewed here <http://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/communications/topics/Broadband/national-broadband-plan/high-speed-broadband-map/Pages/Interactive-Map.aspx>*

*As Eir had agreed a very tight delivery timeline with Government, they stated that there would be no deviations from the Routes outlined on the openeir.ie maps.*

*When the proposed future roadworks commence there was the potential of codeveloping open access ducting for broadband services provided under the National Broadband Plan.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride welcomed the response and asked that the Council request Eir to provide the service in line with the ducting being laid by the Council. Cllr. McBride also welcomed the update that the cycle lanes would be extended as part of the proposed works at Blue Banks.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey fully supported the motion.

**MDL255/17 LOCAL ROADS IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

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

*That the Roads Section continued mentoring our Local Roads in our M.D. to ensure that they were kept open and available to Walkers and others.*

The Members were advised that:

*Roads would continue to monitor and maintain the public road network in so far as resources allowed.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey asked that locals roads were not closed by locals and access was available at all times to walkers and cyclists. Cllr. McGarvey asked that landowners were written to regarding cutting hedgerows.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride fully supported the motions.

**MDL256/17 MARINE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

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

*That the Enterprise Section would support the development of Marine enterprise in areas within the Letterkenny MD.*

The Members were advised that:

*Inland Fisheries Ireland was tasked with the development of Inland fishing Enterprises. Donegal County Council had supported this where possible in the past and can again where a project was identified.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey asked that Inland Fisheries attend a future meeting of the Municipal District to discuss viable options to develop our rivers.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kavanagh fully supported the motion stating that this was an under developed area of our local economy and had potential for tourism.

**MDL257/17 MAYORS BUSINESS**

Cllr. McDaid informed the meeting that two meetings had taken place with the Executive, Members of the Municipal District of Letterkenny and Oireachtas Members on traffic congestion in Letterkenny and roads funding for the MD and that priorities had been agreed. It was also agreed that a delegation requested a meeting with Minister Shane Ross.

Cllr. McDaid advised that he had attended the following in the past month:

1. Downings Wheelchair launch: Cllr. McDaid wished this facility success.
2. Prize giving Mulroy College: Cllr. McDaid commended the school and the excellent facilities and great students.
3. Colourful Shop Fronts – Letterkenny Tidy Towns Initiative.
4. Book Launch by Ann Gallagher on the St. Colmcille Heritage Centre in Gartan and encouraged everyone to read this book if they had the opportunity.
5. Cllr. McDaid acknowledged the great day when he attended the Rally for Down Syndrome Fundraiser at Town Centre Café organised by Manus Kelly.

Cllr. McDaid highlighted the opening of Pieta House and the importance of this service in Letterkenny and wished everyone success. He stated the opening of the facility had created a great awareness around mental health.

Cllr. McDaid wished the spectators, organisers and competitors every success in the upcoming Donegal International Rally.

Cllr. McDaid wished Donegal Senior Team success in the upcoming game in the Ulster Championship.

Cllr. McDaid thanked the Members for their support throughout his year as Mayor.

***MDL258/17*** **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Use of Letterkenny Town Park:**

**Pinehill Studios** - On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh permission was given to Pinehill Studios to use the Bernard McGlinchey Town Park on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.

**Lionra Leitir Ceanainn** – On the proposal of Cllr. John O’Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle permission was given to Lionra Leitir Ceanainn for use on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017 between 10 a.m. and 12 noon for a picnic.

**Off the Street Food Festival at Car Park on Justice Walsh Road behind AIB** – On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Adrian Glackin permission was given to hold a two day food festival on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> July from 12 noon to 8 pm.

Adequate insurances to be presented prior to each event taking place.

***MDL259/17 ENVIRONMENT***

The Members considered the report circulated with the Agenda and received an update from Suzanne Bogan on the following:

- Green Schools – 55 schools awarded Green Flags on 3<sup>rd</sup> May celebrating 20 years of the Green Schools Programme
- Green Schools Irish Water School of the Year for the Western Region was awarded to Gairmscoil Chú Uladh, Ballinamore having been shortlisted from 3,000 applications.
- Congratulations were sent to Scoil Mhuire, Buncrana having received the award of Senior Post Primary Winner in the SEAI one Good Idea Schools Competition.
- St. John's Night on 23<sup>rd</sup> June – communities requested to be vigilant at bonfires and the risk to health and the environment. Enforcement staff would be monitoring events.
- Farm Plastic Scheme – a list of dates were circulated.
- Grant Scheme announced on the Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund 2017 – advised the closing date was 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and applications should be sent to Donegal County Council directly.
- 13 Blue Flags and 5 Green Coast Awards were received in Donegal. Greencastle Marina was the first marina in the county to receive Blue Flag status.
- Enforcement

The Members welcomed the report.

Cllr. Michael McBride asked that a letter of thanks be issued to Jimmy Harley for agreeing to provide a site for the bottle banks in Trentagh on a trial three month basis.

Cllr. John O'Donnell asked that the Council support the Rathmullan group with additional bin facilities over the summer period that would assist the group when emptying the existing bins in the area due to the high volume of visitors.

Cllr. Liam Blaney commended the Council on achieving the Blue Flags and expressed disappointment that Lisfannon lost the Blue Flag status.

Cllr. Blaney thanked the staff locally who assisted with signs prohibiting dumping at Glenkeeragh, Glenswilly and locals for the works in cleaning up the area.

Cllr. Blaney asked for an update on the proposed start date for Rathmullan toilets.

***MDL260/17 COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES***

The Members noted the content of a report circulated with the Agenda.

- Social Enterprise Building
- Fanad Lighthouse
- Ramelton Town & Village Renewal Scheme
- Donegal Marathon 2017
- Donegal Tourism
- Rural Development Programme / LEADER
- Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Members welcomed the report.

#### **260.01 Fanad Lighthouse**

Ciaran Martin advised that Fanad Lighthouse proposed to employ 18 additional staff over the summer period and acknowledged the support of the Members on the success of the Lighthouse today. Over 7,000 visitors were recorded to date.

Cllr. Blaney acknowledged the work of Ciaran Martin and the Council in assisting Fanad Lighthouse.

Cllr. McDaid asked that the Council invite the President to reconsider visiting Fanad Lighthouse at a later date as the Visitors Centre would be completed at the end of June.

#### **260.02 Pride of Place Awards**

Ciaran Martin informed the meeting that the five community groups were selected out of 19 community groups to proceed to the national competition to be held in Letterkenny on the 8<sup>th</sup> December, two groups were from the M.D. of Letterkenny, Letterkenny Youth & Family Services and Ray Community Centre.

Cllr. Blaney asked that a letter of good wishes was sent to Ray Community Centre as this area had a great community spirit in a small community.

#### **260.03 Community Facilities Scheme**

Ciaran Martin informed the meeting of the Community Facilities Scheme and the closing date for applications was 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.

#### **260.04 Rathmullan Ferry Service**

Cllr. Blaney asked that the Ferry Services was asked to consider putting the larger ferry in service sooner than anticipated due to the reported large numbers currently using the services.

### ***MDL261/17* ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

The Members noted the content of the Roads report circulated with the Agenda.

### **261.1 Open Day on the Proposed Four Lane Improvements**

Fergal Doherty encouraged the Members and public to attend an open day outlining the proposed safety measures for the four lane dual carriageway from the Dry Arch Roundabout to the Polestar Roundabout to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017 in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

### **262.2 3 Year Footpath & Public Lighting Programme**

Fergal Doherty read the contents of report circulated with the Agenda on the agreed 3 Year Footpath & Public Lighting Programme and referred to a motion and reply to Plenary Council on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017 also circulated with the agenda.

Fergal Doherty advised the Council was undertaking a Three Year Footpath and Public Lighting Programme to a value of €1.4m countywide each year for three years.

A list of all footpaths and public lighting raised in previous motions by the Members in the last three years had been compiled and circulated at the workshop on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017. He requested that Members submit any further areas for considerations to him, by the July MDL Meeting. The Members were advised that this list would have to be prioritised prior to September. A full list of those identified to date from previous Members Motions, was available on the Members Extranet and a workshop would be required to prepare a prioritisation list for the three year programme.

Fergal Doherty advised that the €45,000 received under the Development Contribution Scheme was in addition to the new announcement.

The Members welcomed this. Programme.

Cllr L. Blaney suggested that Council consider extending the programme for a further 3 to 5 years due to volume of lights and footpaths required.

### **262.3 Car Park Milford**

Cllr. Blaney asked that the Council carry out the works necessary to put a car park in place on the Kilmacrennan Road due to the high number of people accessing the hardware store, church and graveyard in this vicinity.

### **262.4 Traffic Congestion Letterkenny**

Cllr. Blaney asked for an update at each MDL Meeting following on from the workshop held on 9<sup>th</sup> May on traffic congestion in Letterkenny at which time short term measures were discussed.

## ***MDL263/17 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES***

The Members noted a progress report circulated with the Agenda on Housing and Corporate Services.

### **263.1 Housing Assistance Payment Scheme**

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle raised concerns from applicants for social housing support who were approved for HAP however were unable to avail of the assistance as landlords were seeking a months deposit and Department of Social Welfare were not approving applicants for the deposit. Cllr. McMonagle stated that this was adding to overcrowded situations and homelessness and asked that the Council review the issue with deposits.

Cllr. Kavanagh advised that he received the same issues from applicants in relation to deposits.

Eunan Kelly advised that the issue with deposits was raised with the Community Welfare Office and they advised that they were satisfied with their assessment of applications and level of assistance being given, however they agreed to re-examine any cases if necessary. Mr. Kelly asked that the Members forward him details on any specific cases they were familiar with and he would forward to D.S.P.

### **263.2 Casual Vacancies**

Cllr. McMonagle asked why there was a delay in reletting houses as it appeared that there was a considerable delay in turnaround.

Cllr. O'Donnell suggested that the Council advertise for contractors to carry out works on vacancies and emergency repair requests.

Eunan Kelly advised that the turnaround time on vacancies was a priority for the Council however factors that impacted on this included restricted availability of contractors, delay in keys returned by transfer tenants, higher standard of works carried out, refusals etc.

### **263.3 Grass Cutting / Residents Association**

Cllr. McMonagle asked for an update on funding Resident Associations for grass cutting through the Members Development Fund. Cllr. McMonagle advised that this was considered at a recent SPC Meeting.

### **263.4 Social Housing Investment Programme**

Cllr. John O'Donnell asked that the Council ensure value for money and made reference to the cost of development per unit at Long Lane, Letterkenny compared to properties currently for sale in Carrigart.

Cllr. O'Donnell and Cllr. Blaney expressed disappointment that the land at Carrigart was deemed unsuitable and asked for clarity on what site was currently being examined and if this was Council owned land.

Cllr. Blaney asked that the list of Department caps for purchased houses was circulated to Members.

### **263.5 Provision of Social Housing Through Turnkey Acquisition**

Cllr. O'Donnell and Cllr. Blaney asked for an update on what areas were submissions received for.

### **263.6 Long-Term Leased Units**

Cllr. Blaney asked for clarity on what options were available to tenants in long-term leased units when 10 year term had expired.

### **263.7 Mica Report and LPT**

Cllr. Blaney asked that the Council write to Revenue and ask that property owners affected by Mica would be made exempt from paying the local property tax as their properties would be of zero value.

### **263.8 Tenant Purchase Scheme – Loan Applications**

Cllr. Brogan asked that the Council make more readily available options to applicants to purchase under the Tenant Purchase Scheme and in particular the option of being approved for a loan. Cllr. Brogan said that while the Council offer loans the criteria is so high that applicants find it very difficult to qualify. Cllr. Brogan asked that the Council contact the Department in an effort to avail of finance from the Housing Finance Agency to make loans more accessible to applicants.

Cllr. Brogan also raised the issue of pensioners being unable to purchase their home.

Liam Ward advised the Loan Scheme was a national scheme and there was a very high qualifying criteria. Loans had to be approved by the Housing Agency and also Councils Credit Committee.

Cllr Blaney mentioned that he was aware of a case where a bank advised an applicant that they were unable to proceed with a mortgage due to 50% charge being held by DCC on the property for 25 years. Eunan Kelly advised that this had been referred to the Department for clarification.

## ***MDL264/17 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT***

### **264.1 Draft County Development Plan**

Martin McDermot advised that there was a public drop in event in the Letterkenny Public Services on the evening of the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

### **264.2 Protected Structures**

Martin McDermot advised that a workshop and MDL Meeting was agreed in the Letterkenny PSC. on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. & 11.00 a.m. on the Record of Protected Structures

### **264.3 Reports Circulated**

The Members considered the report circulated with the Agenda which included:

1. Summary of planning applications for the District
2. Enforcement
3. Upcoming Month Schedule

### Questions

#### **MDL265/17 FOOTPATH AT ABBEY VILLAGE, KILMACRENNAN**

In an answer to his question on what progress had been made on finding out about the footpath which was to be constructed by the Abbey Village development and not done from the estate entrance to the village of Kilmacrenan and what measures were the Council taking to enforce this to be constructed, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised that:

*At a workshop held on 9th May 2017, Members had agreed on a programme of footpath/public lighting expenditure in relation to the identified funding of €45k DCS monies. The above referred footpath was not prioritised at that workshop but might be considered for the 3 year footpath programme being developed as referred to in today's Roads report.*

#### **MDL266/17 BOARDWALK AT DOWNING BEACH**

In an answer to his question on whether the Council could apply for funding to complete the Foreshore Licence application for the new board walk at Downings Beach which would link up to the steps at the Pier in Downings, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised that:

*Piers & Harbours Section had no available funding stream to apply for funding for this project.*

#### **MDL267/17 PAINTING AT BEECHWOOD ROAD, LETTERKENNY**

In an answer to his question on whether there was any update on getting the cottages at Beechwood Road painted, Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

*The Council had made provision in this year's budget for painting. It was intended to prepare a rolling painting programme commencing with houses in most exposed areas, then houses most in need of painting.*

*These houses had been painted in last number of years and not considered urgent at this time.*

**MDL268/17 RAMPS AT ARD O'DONNELL, LETTERKENNY**

In an answer to his question on whether the ramps at Ard O'Donnell could be raised higher as residents were still complaining about excessive speeding through the estate, and felt that the current ramps were not a deterrent Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

*The Ramps at Upper Ard O'Donnell, Letterkenny were within specification. One of these ramps was located on a steep gradient, increasing the height of same would not be recommended or safe. The matter of speeding issues would be referred to Gardaí for enforcement.*

**MDL269/17 GLENSWILLY/CHURCHILL WATER SUPPLY**

In an answer to his question on whether the Council could confirm that the Glenswilly/Churchill water supply was currently being fed from Gartan, and if it was, when would the connection to Lough Salt take place, Cllr. A Glackin was advised that:

*This had been referred to Irish Water for an update.*

**MDL270/17 BROADBAND IN KILMACRENNAN**

In an answer to his question on whether he could have an update on the roll out of Broadband in Kilmacrennan and the surrounding rural area, Cllr. A Glackin was advised that:

*In agreement with Government departments, Eir had committed to rolling out Fibre Broadband services to an extra 300,000 homes nationwide, of which 25,000 will be in Donegal, by the end of 2018. The coverage routes could be viewed on [http://www.openeir.ie/Our\\_Network/](http://www.openeir.ie/Our_Network/)*

*It was evident from these maps that Fibre Broadband would be made available to residents from Termon to the north of Kilmacrennan and Coolboy to the south. Any other buildings in this area not on the Eir Route would be covered under the National Broadband Plan. Further details and coverage could be viewed here <http://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/communications/topics/Broadband/national-broadband-plan/high-speed-broadband-map/Pages/Interactive-Map.aspx>*

**MDL271/17 GLEN PARK ESTATE TAKE-OVER**

In an answer to his question on whether he could have an update on where the Take-Over Process for Glen Park Estate in Letterkenny was at Cllr G. McMonagle was advised that:

*The Council was arranging to have the lights replaced in Glen Park but no funding was available at present for the roads in the estate. A Take-Over application had been submitted by the Developer.*

**MDL272/17 BERNARD MC GLINCHEY TOWN PARK**

In an answer to his question on whether permission could be given to Letterkenny Men's Shed to place a Bench they had made at Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Park in memory of those affected by suicide , Cllr G. McMonagle was advised that:

*Whilst the idea was favoured, potential PL and maintenance implications needed to be assessed. The proposed structure should be made available to the Town Engineer for assessment in accordance with CE standards as required for street furniture in public areas, before this could be furthered.*

**MDL273/17 CAR PARK MILFORD**

In an answer to his question on whether he could have an update re his proposal for a car park on the Council owned lands between Milford PSC and Kilmacrennan Road, Milford, Cllr L. Blaney was advised that:

*There were currently no plans for the construction of a public car park at the location referred to, with three public car parks already in existence in Milford. The car park at the top of the town appeared to be rarely used.*

**MDL274/17 TOILET FACILITIES RATHMULLAN**

In an answer to his question on whether he could have an update on proposed Public Toilets at Rathmullan, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that:

*As advised at the May meeting the closing date for receipt of tenders was 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and a tender assessment would be carried out accordingly. An update on progress from the tender process had been requested and Members would be circulated when received. Your request to defer works to September had been forwarded to Water Services.*

**MDL275/17 HOUSING CARRIGART / DOWNINGS**

In an answer to his question on whether this Council would consider purchasing houses that were for sale in the Carrigart/Downing area as there were no houses available to rent for applicants that were on the Council's housing list and had been approved for Housing Assistance Payment, Cllr L. Blaney was advised that:

*The Council had looked at a number of houses for sale in this area however the market price exceeded the limit as outlined by the Department.*

**MDL276/17 SIGNAGE**

In an answer to his question on whether the Council could relocate the “Welcome to Letterkenny” sign from its current location to the Kilmacrennan side of the roundabout, Cllr. M. McBride was advised that:

*Further information was required in relation to the proposal.*

*The current location was viewed by all entrants to the town, whilst its proposed relocation, would reduce that exposure. Also the existing location was within a 60kph which is favourable to the proposed location in a 100kph zone.*

**MDL277/17 ROAD LINING NEW MILLS / CHURCHILL**

In an answer to his question on whether he could have an update on the New Mills / Churchill road lining (motion passed at previous Municipal Meeting), Cllr. M. McBride was advised that:

*White centreline was completed at Glenswilly and through Churchill while the yellow edge lines and hatching and letters would be done over the next 4 weeks. The area from Byrne’s Pub towards Churchill for a distance of 1500m would be done when the section of this Road is overlaid in August / September.*

**MDL278/17 TERMON / GLENVEAGH JUNCTION**

In an answer to his question on when the outstanding works would be carried out at the Termon/ Glenveagh junction, Cllr. M. McBride was advised that:

*The works were finished at this junction to the extent originally funded by the TII. There had been no additional funding forthcoming from the TII for the requested footpath works.*

**MDL279/17 ROAD REINSTATEMENT PORT ROAD, LETTERKENNY**

In an answer to his question on whether this Council could confirm what plans it had to address the Port Road in Letterkenny (in front of Ben Sweeney’s) as it was in a dreadful condition for a long time, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that:

*It was understood that the road at this location had been dug up by Irish Water on a number of occasions due to emergency bursts, and could not be permanently reinstated by Roads until the water mains were replaced. IW had been requested to advise on programme for replacement of the water mains.*

**MDL280/17 N56 BLUE BANKS, KILMACRENNAN**

In an answer to his question on whether the Council could have a schedule of works for the N56 blue banks to Kilmacrenan, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that:

*DNRDO were to forward programme of works presently. This would be forwarded to members on receipt.*

**MDL281/17 TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS LETTERKENNY**

In an answer to his question on what steps were being taken to improve traffic movements on approach roads and junctions in and around Letterkenny in order to improve journey times, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that:

*The Minister for Transport Shane Ross, had been contacted requesting a meeting with a delegation from the County Council to expedite funding for the implementation of findings from the ILUTS study and for the implementation of an updated study on the above.*

*Further monitoring of traffic manoeuvres following the completion and opening of the Kilty roundabout were planned to inform studies and develop recommendations.*

*Improvements to the four lane and construction of the Joe Boner road were Progressing, and Council Executive continued to seek funding for other measures such as the installation of traffic lights at the bottom of Justice Walsh Road.*

**MDL282/17 WATER SUPPLY IN LETTERKENNY MD**

In an answer to his question on what was the position on adequate water supply in the Municipal District of Letterkenny Cllr. I. McGarvey was advised that:

*The following press release was issued by Irish Water on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2017:*

**‘40,000 people to benefit from €19m investment by Irish Water in Letterkenny Regional Water Supply Scheme**

*Irish Water was investing €19 million in improving the quality of water supplied to over 40,000 people served by the Letterkenny and Creeslough Water Supply Schemes.*

*Working in partnership with Donegal County Council, Irish Water had awarded the contract to Glan Agua Ltd with construction due to commence this summer and expected to last for 20 months. The most significant element of this investment was the construction of new water treatment plants at Goldrum, which supplied Letterkenny and at Kildarragh, supplying*

*Creeslough. The contract for the construction of the water treatment plants was signed by Irish Water on Tuesday, June 6 2017.*

*This large scale project would safeguard the drinking water supply for the existing Letterkenny and environs population and provided for economic and population growth into the future. The works would ensure that both the Letterkenny Regional and Creeslough Water Supply Schemes would comply with EU drinking water directives as well as Irish regulations in an area where there was strong industrial, agricultural and tourism activity.*

*The project also included the replacement of 4.5km of raw water main from Lough Keel to the new plant at Goldrum, upgraded pumping stations at Lough Keel and Lough Greenan, the construction of 1.5km of trunk water main and 1.1km of distribution main from Goldrum WTP. Once completed these works would lead to the decommissioning of the old Letterkenny and Creeslough water treatment plants.*

*Pipeline interconnectors with the Pollan (Illies), Cranford and Milford water supply schemes, which form part of the overall plan for the regions water supply, were continuing through the design and planning stages. In addition, pipeline connections to Rathmullen and Church Hill were currently at construction which would allow for the decommissioning of those two water treatment plants, while there were also plans to replace large sections of the trunk and distribution mains along the N56 between Goldrum and Mountain Top.*

*Commenting on the project, David McLoone, Irish Water's Infrastructure Programme Regional Lead for the North West Region said: "Both the Letterkenny Regional and Creeslough Water Supply Schemes were currently on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Remedial Action List (RAL) and this significant investment by Irish Water would ensure the scheme's removal from that list subject to approval by the EPA as well as the removal of Church Hill and Rathmullan water supplies."*

*This project formed part of Irish Water's investment plan where works had been prioritised to address the most critical issues in line with commitments outlined in Irish Water's Business Plan. Delivery of the Business Plan would involve a €5.5bn investment in capital spending on drinking water and wastewater quality and capacity and new infrastructure up to 2021.'*

***MDL283/17 DERELICTS SITES***

In an answer to his question on what was being done to address the Derelict Sites in our Towns, Cllr. I. McGarvey was advised that:

*The presence of derelict sites in towns were recognised as an indicator of the need for renewal and regeneration of towns and was a key theme in the Draft County*

*Development Plan 2018- 2024 which was currently available for public consultation. Chapter 3 of the Draft plan specifically related to towns and villages and recognised that renewal and regeneration of towns, including addressing dereliction, required an integrated approach across the public, private and community sectors and the Council were committed to engagement in this integrated approach. A number of mechanisms across the sectors contributed to addressing dereliction in our towns including for example the plan making function of the Council, Town and Village Renewal Programmes, the Derelict Sites Register, built heritage-related grant schemes, ongoing environmental improvement works and maintenance, the social housing programme with particular emphasis on town centres, and the work of community based organisations such as Tidy Towns Committees. In addition, the Development Contribution Scheme 2016 provided particular reductions for the reuse of existing derelict/vacant buildings.*

**MDL284/17 FOOTPATH AT DRUMONAGHA WOODLAND WALK**

In an answer to his question on whether the Roads Section would provide a Footpath to Drumonaghan Woodland walk, Cllr. I. McGarvey was advised that:

*At a workshop held on 9th May 2017 members agreed on a programme of footpath/public lighting expenditure in relation to the identified funding of €45k DCS monies. The above referred footpath was not prioritised at that workshop but might be considered for the 3 year footpath programme being developed as referred to in today's Roads report.*

**MDL285/17 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at Letterkenny Public Services Centre commencing at 2:00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Mayor

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Meetings Administrator