

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING,  
HELD IN THE LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE,  
LETTERKENNY, ON TUESDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2016 AT 2PM**

**MDL 1/16     MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr. Liam Blaney  
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh  
Cllr. Michael Mc Bride  
Cllr. James Pat McDaid  
Cllr. Ian Mc Garvey  
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle  
Cllr. John O'Donnell  
Cllr. Mick Quinn  
Cllr. Dessie Shiels

**MDL 2/16     OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Liam Ward, Director of Service  
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate & Housing Services  
Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation  
Frances Friel, Staff Officer  
Ciaran Martin, Community & Enterprise  
Conal Mc Gettigan, A/Senior Executive Planner  
Dearn Mc Clintock, Waste Regulation Officer, Environment

**APOLOGIES**

Cllr. C. Brogan

The meeting was chaired by Mayor, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle

**MDL 3/16     ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Quinn seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh the Minutes of Budget Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh, the Minutes of Municipal District of Letterkenny Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 were adopted.

**Matters Arising:**

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, Mayor referred to correspondence he received from Secretary of the Aghadachor Group which read as follows;  
*“we believe at a recent Council meeting allegations were made against our Committee and in particular our Chairman suggesting we had accused certain Councillors of accepting illegal payments in connection with the works at the Cuan Na Ri development in Carrigart. It was insinuated we had made allegations via social media. I myself have checked our Facebook Page and cannot locate*

*any such allegations made by any member of our Group. As this is untrue, and in our opinion, a feeble attempt to discredit our Group and in particular our Chairman we demand a public apology in order to restore the good name of our Group.”*

In this regard, Cllr. L. Blaney referred to minute of meeting of MDL meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 which stated;

*“Cllr. L. Blaney mentioned allegations on Face book that members accepted money from the developer that require to be clarified by the objectors.”*

Cllr. L. Blaney advised that he had clearly said *“offered money to come on board”* and not *“accepted money”* as stated in Minutes and asked that minutes be amended accordingly.

Therefore on the proposal of Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid, seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh, the Minutes of MDL meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 were adopted subject to above amendment.

Cllr. L. Blaney further outlined that this matter required clarification as a matter of urgency. He clearly outlined that he had not been offered money and circulated a copy of posts on Facebook which had now been taken down.

A brief discussion followed with a number of members stating that they had not been offered money and requesting an apology from the group. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle advised that he would respond directly to the Secretary outlining that the matter was discussed with evidence produced. He would further outline that clarification was now needed in relation to remarks made and ask that the Group withdraw said remarks, substantiate or make an apology in this regard.

***MDL 4/16***      **WITHDRAWAL OF MOTIONS**

At this point Cllr. D. Shiels advised that he wished to remove himself from the meeting and was therefore withdrawing motion numbers 2, 3, and 4. Cllr. D. Shiels outlined that he would correspond directly with Management on the matters raised.

***MDL 5/16***      **ABBEY GRAVEYARDS**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Mc Bride, seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney the following motion was adopted;

*That the Abbey Graveyards in Rathmullen and Kilmacrennan be entered on the Record of Protected Structures*

The Members were informed that;

*The Abbey Graveyards in Kilmacrennan and Rathmullan were already protected under The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), which is a statutory list of all known archaeological monuments provided for in the National Monuments Acts. Archaeological monuments are protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930 - 2004. The National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht maintain a record of all known monuments and this forms the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). When the owner or occupier of a property, or any other person, proposed to carry out, or to cause, or to permit the carrying out of any work at, or in relation to, a Recorded Monument, they were required to give notice in writing to the Minister two months before commencing that work.*

*Both graveyards were also included on the most recent NIAH survey launched by the Minister of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015. The purpose of the NIAH was to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provided the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS). The Abbey Graveyard in Kilmacrennan was included in the most recent NIAH survey under separate reference NIAH 4082205, as was the Graveyard located to the south of the remains of Rathmullan\St. Mary's Friary, also included on the Record of Monuments and Places and under NIAH reference 40919027.*

*In this regard Kilmacrennan and Rathmullen graveyards were protected both by National policy as set out in the National Monuments Act and by local plan policy as set out in Chapter 6 of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 Policy BH-P-5 which refers 'It was the policy of the Council to ensure the repair, reuse and appropriate refurbishment of vernacular/historic buildings, which make a positive contribution to the built heritage of the area including those as referred to on any National Inventory of Architectural Heritage listing.' Chapter 6.3 of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 makes specific reference to the Archaeological Heritage of the County.*

*Members would also be aware of the most recent National Inventory of Architectural Heritage survey work, whereby in excess of 2000 buildings have been recommended by the Minister for consideration by this council for inclusion onto the Record of Protected Structures. Given the time and resources necessary to complete this process, it was necessary to programme this work on a phased basis. Members would recollect that the work on the preparation of a Local Area plan in respect of the Tier 2 Towns had commenced and one of the outputs of this work would deliver the first phase of the NIAH structures to be considered for inclusion on the RPS; Those NIAH structures situated*

*within the plan boundaries of the Tier 2 towns would be presented to members for consideration onto the Record of Protected Structures as part of the Local Area Plan process. This presented an opportunity for other additional structures to be considered.*

*The making of an addition to a record of protected structures was a reserved function of Council, and as set in Section 54 of the Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended), one of the first steps in making an addition onto the record was the identification and notification of the owner/occupier of the structure in question. Thereafter notification was sent to the Minister and a period of public consultation shall follow providing the opportunity for public submissions in this regard. All received submissions would be considered and recommendation presented to Council members. Following a decision formal notification would be sent to the owner/occupier and all relevant third parties. This process could take up to a period of 20weeks from commencement to completion.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride acknowledged the detailed reply given but that given the great history with these graveyards, that they formally be put on record of Protected Structures so that funding could be sourced to tidy up current problems in the graveyards.

***MDL 6/16      FLOODING – KILMACRENNAN TO CHURCHILL ROAD***

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Mc Bride seconded by Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid the following motion was adopted;

*That the Kilmacrennan to Churchill Road between the Trentagh Church and the Trentagh Cross Roads be put forward for any national flooding emergency packages that become available as 30 houses have already been isolated on two occasions this winter.*

The Members were informed that;

*The OPW have advised that the CFRAMS programme and any funding that would issue on the back of its findings would be focused on areas of population and that the management of flooding on the rural roads infrastructure was not their priority.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to road on Trentagh side along the Church and if it could be raised by another metre, it would give access to residents. Cllr. Mc Bride thanked the Members for their support and hoped that if national monies become available that an application be made to solve the problem.

**MDL 7/16**      **TRAFFIC GRIDLOCK – CHRISTMAS SHOPPING SEASON**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Mc Bride, seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney, the following motion was adopted;

*That the Letterkenny Municipal area prepare a report and suggested achievable solutions in the short term and in the long term regarding the traffic gridlock in Letterkenny during the Christmas shopping season.*

The Members were informed that;

*The traffic delays that occur in Letterkenny during the Christmas shopping season were the result of the sheer volume of people that come to the Town to carry out their shopping over Christmas. This volume of shoppers was to be welcomed, and other that ensuring that the road network was maintained as free as possible, and maximum car parking spaces were available, short term solutions to the traffic were limited. The Council programmed our roadworks such that only emergency works take place over the Christmas. Parking in Letterkenny was well signposted on all approaches, and recent testing of traffic lighting, indicated that they were working as designed. The long term solutions to traffic in Letterkenny were well documented with the Bonagee Link identified as the main infrastructural requirement in the town.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to the current healthy economy with cross border shoppers with the currency rate in our favour. However, Cllr. Mc Mc Bride outlined the difficulties experienced by motorists trying to move around the town. Cllr. M. Mc Bride outlined the inadequate infrastructure for the volume of traffic using our roads and the need that would exist in perhaps 5 years time with hopefully new employers etc. and would not like to see a lack of infrastructure being a deterrent for new businesses. Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to the need to prepare a plan to address the problem.

Cllr. L. Blaney on seconding the motion acknowledged the traffic problem but that the Government must provide funding for the vital Bonagee Link.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle suggested that the Council have a discussion on this issue in the near future and that the LUTS study set the trend for discussion.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride thanked the Members for their support referring to the need for short-term and long-term solutions for the town and that the Council lead out rather than gridlock stifle the town.

**MDL 8/16**      **MILFORD TO KERRYKEEL ROAD**

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney seconded by Cllr. M. Mc Bride the following motion was adopted;

*That this Council investigate why a number of vehicles have left the road on the corner at the Hawks Nest on the Milford to Kerrykeel Road and that the Roads Engineers come up with a solution to this problem.*

The Members were advised that;

*The Council had examined this section of road and had included it in the Draft 2016 Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing) programme to be brought before members in the coming weeks.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney acknowledged reply but outlined that surface dressing alone would not solve the problem and asked that the Council consider a crash barrier, high skid resistance, extra signage etc.

F. Doherty, Area Manager, Roads and Transportation advised that the Council have initiated signs on approach roads prior to surface dressing and would investigate the suitability of a safety barrier.

***MDL 9/16***      **KERRYKEEL TO CARLAND ROAD**

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh, the following motion was adopted;

*That the Kerrykeel to Carland Road is part of the Roads Programme for 2016.*

The Members were advised that;

*Roads programme to be agreed by elected members*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that this road was included in Option 1 of the Roads Programme and not on Option 2. F. Doherty, Area Manager further advised that this road was on both options for 2017.

It was acknowledged that this matter would be discussed under the Roads Agenda to follow.

***MDL 10/16***      **TRAFFIC CALMING – BROWNEKNOWE NATIONAL SCHOOL**

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh, the following motion was adopted;

*That this Council look at putting traffic calming measures in place in the vicinity of the Browneknowe National School.*

The Members were informed that;

*Following a review of the road adjacent to Brownknowe School a few years ago, new school flashing lights, additional signage and*

*additional lining was installed at Brownknowe School. There were currently no plans to carry out any further works at this location. An Engineer would review the measures already in place.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney welcomed the area being reviewed again and referred to the possibility of rumble strips as there were no houses close by.

F. Doherty, Area Manager advised that there were no accident statistics since the installation of previous measures, and installation of rumble strips on the Regional Road approaches to the school is not the current design standard at such locations, but that the area would be reviewed again.

***MDL 11/16***    **MANOR ROUNDABOUT**

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid seconded by Cllr. M. Mc Bride, the following motion was adopted;

*That this Council carry out works to improve the gardening and shrubs at the Manor roundabout. This roundabout is on one of the main thorough ways into Letterkenny and Inishowen and would be very good practice to have it looking as well as possible for tourism.*

The Members were informed that;

*The outer band of the Manor Roundabout centre island, was currently maintained as a cut lawn surrounding the trees planted in the inner core. There were currently no plans or identified budget for the installation and maintenance of gardening and shrubbery at this roundabout.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid referred to the Manor Roundabout being one of the busiest roundabouts in Donegal and that it should be brought up to the same standard as others in the Letterkenny area. On seconding the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride outlined that the Council has a duty to the sponsor of the roundabout to have a consistent standard. Cllr. M. Mc Bride also referred to the once a year grass cut in the area which resulted in litter being strewn everywhere and that litter should be picked up prior to cutting. F. Doherty, Area Manager advised that sponsorship was not sufficient for the maintenance of shrubs etc for the year and that this was previously discussed at area level but cost was too high to bring up to standard.

***MDL 12/16***    **FLOODING RISK - BALLYMACOOL**

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh, the following motion was adopted;

*That this Council write to the OPW to carry out works to help alleviate the flooding risk in the Ballymacool area near the Aura Leisure Centre. This area flooded very badly lately and was very lucky that the fine facility that the Aura is did not get severely damaged.*

The Members were informed that;

*The Office of Public Works (OPW) was the state agency primarily charged with protecting communities against such flooding events. They have carried out studies country-wide to identify areas at risk of flooding and to assess mitigation measures to prevent or minimise the risk. Staff from Donegal County Council recently attended a workshop with OPW and their consultants to validate the study findings and to assist in identification of mitigation measures. The flooding at the Aura Leisure Centre was reported to that workshop with a recommendation to extend the flood protection berm at the rear of the leisure complex. This can be followed up with a letter.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid referred to the Aura Centre being one of the finest Sports Complex's in the Country and the current risk which exists in relation to flooding. Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid urged the Council to put pressure on the OPW to carry out works and also to protect the St. Eunan's GAA grounds which was also under threat.

***MDL 13/16***    **GLENMAQUIN NATIONAL SCHOOL**

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, the following motion was adopted;

That this Council erect a safety barrier at Glenmaquin National School.

The Members were informed that;

*Improvements were carried out recently at this school such that a set back was incorporated into the drop off area, and the play area is enclosed by a wall. The Council would review this junction to establish whether the erection of additional safety barrier was appropriate at this location.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid outlined the importance of having a safety barrier erected and welcomed the Council looking into this. On seconding the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to his earlier motion in relation to this matter and that Roads were waiting

on a road safety report. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle also referred to the problems entering and exiting the school and coming on to the junction.

F. Doherty, Area Manager advised that the Council had initiated this matter to be looked at and would revert back at a future meeting with an updated report.

***MDL 14/16*** **RIVER LENNON**

On the proposal of Cllr. I. Mc Garvey seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh, the following motion was adopted;

That this Municipal District makes sure The River Lennon is included for Funding under the EU Risk assessment Programme 2007 € 420m to Ireland.

The Members were informed that;

*The Government, in September, announced a Capital Programme covering the period 2016- 2021 and had increased significantly the amount of funding to be made available to OPW for flood mitigation initiatives to €430 million. This covered all aspects of work carried out by the OPW, Capital Works, Monitoring, Minor Works etc. The programme for capital works would see the current annual allocation for this area of €45 million rise to €100 million by 2021. The capital works budget was informed by flood risk studies, traditionally one off studies but soon (2016) to be informed by the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) studies that were currently assessing flood risk in 300 areas nationally. Donegal had 25 such areas being assessed for Flood Risk (AFA's) and Ramelton was one of these areas which was located on the River Lennon.*

*It should be noted that Kilmacrenan located on the River Lennon was identified by Donegal County Council (DCC) but was not recommended for further assessment in 2011 because it did not pass the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment carried out by OPW. The CFRAM programme was cyclical and was repeated on a 6 year cycle and the Lennon may now have more areas including Kilmacrennan that needed further assessment and this would depend on information that OPW have and whether these areas make it past the OPW's Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment process. It was important that flooding of properties, businesses, roads and land was recorded and given to OPW for future assessments as the following criteria was used;*

- *reviewing records of floods that have happened in the past,*
- *undertaking analysis to determine which areas might flood in the future, and what the impacts might be,*

- *site inspections by suitably qualified professionals, and*
- *consulting with the Local Authorities, other Government departments and agencies and the public.*

*The capital funding as mentioned above was driven and informed by flood Risk Studies and other than Ramelton there are no other areas along the Lennon being assessed. It was also open to Donegal County Council to apply for funding under the minor works programme to carry out their own flood study of a particular catchments but with the next round of CFRAM starting in 2017, it may be that Donegal County Council can now put forward areas along the River Lennon where they think there was an issue of flooding and have them included for further assessment.*

*There was another area of funding available to the Local Authority aside from the capital works schemes and they were the minor works schemes where the OPW can put the Local Authority into funds and the Local Authority then use that funding to manage local issues. The Local Authority apply to the OPW for minor works funding using a very specific route and the funding is then spent at a local level, for a known local issue. Donegal County Council had been very successful with this funding and continues to apply for funding for schemes around the County.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey also referred to the River Swilly and other areas at risk. On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to seriousness of flooding in the country and asked that this Council be proactive to alleviate risk to Letterkenny especially areas such as LYIT etc.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh referred to the suffering of businesses, farms, households etc throughout the Country outlining that Donegal may not be as lucky next time. Cllr. J. Kavanagh referred to the need for a national concerted plan etc.

L. Ward, Director outlined the provision to provide facility to meet with Oireachtas Members throughout the year referring in particular to meeting held last November and on Monday with focus on “Infrastructure Priorities Report”. Engagement is taking place with Oireachtas Members with all Members of the Corporate Policy Group invited to attend.

**MDL 15/16 TREE PROBLEM MOOREFIELD RAMELTON**

On the proposal of Cllr. I. Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney the following motion was adopted;

*That this Municipal District deal with the long outstanding tree problem on Moorfield/ Aughnagaddy, Ramelton that was a safety hazard.*

The Members were advised that;

*This was being addressed with the local land owner with a view to getting the trees cut. The trees were on private property.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to vehicles, buses etc being scraped and damaged and the need to address the problem.

F. Doherty, Area Manager advised that Council Engineers were engaging with the landowner to try and resolve the issue.

**MDL 16/16 ABANDONED BOATS RAMELTON**

On the proposal of Cllr. I. Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney, the following motion was adopted;

*That this Municipal District seek to have the two abandoned Boats removed that are rusting and rotting at the two sides of the River in Ramelton over a long period the subject of much local & outside resentment.*

The Members were informed that;

*Donegal County Council's solicitors had been instructed to write to both parties with regard to the abandoned vessels at Ramelton. They had also been instructed to issue proceedings against both parties with a view to enabling Donegal County Council take ownership of these vessels and then disposing of them. The 1993 Wreck and Salvage Act provided for an authority taking ownership of abandoned vessels and disposing of them. Donegal County Council Marine Section had been monitoring one of the vessels (The Rival) and keeping it afloat so that it could be easily removed when approval had been received.*

Cllr. I. Mc Garvey acknowledged response given referring to the current eyesore and hoped that the boats could be removed as soon as possible.

**MDL 17/16 MOTIONS DEFERRED**

On the proposal of Cllr. I. Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid, it was agreed that in the absence of Cllr. C. Brogan that his motions be deferred to the February Meeting of the Municipal District.

***MDL 18/16***    **MAYOR'S BUSINESS**

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle briefed the Members on a number of functions that he attended as Mayor of the Municipal District of Letterkenny. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred in particular to the successful switching on of X-Mas lights in Letterkenny together with the Carol Service and the CDP's live Nativity in the Shopping Centre/Main Street. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was hopeful that the town could build on this success going forward.

***MDL 19/16***    **SWILLY AND FOYLE FERRY SERVICES**

E. Kelly, Area Manager referred to previous motion from Cllr. L. Blaney in relation to the Rathmullan Ferry Service and agreement to meet with the Ferry Operators. The Members were informed that Paddy Doherty and Colin Mc Nulty would present a report to the Members and it was agreed hold said Workshop on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 at 11.00am in the Milford Public Services Centre. The Ferry Company had also offered to attend to meet with members.

***MDL 20/16***    **REQUEST FOR RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION**

E. Kelly, Area Manager referred to correspondence received from Remote Photo Festival seeking an opportunity to give a presentation to the Members of the MDL at the February Meeting. The Members unanimously agreed to this request and it was agreed to meet the deputation on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 at 1.15pm. in the Milford Public Services Centre.

E. Kelly, Area Manager referred to correspondence received from the HSE re "Healthy Donegal Initiative" seeking an opportunity to give a presentation to the Members of the MDL at the February Meeting. The Members unanimously agreed to this request and it was agreed to meet the deputation on 9th February, 2016 at 1.30pm.

***MDL 21/16***    **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Members considered a request from Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal seeking permission to use the Bernard McGlinchey Town Park on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2016 for a School Fun Day. On the proposal of Cllr. G. Mc Monagle seconded by Cllr. M. Mc Bride the Members unanimously agreed to this request subject to submission of relevant insurances etc.

***MDL 22/16***    **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

C. Mc Gettigan, Planning briefed Members in relation to report previously circulated which included;

1. Summary of Planning Applications for the District
2. Appeals (Received & Decisions Notified)
3. Significant Cases (incl. Transboundary applications)
4. Other case types (Part 8's etc)
5. Unfinished Housing Developments
6. Casual Trading
7. Planning Advice note re changes to Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

The contents of the report were noted by the Members.

Cllr. I. mc Garvey requested an update on Unfinished Housing Developments at Lennon View and Radharc an Chuin.

C. Mc Gettigan referred to previous Workshops held in September, November and December of 2015 in relation to Casual Trading and decision to hold a further round of workshops with each Municipal District to discuss the potential provisions of draft Byelaws further. In this regard it was agreed to hold a Casual Trading Workshop on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 at 10am in the Milford Public Services Centre.

***MDL 23/16***    **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

D. Mc Clintock, Waste Regulation Officer briefed the Members on contents of report previously circulated with updates on the following

- **Waste Enforcement Report**  
**Operations Consolidation**-Mobile Litter Units & Wardens now in one office. Community Work assistance – grant applications and operation assistance.  
**Recycling**- 70 Bring Bank Sites and 70 Textile Banks – 2,762 tonnes of glass and cans sent for recycling in 2015.  
**Enforcement** – 135 Fixed Penalty Notices issues in 2015, 5 successful prosecutions for 2015
- **Beach Report** –  
**The Charles Thomson Award** – Donegal County Council won this award for their contribution to water safety in 2014.  
**Beaches** – Applications had been made to An Taisce for Donegal's Blue Flag Green Coast beaches for 2016. Murvagh beach boardwalk had been completed and was of a very high standard.
- **Natural x-mas Tree Recycling Locations** – The Members were circulated with timetables/locations for x-mas tree recycling which was taking place from 5<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.

***MDL 24/16***    **COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES**

C. Martin briefed the Members on contents of report previously circulated with the following items noted;

- Fanad Lighthouse – Launch date to be confirmed. Website – [www.fanadlighthouse.com](http://www.fanadlighthouse.com)  
Planned Site visit for Members. It was agreed that perhaps visit could take place in April when weather approves.
- Donegal Marathon – Launch on 12<sup>th</sup> January at 6.15pm in Aura, Letterkenny
- Letterkenny Educate Together Primary School – Site identified and contracts are currently being finalised between Department of Education & Skills and Receivers.
- Playgrounds – Annual maintenance tender assessed and awarded before end of December 2015. New appointment expected to start replacement works by end of January.
- Pan Celtic Festival 2018 – Confirmation that the Pan Celtic festival would be hosted in Letterkenny in 2018 and 2019
- Public Participation Network – First PPN newsletter launched in October.
- Donegal Diaspora Project – Local Diaspora Toolkit Launch – practical guide for Local Authorities and local and community groups to assist in the development of strategies for local diaspora engagement.
- Community Tourism Diaspora Initiative 2015 – support to local and community event organisers for activities/projects that harness diaspora links.
- Donegal Gathering - Calendar packed with exhibitions, festivals, concerts, sporting events. Website views on the increase.
- County Donegal in 1916 – Heritage Information Pack – Finalisation of content of pack by Donegal County Archives, Donegal County Museum, county Donegal Heritage Office and Donegal County Library Service.
- Maritime Built Heritage Study in Donegal – Initiation of Study
- Donegal Heritage Plan 2014-2019 – Adopted in July 2015 – raise awareness, understanding and appreciation of diverse heritage of our county.

***MDL 25/16***    **ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION**

Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation briefed Members in relation to content of his report previously circulated. Report included the following updates;

**2016 National Road Allocations** – 2 Schemes within the MDL – Coolboy Kilmacrennan Realignment Scheme and N56 Kiltroy Roundabout.

**2016 Restoration Improvement Programme/3 Year RI Programme**  
F. Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation outlined to Members that at workshop held on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 members

discussed the proposed 2016 RI Programme, based on the receipt of similar funding in 2016, and 3 year RI Programme for the MDL. In relation to the 2016 RI Programme, 2 options were discussed in detail as follows;

Option 1 – allocation to RSS Areas based on “per km” as received from Plenary Council

Option 2 – percentage transfers to Letterkenny town RSS similar to 2015.

The Member were advised that at the workshop the consensus was that Option 2 be adopted noting that 2017 and 2018 programmes may be revisited as per Department Circular. It was now recommended that consensus of the workshop on this matter be formally adopted at today’s meeting.

Cllr. L. Blaney referred to Option 3 which had been discussed at Workshop held 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 and queried why this was not now an option. Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that he was not in agreement of rural areas subsidising Letterkenny. Cllr. L. Blaney acknowledged that Letterkenny should be kept up to standard but believed a fairer option would be for all areas to suffer a little.

Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to the condition of rural roads which were suffering greatly.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride also referred to the condition of roads in the rural areas and that too much was being cut from Overseer’s in these areas.

Cllr. J. Kavanagh outlined that the same issues were discussed last year and that allocations on a per km basis was not practical for Letterkenny given the fact that the Block Grant was not available. Cllr. J. Kavanagh also referred to the volume of traffic in the Letterkenny town area and the need to keep roads to a high standard.

Cllr. M. Quinn outlined that the real issue was inadequate funding referring to decision taken at Workshop on 16<sup>th</sup> December and that the Members should adhere to this decision.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle outlined that it should not be about rural versus town and that discussion/decision taken at workshop should be endorsed at today’s meeting.

Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid referred to the crumbling roads within the Town area with residents in rural areas accessing Letterkenny for work, hospitals, shops, amenities etc on a daily basis.

F. Doherty, Area Manager referred once again to the “allocation per km” basis with Letterkenny having only 7.2% which would constantly require Council to allocate from other areas. F. Doherty outlined that

the long-term solution was to change allocation formula at Plenary level.

Following further discussion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid proposed that the Council proceed with Option 2, ie. Percentage transfers to Letterkenny Town RSS similar to 2015. This proposal of seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh.

Cllr. L. Blaney proposed that the Council proceed with a new Option 3 whereby the Council divide the difference between Option 1 and Option 2 with each area suffering a little. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. M. Mc Bride.

As there were 2 proposals the matter was put to a vote with 4 Members voting in favour of Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid's proposal and 3 Members voting in favour of Cllr. L. Blaney's motion. Cllr. J. Pat's motion was therefore carried with the Council to proceed with Option 2, percentage transfers to Letterkenny Town RSS similar to 2015.

Cllr. L. Blaney queried the position in relation to his motion was adopted at today's meeting *"that the Kerrykeel to Carland Road is part of the Roads Programme for 2016"*.

L. Ward, Director advised that adopted motion could only be implemented if funding was available and with Members having made their decision to proceed with Option 2 that funding was not now available for this road in 2016.

Cllr. L. Blaney outlined his disappointed at the above decision and asked that it be put on record that the following roads would now be dropped from the 2016 Programme namely; Knockbrack Road, Carland Upper, Tullagh and Derrisligh.

### **2016 Restoration Improvement Programme**

The Members were advised by F. Doherty, Area Manager that the Restoration Maintenance Programme (surface dressing) was currently being prepared for consideration by the Members. The restoration Maintenance Programme was to be circulated in the near future, to all members via the extranet. A brief discussion followed and it was agreed that unless Members revert back within a week of receipt, seeking a Workshop, the Restoration Maintenance Programme would be put on the Agenda for formal adoption at the February Meeting of MDL.

### **Transfer/or not funds from Restoration Improvement Schemes**

As discussed and agreed at Workshop held on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 the Members in accordance with Circulars RW2/2015 and RW20/2015, on the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney, seconded by Cllr. M. Mc Bride unanimously agreed to the following;

- Not to transfer any funds from RI to Community Involvement Schemes given that the overall allocation from Government was not sufficient.
- Not to transfer any funds from RI to Discretionary Maintenance Grant given that the overall allocation from Government was not sufficient.
- Not to transfer any funds from RI to Local Improvement Schemes given that the overall allocation from Government was not sufficient.

Cllr. M. Quinn raised issue of flooding at back Lane, Bridgend, Ramelton which was subject to flooding since a housing estate was constructed adjoining. F. Doherty agreed to examine but advised it could be on private land.

Cllr. L. Blaney requested that consideration be given to providing crash barriers on the Woodlands Road.

***MDL 26/16    HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES***

E. Kelly, Area Manager briefed Members on contents of report previously circulated and noted the following items;

1.    **Various issues.**
2.    **Progress Report - Grants.**
3.    **Progress Report - Loans**
4.    **Progress Report - Casual Vacancies.**
5.    **Proposed Disposal of Land to Letterkenny Tennis Club**
6.    **S.I. House at Drum, Portsalon**

**Housing Stock**

There were currently 1,282 housing units owned and 1,362 maintained by the Council in the Municipal District of Letterkenny.

**Fairgreen Hill**

Remedial work was ongoing at a number of houses and expected to be completed by the end of January. The Council obtained two separate sets of compressive strength test results. These test results lead to the conclusion that compressive strength was good and that it would not be necessary to take down the outer leaf and rebuild.

**Long Term Leasing.**

Applications were being assessed on an ongoing basis. 86 houses have been leased in the Letterkenny EA to-date and 5 under consideration.

### **R.A.S.**

There were currently 123 Rent Supplement Recipients who have transferred to R.A.S. in the Letterkenny E.A.

### **Housing Assistance Payment (H.A.P.).**

H.A.P. was introduced in Donegal for all new housing applicants who did not previously get Rent Supplement from 25<sup>th</sup> May 2015. Since 14<sup>th</sup> September the Council was dealing with applications from applicants on Rent Supplement moving accommodation and transferring them to H.A.P. The Council had also commenced an agreed phased transfer for all remaining applicants on Rent Supplement to H.A.P. with the intention that all applicants on Rent Supplement were transferred to H.A.P. within two years. 286 Rent Supplement Recipients had been contacted to transfer to HAP and 159 have been transferred at this time.

To date 290 HAP applications have been approved and 2 were being processed.

### **Donegal County Council Offers / Vacancies**

137 Offers issued in 2015

75 Acceptances

58 Refusals

4 awaiting response

70 Vacancies occurred in 2015

### **Voluntary Housing Tenancies**

Apex Housing Association 62 units

Aras Cois Locha 4 units

Cluid Housing Association 32 units

NW Simon Housing 39 units

Oaklee Housing Association 58 units

S.T.E.E.R. 58 units

### **2015 House Purchases**

Five purchases being processed.

### **House Extensions**

Work commenced on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015 on extension in Carrigart.

### **Voluntary Housing.**

*Anvers Housing Association, Loughnagin, Letterkenny.*

Construction completed.

*STEER Housing Association.*

A number of other applications from STEER have obtained approval in principle from the Department and are being progressed by STEER. 15 additional Units allocated in December/January.

Cluid Housing Association

Application received provisional approval from Department and being progressed by Cluid. Five houses allocated in December/January.

Oaklee Housing Association

Application received provisional approval from Department and being progressed by Oaklee.

A.P.E.X.

A.P.E.X. in consultation with the H.S.E. and the Council regarding an application in Letterkenny.

**Donegal Fabric Up-Grade Programme 2013**

Work has been completed on 502 houses to date. Work was completed in December 2015 on 87 houses in Carrigart, Kilmacrennan and Milford. A further 40 houses were to be advertised shortly for the next phase of the project.

**Social Housing Investment Programme- SHIP 2015-2020**

Project Appraisal & Permission to Proceed to Design Stage submitted to the Department for 30 housing units on Council owned land at Long Lane, Letterkenny. The site was circa 2.8 acres and located between Ard na Rí and Manor View.

The lands were zoned as “Primarily Residential” in the 2009-2015 Letterkenny & Environs Development Plan; however this site was re-zoned in Variation No. 2 June 2013 of the plan as “Primary Residential” “PR7”. Further information on the project forwarded to the Department on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

It was proposed to begin clearing the site in the near future. Expressions of interest were sought from landowners for parcels of land they would be willing to sell for development of social housing in the Letterkenny area with a closing date of 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.

Eight submissions were received and a panel was set up to evaluate the submissions received. Two submissions were selected for further consideration and were currently being assessed.

**Proposed Disposal of Land at Letterkenny to the Trustees of Letterkenny Tennis Club**

The members considered the report circulated with the agenda.

On the proposal of Cllr J Kavanagh seconded by Cllr G Mc Monagle it was agreed to recommend the disposal of 0.18 Hectares of land at Letterkenny by way of a 25 year lease to the Trustees of the Letterkenny Tennis Club and that a Section 183 would be included on the agenda for the next Donegal County Council Meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016. This was a minor amendment to boundaries of a previous transfer approved by L.T.C. in 2005.

Letterkenny Town Council previously disposed of 0.91 acres of land at this location to Letterkenny Tennis Club in 1999 by way of a 50 year lease. The Tennis Club require further land for to provide additional facilities.

### **S.I. House at Drum, Portsalon**

Eunan Kelly advised the meeting that the tenant who lived alone had died. This was a two bed S.I. constructed c. 35 years ago which requires complete modernisation and external works including septic tank to bring it back to a lettable condition..

It would be expensive to bring back to a letting condition and could be difficult to let due to its location.

On the proposal of Cllr I McGarvey seconded by Cllr L Blaney it was agreed to advertise the house for sale.

### **Housing Engineer**

Eunan Kelly advised the meeting that John Mc Carron was moving to Water Services in the M.D. of Glenties on a temporary promotion from Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January and that arrangements were being made to identify a replacement.

### **Schedule of MDL Meetings for 2016**

The following schedule of MDL Meetings for 2016 was agreed:

12<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 – Letterkenny PSC

9<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 – Milford PSC

8<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 – Letterkenny PSC

12<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 – Milford PSC

10<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 – Letterkenny PSC

14<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 – Milford PSC

12<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 – Letterkenny PSC

August – No Meeting

13<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 – Milford PSC

11<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 – Letterkenny PSC

8<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 – Milford PSC

December – No Meeting

Cllr Michael Mc Bride suggested sending the Schedule to the E.T.B. so as to avoid meetings being arranged on the same day. This was agreed.

### ***MDL 27/16* AURA LEISURE CENTRE**

In answer to his question if the Council can provide details of what damage to the Council owned facilities at the Aura Leisure Centre has occurred by the recent flooding incidents and confirm what immediate steps the Council have taken to ensure that these facilities will not be the subject of further flooding episodes, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

### Aura Leisure Centre

*The Letterkenny Sports Complex Development Company Ltd. developed and managed the Aura Leisure Centre on behalf of the former Letterkenny Town Council and Donegal County Council by means of a lease arrangement. That company in turn had a licence agreement with Letterkenny Aura Ltd covering the running of the complex.*

### Flooding Event

*A flooding event took place at the Aura Leisure Centre on Saturday night 14<sup>th</sup> November / early Sunday morning 15<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The flooding was caused by a combination of an unusually high tide and a period of intense rainfall. While the initial entry of floodwater onto the site was not witnessed, it appears that high water levels in Rodger's Burn caused water to spill over its banks and into the leisure centre site at the location at the rear of the leisure centre where the OPW flood embankment terminates.*

### Damage

*The first impact of the flooding was that the leisure centre was unable to open on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November due to water levels in the car park, the outdoor track and pitches and due to ingress of water into two plant rooms at basement level in the pool building.*

*Council staff had been mobilised dealing with the widespread flooding elsewhere in the area. When they were alerted to the Leisure Centre flooding they assessed the situation and called on the fire service to assist.*

*Two tenders from the fire service arrived where they immediately commenced de-watering the two basement level plant rooms. One of these rooms houses the operational equipment that runs the swimming pool complex – pumps, motors, electrical controls, filters, heat exchangers etc. Almost all of this equipment was saved from damage by the prompt action of the fire service. Damage was limited to some small pieces of plant that were quickly replaced. The pool building was open for business again the following day Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November. The second plant room houses the woodchip burner and fuel store. The burner had been destroyed by the event and the remaining woodchip material rendered unusable. Options for replacement were under consideration. Re-location of the burner was being considered to prevent a repeat event. In the meantime the facility was heated by oil burners.*

*The outdoor facilities – running track, synthetic pitches and associated electrical panels and equipment were submerged by flood waters. Significant damage was incurred on electrics much of which has had to be replaced. The control panel was functional but some lights remain to be replaced. The synthetic surface of the pitches was*

*overlaid with a layer of mud/ silt from the river water. These were due to be deep cleaned week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016. We understand there was also some loss and damage to equipment of clubs using these facilities – Letterkenny Rovers FC and Letterkenny Athletics Club*

*Letterkenny Aura Ltd, Aura Sport & Leisure Management Ltd and Donegal County Council were working in partnership on the clean up and rehabilitation of the complex.*

*Measures to Mitigate against Future Flooding*

*The Office of Public Works (OPW) is the state agency primarily charged with protecting communities against such flooding events. They have carried out studies country-wide to identify areas at risk of flooding and to assess mitigation measures to prevent or minimise the risk. Staff from Donegal County Council recently attended a workshop with OPW and their consultants to validate the study findings and to assist in identification of mitigation measures. The flooding at the Aura Leisure Centre was reported to that workshop with a recommendation to extend the flood protection berm at the rear of the leisure complex.*

*Options were being considered for re-locating the woodchip burner to a level above flood levels. The water-tightness of these basement rooms would also be assessed for improvement.*

*Climate change predictions would appear to indicate an increased frequency and intensity of such events in the future. International efforts and efforts here at home to reduce carbon / greenhouse gas emissions must play a part in measures to safeguard the future.*

*Post Script*

*A further mishap occurred at the Aura Leisure Centre on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2015 when some external cladding fell from a roof overhang at the front of the building. Debris was removed and the area has been cordoned off to keep the public away. Investigations are under way to determine the cause of this failure. Once again Letterkenny Aura Ltd, Aura Sport & Leisure Management Ltd and Donegal County Council were working together to review the circumstances and to determine appropriate remediation measures.*

**MDL 28/16 GLENOUGHTY CLOSE, GLENCAR**

In answer to his question if the Council can advise as to who exactly is responsible for the ongoing situation at Glenoughty Close, Glencar where residents have had to put up with repeated incidents of flooding and overflowing of sewage causing a health hazard including such an incident during November 2015 and can the Council write to whoever is responsible and ask them to take immediate and urgent action to remedy the situation, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

*Glenoughty Close was a private housing estate in Glencar Letterkenny. DCC was currently considering the taking in charge of a no. of estates in the Letterkenny MD and Glenoughty Close was included in this initial tranche of estates. It was hoped that Glenoughty Close would be formally taken in charge by DCC in the earlier part of 2016 and that the water services infrastructure serving the estate would subsequently be transferred to Irish Water. DCC was not aware of any storm water flooding issues with this estate.*

***MDL 29/16    SIGNAGE IN ESTATES***

In answer to his question if the Council could review the type of signage it is erecting in estates with a view to reducing speeds to also include signs of “Children at Play – Slow Down” which were needed to supplement the reduced speed signs and were often more effective in promoting road safety, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

*The signs being erected at the designated ‘Slow Zone’ estates were in accordance with the ‘Guidelines’ issued by the Dept and contain pictograms of children at play. These would be further reviewed in the future to identify their effectiveness and establish whether further measures should be considered and implemented to achieve the necessary reduction.*

***MDL 30/16    PEDESTRIAN SAFETY GLENVEAGH ROAD***

In answer to his question if there is any updates on the motion passed regarding pedestrian safety at the junction of the N56 and the Glenveagh Road, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

*The edge lining in place was currently in line with the standards (Traffic Signs Manual 2010) and would be the normal arrangement at a rural junction of this type. To reinforce the layout of this junction, the Council would arrange in the short-term for the provision of yellow hatching behind the existing edge line from the N56 onto the Regional road as an initial option.*

*The location had been referred to the TII(NRA) Regional Road Safety Engineer who were setting up traffic counters to establish turning volumes for the design of a proposed improvement and ultimately development of a feasibility report for submission to the TII. Members would be kept informed of developments.*

***MDL 31/16    ROADWORKS - WOODLANDS***

In answer to his question if he can have an update on the roadworks between the Woodlands school and the Silver Tassie, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

*These roadworks were substantially complete.*

**MDL 32/16 LIGHTING CURRAGHALEAS, MOUNTAIN TOP**

In answer to his question as to what is the current status of the unlit lanterns at Curraghaleas (Mountain Top Letterkenny) between Pennsylvania House and the roundabout, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

*The lights at Curraghleas were erected by a private contractor, but never completed to switch on stage. DCC Roads were exploring options for potential completion and switch on.*

**MDL 33/16 CRASH BARRIER – MILFORD TO KERRYKEEL ROAD**

In answer to his question if this Council will replace the existing crash barrier with a new crash barrier from the Hawks Nest towards Kerrykeel on the Milford to Kerrykeel Road, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

*The budget cost for the replacement of the Safety Barriers is €75k. There was currently no identified budget to replace these barriers.*

**MDL 34/16 SIGNAGE – DEADUE BRIDGE, ROSSNAKILL**

In answer to his question if this Council will erect signage at the Keadue Bridge, Rosssnakill, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

*Further clarification was required in relation to the requested signage referred to.*

**MDL 35/16 STREET LIGHTS -- KERRYKEEL**

In answer to his question as to when will the street lights be upgraded at Kerrykeel as money has already been allocated to same, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

*Airtricity had advised that these works were to commence at the end of January.*

**MDL 36/16 FLOODING – TRENTAGH AND KILMACRENNAN**

In answer to his question if the Council had notified the OPW to include the Trentagh and Kilmacrennan areas for their flooding alleviations programme? This area was very prone to flooding and flooding was becoming more and more frequent and something must

be done to help prevent this from happening, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

*The OPW had advised that the CFRAMS programme and any funding that would issue on the back of its findings would be focused on areas of population and that the management of flooding on the rural roads infrastructure was not their priority.*

***MDL 37/16     DANGEROUS BEND - GLENSWILLY***

In answer to his question as to what was the latest update in regards to work being carried out to improve the safety of the corner at the dangerous bend past Glenswilly N.S.? A number of cars recently went off at this corner again over Christmas and the New Year - ,two cars in the one day. Work really needs to be done as soon as possible, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

*This stretch of road was on the proposed RM (Surface Dressing) programme for 2016, and an application for supplementary signage, chevrons etc. under the Low Cost Accidents programme had also been submitted in 2015. In light of the fact that the surface dressing cannot commence until early summer, warning signs were to be erected on the approaches to this stretch of road until works are complete. These signs had been ordered and would be erected shortly.*

***MDL 38/16     SPEED LIMIT SIGN - LOUGHNAGIN***

In answer to his question as to what is the result of recommendation to review Speed Limit Sign at Loughnagin with a view to re-location to nearer Letterkenny, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that

*This is included in the list of location to be reviewed countywide in early 2016. The findings of this review will be brought to a subsequent meeting.*

***MDL 39/16     RAMELTON TO DRUMONAGHAN WOODLAND***

In answer to his question if Donegal County Council would provide a footpath from Ramelton to Drumonaghan Woodland Walk as this is used by Schools also, it was now necessary to provide a space for Car Parking at the entrance, all for safety reasons, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

*There was currently no identified funding for this footpath. In the event that footpath funding was identified, then a footpath prioritisation list to be agreed with Councillors.*

**MDL 40/16 DERELICT SITES RAMELTON**

In answer to his question if this Municipal District would deal with the long standing problem of Derelict Sites in the Heritage Town of Ramelton, at Back Lane, The Mall, in Front of the Town Hall and on the Quay, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

*Within a countywide context, the Derelict Sites Register for Donegal was continuously maintained and updated through the Central Planning Unit. In the event of a complaint being received by the Council that a site was derelict, it was inspected initially by the Housing Engineer for the area to confirm if it was a “derelict site” within the meaning of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 (as amended). If it was deemed to be a derelict site then the property owner was contacted, by the Central Planning Unit, to seek resolution through negotiation, in the first instance. Should the property owner fail to remedy the dereliction then the Council was empowered to take enforcement action. Should any person wish to bring a derelict site to the attention of the Council then they should make their submission in writing and include information that enables the location and ownership of the property to be readily identified. This should preferably include a drawing or a site location map showing clearly where the building was situated and the name and address of the registered owner of the property.*

*Within the context of this motion it should be noted that the issue of ‘derelict sites’ had to be considered within the broader context of Ramelton being a Heritage Town and that Donegal County Council seeks to raise awareness, understanding and appreciation of the rich and diverse heritage of our county, including that of Heritage Towns such as Ramelton; to promote its conservation, enhancement and enjoyment; and to sustainably harness the economic, social and cultural benefits of heritage for current and future generations. There were commitments to address these aims in Donegal County Council’s Corporate Plan, the County Donegal Heritage Plan, the emerging Local Economic & Community Plan and the County Development Plan. Donegal County Council recognize that the harnessing and development of opportunities arising from our heritage was a significant challenge requiring careful management so that actions that aim to conserve and enhance our heritage assets recognise and make ‘wise use’ of these assets for present and future generations.*

*Donegal County Council recognises that towns and villages like Ramelton present significant potential for the people of County Donegal and the north west region and Donegal*

*County Council was committed to exploring with all parties how the opportunities to develop their heritage potential could be advanced. The Council would welcome an opportunity to explore with interested parties/community groups the potential to develop a Heritage Action Plan in 2016.*

***MDL 41/16 ALLOCATIONS/SCHEDULE OF WORKS 2016***

In answer to his question if this Council could confirm allocations for Kilty Roundabout, Coolbouy to Kilmacreannan, Bunnagee Link, Lifford to Letterkenny and the proposed schedule of works for these for 2016, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

*Allocation were as per the Appendix 1 attached to the Roads Report. As per the Roads report, there were two schemes within the MDL funded each to the tune of €1m, namely:*

- *Coolboy Kilmacrennan Realignment Scheme*
- *N56 Kilty Roundabout*

*with the design and supervision of works to be co-ordinated by the NRADO in Donegal Town.*

*Further updates on programme and extent of works to be undertaken in relation to both schemes would be brought to a future MDL meeting. In relation to the Kilty roundabout, the NRADO had advised that the scheduled date for commencement of construction was July 2016, and it was expected that construction would be well advanced by the end of the year.*

***MDL 42/16 SPEED LIMITS ILLISTRIN/LURGYBRACK SCHOOLS***

In answer to his question if the Council could confirm that Illistrin and Lurgybrack schools are now pilot projects for reducing speed limits and what is now the time frame for this to happen, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

*As outlined in a previous meeting, Illistrin and Lurgybrack could only be furthered for implementation of reduced speed limits following the ongoing speed limit review and parallel identification of funding for the implementation of the required physical measures. Application is being submitted to TII for funding, which was likely determine the outcome.*

***MDL 43/16 LUTS STUDY***

In answer to his question can this Council identify the areas in need of funding in the LUTS study to help reduce traffic problems in and around Letterkenny, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

*The findings of the Letterkenny Urban Transport Study, identified a number of major infrastructural requirements that were required to address current traffic movements in Letterkenny, number 1 being the Bonagee Link Road*

**MDL 44/16 OATFIELD ROUNDABOUT**

In answer to his question, if the Council could look at possible measures to stop the roundabout at Oatfield from getting blocked for drivers wishing to turn right up DeValera Road to the hospital; this could cause possible life threatening delays for patients in ambulances, could a yellow box or traffic lights be considered, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

*The Council had reviewed the Oatfield roundabout. Due to the small size of the roundabout, a yellow box configuration on the circulating carriageway, similar to the Station roundabout was not suitable here, as the resulting queue on the circulating carriageway would block through traffic from the town arm. The vehicular access from Ballyraine to the De Valera Road (and hence the hospital), was relatively free flowing, and congestion on the town arm had no effect on this flow stream. It was considered that traffic lights at this junction would not result in any significant reductions in the flow of traffic at this roundabout, and there were no current plans for the implementation of traffic lights.*

**MDL 45/16 POTHOLES**

In answer to his question if the Council could repair the large pothole at the back of Ballymacool Terrace, and the potholes in front of St. Bernadette's School on College Farm Road, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

*These were currently being addressed.*

**MDL 46/16 TAKE OVER OF ESTATES**

In answer to his question if there is any further update or progress on the take over of estates in the Municipal area, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

*The planning authority had identified an initial tranche of housing estates in the Letterkenny MD that it proposes to initiate taking in charge procedures on in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Members were made aware of the details of these estates during a workshop at the end of last year. Since the workshop the planning authority had met with Road Services and WEES to discuss the specific estates and WAS awaiting reports from the Services. The planning authority had issued public notices initiating the taking in charge procedures for a number*

*of estates in Inishowen & Stranorlar MDs in December 2015 and hopes to issue public notices for the Letterkenny MD before the end of this month. Members would be informed of public notices being made.*

**MDL 47/16    DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 in the Milford Public Services Centre.

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Cllr. G. Mc Monagle,  
Mayor,  
Municipal District of Letterkenny**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Liam Ward,  
Meetings Administrator**

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