

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING,
HELD IN MILFORD PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON THURSDAY, 23RD
OCTOBER, 2014 AT 2PM**

***MDL 60/14* MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr. Liam Blaney
Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr. Michael Mc Bride
Cllr. James McDaid
Cllr. Ian McGarvey
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr. John O'Donnell
Cllr. Dessie Shiels

***MDL 61/14* OFFICIALS PRESENT**

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

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Michael Mc Bride.

Cllr. M McBride referred to the postponement of meeting scheduled for 14th October, 2014 due to the unfortunate death of Kym Harley, daughter of Cllr. Martin Harley. Cllr. Mc McBride extended his sympathy to Martin & Denise and extended family on this sad occasion. The Members in turn expressed their sympathy to the family. Liam Ward joined with the members to express his sympathy and the sympathy of the staff to the family.

***MDL 62/14* ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney seconded by Cllr. I. McGarvey the Minutes of Municipal District of Letterkenny meeting held on 9th September were confirmed.

***MDL 63/14* CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT STANDING ORDERS FOR
LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS**

L. Ward referred to previous discussion relating to Standing Orders and subsequent amendments proposed. On the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney seconded by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey it was agreed to defer this item to a Workshop prior to the November Meeting.

MDL 64/14 COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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

- Launch of booklet to commemorate Letterkenny Town Council to be launched next month.
- Letterkenny Tourism Committee proposed the rolling out of a comprehensive marketing plan aimed at promoting the attraction of Letterkenny as a tourism destination and will focus primarily on the Northern Ireland population.
- Irish Lights have recently been granted planning permission and were going to tender for the first phase of the development of Fanad Lighthouse. Consultants have been appointed by Irish Light to develop the brand and associated marketing as a major tourism location.
- SNAP (Special Needs Accessible Play Park) in partnership with former Letterkenny Town Council propose to improve the provision of accessible play equipment for children in the 2 Letterkenny Town Parks. SNAP were currently fundraising for this equipment with work being overseen by Council Staff. It was proposed to approach local businesses to sponsor pieces with businesses having their name plate displayed on the equipment.
- Planned works were now complete on the Urban Garden on the Paddy Harte Road funded under the Public Area Enhancement Scheme and depending on accessing funding, it was hoped to provide extra screening for the site.
- The Assembly of European Regions AER Conference hosted by Donegal County Council was currently taking place in Letterkenny and was receiving positive feedback.

64.01

D.F.I.

In reply to query re unallocated DFI funding of approximately €15,000, C. Martin advised the Members that a Workshop would take place on 29th October, 2014 in the Public Services Centre, Letterkenny at 11am to reallocate the funding.

Cllr. J. O'Donnell referred to scheduled meeting with Irish Water in Carrick-on-Shannon on the same day and it was therefore agreed to have Workshop at 10am to facilitate Members travelling.

It was agreed that Letterkenny Tourism Committee would be invited to make a presentation at a future meeting.

The Members requested that the Council look at funding options to include sponsorship to extend SNAP equipment to other playgrounds and in particular to explore options for providing financial assistance to Carrigart Community Group.

MDL 65/14 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The Members considered report previously circulated and noted the following items;

- Farm Hazardous Waste Bring Centres
- Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- Farm Hazardous Water Collection
- Recycling Centre – Summary of 2014 waste figures from all six Recycling Centres for period April-June compared to 2014 figures
- Smoky Coal Ban

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle queried number of prosecutions to date in respect of Smokey Coal Ban and was advised that an update would be given at a future meeting together with an update on recycling of green waste.

Cllr. C. Brogan requested that details of opening hours, facilities available and charges at Recycling Centres be forwarded to the Members for their information.

Cllr. L. Blaney requested clarification from Irish Water in relation to complaints from public with regard to the I.W. Call Centre, water quality, staffing etc. Cllr. L. Blaney also referred to Racecourse housing development in Kilmacrennan which had problems with treatment plant and developer has now connected to main sewer. Cllr. L. Blaney asked that this matter be investigated as residents would now liable for water and effluent charges.

Cllr. D. Shiels referred to his motion regarding the initiation of court proceedings by the EPA against the Council and I.W. regarding the quality of water in the Letterkenny area and his disappointment at lack of information available to Members in this regard. Cllr. D. Shiels requested that procedures be put in place immediately to notify Members of any future proceedings. Cllr. D. Shiels also queried if there were further proceedings pending and requested an update on this matter as soon as possible. A brief discussion followed and on the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney it was agreed to request a meeting with Senior Management to discuss Letterkenny Water Supply including EPA prosecution and cryptosporidium.

L. Ward, Director of Service referred to the Service Level Agreement between Irish Water and Donegal County Council and that the Council were not in a position to reply on behalf of Irish Water and further advised that requests were made regarding the desire of Council to meet with them. The Members outlined that the Service Level Agreement should contain requirement for Irish Water to meet with Donegal County Council to discuss issues/problems being encountered.

MDL 66/14 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation briefed Members on report previously circulated on following items;

- Follow up from Meeting held on 9th September, 2014
- Community Involvement Schemes

Fergal Doherty advised the Members that the Department had advised that in relation to the severe weather damage in August 2013 that the Council may proceed with repair works but outlined that the Department has fully allocated its 2013 monies but may be able to recoup the Council at the end of year or in 2015. On the proposal of Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney the Members agreed to proceed with the works in this regard as per Departments correspondence.

Cllr. J. Kavanagh outlined that traffic lights at Circular Road had been fixed but had since been out of order and asked that they be repaired or replaced going forward.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to disability access with disability parking but lack of drop kerbs in place and asked that the Council carry out an audit to address the issues and put a budget in place. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle also asked for an update on provision of ramps in Housing Estates with F. Doherty advising that Roads SPC Meeting were currently working on a policy document in this regard. L. Ward, Director advised that the Department had asked Local Authorities to carry out speed limits in housing estates and perhaps a condition would form part of planning permission in future. However the Council had no remit in private estates.

Cllr. C. Brogan asked that the Council be pro-active in this regard and suggested that the full Council adopt a bye-law in relation to traffic calming in all estates. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to road opening on Circular Road to address flooding issue at Hospital and queried the possibility of providing a drain alongside Hospital works to address storm water issues at Beechwood and Glenwood and seek funding for these works.

Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to concerns of local business in Milford regarding the loss business due to one-way system and asked that traffic arrangement in Milford be looked at and also footpaths at Kilmacrennan Road.

Cllr. D. Shiels outlined that the vast majority of necessary works have no means of funding and that the public need to be made aware of this through a public awareness campaign.

Cllr. J. McDaid queried the provision of necessary road markings at Glenswilly National School.

Cllr. C. Brogan queried the lack of progress on the road repairs at Grange, Letterkenny with Fergal Doherty advising that the works had to be re-tendered and it was hoped that works would be carried out by end of this month.

Cllr. C. Brogan also referred to issue of speed vans parking on private property and the need to have the legal position clarified in this regard.

Cllr. L. Blaney asked that a Town Centre directional sign be put in place at Old Tech, Milford and requested that the Council prioritise tarring of Moyle View Housing Estate and footpath adjacent to Crievesmith Housing Estate. Cllr. L. Blaney referred to the success of C.E. Scheme in Rathmullan and that the Council look at options for piloting C.I.S. for footpath repair etc in other areas.

Cllr. J. O'Donnell outlined the need to look at junction layout at Travellers Inn, Milford and need for speed reduction and road realignment in this area. Cllr. J. O'Donnell referred to the need for footpath from Carrigart to Downings and the fact that local business were willing to assist in this regard.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to the inadequate signage for Glenveagh and requested that an audit of the signage be carried with proposal to have new signage erected in Spring 2015 and also asked for an update on traffic survey on Glenveagh Road to N56. Cllr. M. Mc Bride also asked that the Council re-examine the road signage on pedestrian crossing between Marks & Spencers and New Dunnes Stores and remove if necessary. Cllr. M. Mc Bride asked that the Council look at the section of road between Doon Well Junction and the Lagoon, Termon.

MDL 67/14 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Conal Mc Gettigan, A/Senior Executive Planner briefed Members on report previously circulated on following items;

- Development Applications Unit update
- Taking-in-Charge update
- Public Safety Initiative & SRF update

The Members noted the contents of the report and as agreed at previous meeting a Workshop on Take Over of Housing Estates was scheduled to take place at 11.00 a.m. on 11th November, 2014. C. Mc Gettigan advised Members that as noted in his report that Taking in Charge Register for each Municipal District would be forwarded to Members by the end of the month.

The Members referred to works ongoing to alleviate flooding at Letterkenny General Hospital and queried if planning permission was required for digging of trench.

MDL 68/14 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

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

- Housing Stock
- Donegal Fabric Up-Grade Programme
- Long Term Leasing
- R.A.S.
- Voluntary Housing
- Casual Vacancy Report
- Progress Report – Grants

E. Kelly further advising the Members of recent announcement by the Department to purchase a number of houses with L. Ward, Director advising that monies were available to purchase 10-12 houses across the County with a target to meet needs of applicants/tenants with special needs.

MDL 69/14 ROADWORKS AT WOODLANDS

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

That the Council deal with the unfinished Road Works at Woodlands, Letterkenny.

Members were informed that;

This was addressed at the last full Council Meeting. As per last month, in 2014 the Department of Transport decided, based on budget projections, that the Specific Improvement Grant and Strategic Grant programmes were to be terminated in order to maximise the funding available for repair and strengthening work. In the longer term, it was not likely that the unfinished section at Woodlands would be completed until these Grants were reintroduced. In the short term, the Roads Section had commissioned a Road Safety Audit of the R245 at Woodlands and were identifying and rectifying any potential hazards that may be present pending the completion of the works.

In response, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey asked that the Council clear cones and tidy up area as best they can.

MDL 70/14 TOILETS IN RATHMULLAN

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

That the Municipal District provide Funding for Toilets in Rathmullan from its own resources or otherwise as soon as possible.

Members were informed that;

The Council would prepare a proposal for a development at Rathmullan that would include public toilets and facilities for lifeguards. It was expected that the proposal including design etc could be progressed by Council staff. Work would commence in the coming weeks to scope out the proposal including design and funding.

MDL 71/14 PLAYGROUND IN CARRIGART

On the proposal of Cllr. I. Mc Garvey seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell the following motion was adopted;

That the M.D.L. explores the possibility of providing a Playground in Carrigart with the participation of Residents.

The Members were informed that;

The Council had met with the community group with regard to the proposal for a playground in Carrigart. The group were advised that the Council would assist with the preparation of a funding application for the playground.

MDL 72/14 MAGHERAWARDEN BEACH

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney seconded by Cllr. C. Brogan the following motion was adopted;

That the Council does maintenance work at least twice yearly to the burn from Magherawarden Beach to prevent the burn from filling in with sand and therefore the dunes get eroded and land further back up stream gets flooded.

The Council were informed that;

This burn was realigned last year by the Marine Section, and was referred for further consideration, given that the sands had shifted again and the stream appears to be returning to the original alignment. Their report would be made available at a future meeting.

MDL 73/14 ROADS TAKEOVER

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

That Donegal County Council Roads Section take over the list of roads immediately that was forwarded to them earlier this year as the said roads are getting into a bad state of disrepair.

The Members were informed that;

DCC would consider taking over, subject to the policy currently being addressed by Roads SPC. Whether or not the Council take over a specific road, depends on a number of factors, including;

- *Existence of written consent from the private owner, requesting that the Council consider taking over.*
- *Current state of the road.*
- *Financial implications of Councils maintaining the road.*
- *Number of residences served by the road, and whether the road is of general public utility.*
- *Legal implications of existing 'right of ways' or other legal rights, and the cost of any required rectification/regularisation.*

Upon deciding that it was in the public interest to take over a road, then the official procedure including public consultation in accordance with the Roads Act 1993 was followed.

With regards to this particular road, as it was not on any widening programme, whether it was public or private would not change the position of the current access that the fire services have to the fire hydrant.

MDL 74/14 MEVAGH BOAT YARD/PIER ROAD

On the proposal of Cllr. J. O'Donnell seconded by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey the following motion was adopted;

That the Council make the road that leads to Mevagh Boat Yard and Pier a County Road.

The Members were informed that;

DCC would consider taking over, subject to the policy currently being addressed by Roads SPC. Whether or not the Council take over a specific road, depends on a number of factors, including:

- *Existence of written consent from the private owner,*
- *requesting that the Council consider taking over.*
- *Current state of the road.*

- *Financial implications of Councils maintaining the road.*
- *Number of residences served by the road, and whether the road is of general public utility.*
- *Legal implications of existing 'right of ways' or other legal rights, and the cost of any required rectification/regularisation.*

Upon deciding that it was in the public interest to take over a road, then the official procedure including public consultation in accordance with the Roads Act 1993 was followed.

With regards to this particular road, as it was not on any widening programme, whether it was public or private would not change the position of the current access that the fire services had to the fire hydrant.

MDL 75/14 TRAFFIC CALMING – ILLISTRIN/LURGYBRACK N.S.

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

That this Council make a submission to N.R.A. to ask them to revisit traffic calming measures and traffic movements at Lurgybrack and Illistrin National Schools as a matter of urgency.

The Members were informed that;

This request has been referred to the DCC Road Safety Engineer for engagement with the schools and consideration of the issues relating. It should however be noted that at both schools, significant works have recently been carried out and systems for drop off/pick up implemented which vastly improved safety at both locations. The NRADO have advised that for funding of any works on the National Roads, all identified Safety works must be applied for through the HD15 process (assessment of High Collision Locations based on accident clusters) or the HD17 Road Safety Inspection process (which is based on the 3 yearly visual inspection of the network). Findings will be brought to a future MD meeting.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. C. Brogan asked that the Council write to the NRA as a matter of urgency to request speed limit reductions and that safety measures are put in place. Cllr. C. Brogan also asked that a paper trail of these requests be kept.

MDL 76/14 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney, seconded by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey, it was agreed to suspend Standing Order Number 5 and to continue with the meeting after 6.00pm until agenda was completed.

MDL 77/14 FORUM – LETTERKENNY TOWN AREA

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle the following motion was adopted;

That this Municipal District set up a forum in respect of the Letterkenny town area.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. C. Brogan outlined the importance of a forum to keep up the good work of the Town Council and to include residents groups, Gardai, LYIT, IDA, Letterkenny General Hospital etc.

L. Ward, Director of Service outlined that the Council were anxious to work with Members to put this in place but such a forum would not have a statutory basis and could only be a forum to bring up issues etc. Cllr. C. Brogan requested that the forum meet at least 3 times a year and that the Council initiate this process as soon as possible.

MDL 78/14 LETTERKENNY ONE ACT DRAMA FESTIVAL

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

That the Council make a contribution to support the One Act Drama Festival being held in An Grianan Theatre from Thursday 13th - Saturday 15th November 2014.

The Members were informed that;

No funding had been allocated in respect of the One Act Drama Festival for 2014 as no application had been received.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh outlined that this Festival was very successful last year with funding support from Letterkenny Town Council. L. Ward, Director advised that currently the Municipal District has no access to funding but would follow up with Community & Enterprise Section.

MDL 79/14 “FIRST FORTNIGHT” CHARITY EVENT

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

That the Council support the request from the “First Fortnight” charity to provide a site for a street art project that helps promote positive mental health, which is scheduled for Letterkenny for a number of weeks commencing this month, October 2014.

The Members were informed that;

The Council would endeavour to make contact with relevant parties to prove a suitable site.

MDL 80/14 HOUSE PURCHASE

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Shiels seconded by Cllr. C. Brogan the following motion was adopted;

That the Municipal District of Letterkenny calls on the Central Bank to not impose a requirement for first time buyers to provide a 20% deposit for a residential home purchase given the pressures and demands that will inevitably place on the Council Housing List.

On proposing the motion Cllr. D. Shiels outlined that 20% deposit requirement would leave so many ineligible from purchasing their homes and would force young families to apply for social housing. Cllr. D. Shiels asked that this motion be sent on to the full Council and ask the Government to consider other options such as extending term of mortgage etc.

MDL 81/14 PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

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

That this Municipal District of Letterkenny call on the Council to immediately and without any further delay comply with the legally binding direction of the Environmental Protection Agency in relation to the Letterkenny PWS and install all necessary treatment systems to prevent THMs formation and to prevent contamination from Cryptosporidium.

The Members were informed that;

At the September Council Meeting it was clarified to members that the executive could not respond on behalf of Irish Water. If the motion was carried it would be referred to Irish Water in line with what Joe Peoples, D.O.S. set out in his report to the September Council Meeting. The Council does not have authority under the Service Level Agreement for policy or funding related matters in relation to Water and Wastewater Services infrastructure.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels referred to his earlier discussion in this regard and referred in particular to the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water and the Council in which it was clear that the “Local Authority shall take immediate action if appropriate”. Cllr. D. Shiels asked that the motion be put forward to the full Council and asked that the Council take the initiative to install necessary treatment plants as Irish Water were not adhering to the Service Level

Agreement. A brief discussion followed and it was agreed that Cllr. D. Shiels would forward his motion to the next meeting of Donegal County Council.

MDL 82/14 TRAFFIC CALMING – LISMONAGHAN ROAD/HILLVIEW

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Shiels seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle the following motion was adopted;

That this Council arrange to provide new and improved traffic calming measures on the Lismonaghan road from the Hillview Estate down to the bottom of the road where it meets the Leck Road.

The Members were informed that;

This location would be investigated to establish what if any appropriate measures could be taken, and an implementation cost would be brought to a subsequent meeting.

MDL 83/14 EDUCATION CENTRE, GARTAN

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

That the Letterkenny Municipal area write to the E.T.B. asking them to consider the resurfacing of the Avenue between the Colmcille Heritage Centre to Gartan Bridge at the outdoor Education Centre in Gartan.

The Members were informed that;

This was a private road over which the DCC had no remit.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride asked that a letter be sent from the Letterkenny Municipal District asking that the matter be addressed. This was agreed by the Members.

MDL 84/14 CROSSWALK – GLENEANY HOUSE TO TESCO

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Mc Bride seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell, the following motion was adopted;

That the crosswalk from Gleneany House to the footpath in front of Tesco be considered for re-design from a safety point of view.

The Members were informed that;

A review of the pedestrian crossings on the Port Road at the Tesco Roundabout deemed that they were in the correct location with the splitter islands providing a refuse for pedestrians crossing in two stages. Removal of the existing islands to a location further from the

roundabout would not be on the 'pedestrian desire line' resulting in users still crossing at the current location.

Cllr. M Mc Bride outlined that he had been approached by Members of the public including wheelchair users and individuals with hearing impediments and asked that the Council re-examine this crossing.

MDL 85/14 SAFETY ISSUES PORT ROAD

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Mc Bride seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell, the following motion was adopted;

That this Council review safety issues on the Port Road between the Polestar roundabout and the Dry-Arch Roundabout including all lanes entering and exiting this stretch of road.

The Members were informed that;

In relation to the Port Road, various proposals were presented to the former LEAC (installation of median barrier/reduction of speed limits etc.), which were ultimately not adopted for various reasons in 2011.

Currently the NRADO had been asked to examine all options before progress a submission to the NRA for funding. NRDO have advised that once they have completed this process of examining all the options they will again revert to the NRA to progress the preferred option. At that stage, a workshop can be held (probably early in 2015), with the MDL members on how we intend to proceed.

MDL 86/14 ROADWORKS WOODLANDS

In answer to his question as to how much Money has been spent on Roadwork's at Woodlands to date, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was informed that;

Expenditure at Woodlands from 2007 inclusive of CPO was €1,091,147

MDL 87/14 LIBRARY SERVICE - RAMELTON

In answer to his question if the Library Service will be restored in Ramelton and when, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was informed that;

There would be an opportunity to review Library Services across the county in 2015 when the Council prepares its new strategic plan for Cultural Services. At this time Members may wish to consider the current network of service points and the current levels of service vis a vis the resources available.

The immediate priority for the Library Service was to maintain existing levels of service and the current network of service points,

which is very challenging in the circumstances. There were increasing instances of ad hoc closures across the county as reduced staffing levels make it impossible to provide consistent opening hours despite best efforts. The Council was planning some changes through the workforce planning process and the aim is to incrementally reach sustainable staffing levels and sustainable levels of service. Letterkenny Members will be aware of the closure of the Research Section of the Central Library for a lengthy period following flooding in summer 2013. The current service 2 days per week reinstated since September remains far from the 6 day service provided for the previous 17 years since the Library opened to the public in summer 1995. There were over 100,000 visits to the Central Library in 2013.

MDL 88/14 RIVER LENNON

In answer to his question if the M.D.L. will look at developing the River Lennon to its full potential for Fishing, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was informed that;

The Council have ongoing contact with Inland Fisheries Ireland and have co-operated with the Loughs Agency with regard to achieving the full potential of angling rivers in Donegal that fall under their jurisdiction. The Council would make enquiries with regard to the situation relating the River Lennon and would report back to Members when this information is to hand.

MDL 89/14 TAKE-OVER LOWER CARRICK RD, CARRIGART

In answer to his question if Donegal Council would consider taking over road at Lower Carrick, Carrigart as this road is almost impassable for vehicles and with a fire hydrant on same, the fire services might not be able to access it if there is a fire in the vicinity, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

DCC would consider taking over, subject to the policy currently being addressed by Roads SPC. Whether or not the Council take over a specific road, depends on a number of factors, including;

- *Existence of written consent from the private owner, requesting that the Council consider taking over*
- *Current state of the road*
- *Financial implications of Councils maintaining the road*
- *Number of residences served by the road, and whether the road is of general public utility*
- *Legal implications of existing "rights of ways" or other legal rights, and the cost of any required rectification/regularisation.*

Upon deciding that it was in the public interest to take over a road, then the official procedure including public consultation in accordance with the Roads Act 1993 was followed. With regards to this particular road, as it was not on any widening programme, whether it was public or

private would not change the position of the current access that the fire services have to the fire hydrant.

MDL 90/14 BRIDGE NEAR OLD GORTNABRADE SCHOOL

In answer to his question if Donegal County Council would consider putting new parapets on a bridge beside the old Gortnabrade School as the old ones are not in existence any longer and this bridge is a danger to the public at present, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

Barriers were currently in place temporarily, to eliminate the short term hazard. Erection of new and permanent parapets could be carried out following the allocation of resources by the Councillors from the 2015 Budget. (Estimate €6k)

MDL 91/14 MAGHERAWARDEN BEACH

In answer to his question if Donegal County Council would do maintenance work on the burn at Magherawarden beach as the work that was done there earlier this year needs scouring out again, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

This burn was realigned last year by the Marine Section, and was referred for further consideration, given that the sands had shifted again and the stream appears to be returning to the original alignment.

MDL 92/14 BUNLIN BRIDGE

In answer to his question if the Council would give an update on their plans to repair Bunlin Bridge as it is a major safety hazard at present, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

The Council were currently procuring replacement parapets to current specification for the Bunlin Bridge. It was anticipated that the new parapets would be in place before the end of November.

MDL 93/14 PART-TIME ROAD WORKERS

In answer to his question if the Council would confirm what their plans are on part time road workers to be made permanent, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

The Council do not have control over recruiting staff at present, as there is an embargo set by Central Government on the recruitment of staff. Once this is lifted, it is the Letterkenny MD's intention subject to budgetary allocations, to replace on a permanent basis, the various outdoor roads staff who had retired over the past few years. Current part time outdoor workers were taken from a "Seasonal Workers" panel set up to fulfil staffing requirements in the meantime.

MDL 94/14 POLESTAR/DRY ARCH ROUNDABOUT

In answer to his question if the Council would give an update on the Polestar Roundabout and Dry Arch Roundabout being lit up again, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

Works were expected to commence in the next few weeks on the permanent lighting of the polestar feature as part of Town Council 2014 budget commitments. An assessment of what is involved as well as costs would need to be sought for the Dry Arch Roundabout.

MDL 95/14 JOE BONNAR ROAD

In answer to his question as to what is current progress with the planning for the Joe Bonnar Road and a start date for construction as Letterkenny Town Council has set aside the required funding for this project, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

This project was currently being assessed by Road Design with a view to bringing a Part 8 planning application to the Members by April 2015. If requested, Road Design would give an update presentation at a meeting in the New Year.

MDL 96/14 ROAD AT THE GRANGE, LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question that on 26th July 2013 due to the flooding of the road at The Grange, Glencar the surface got very badly damaged and if the Council could confirm why this road has not been fixed despite the contractor being paid to do so, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

No Contractor was paid to carry out these works. They were however to be carried out under the 2014 RM contract, which was due to be completed by end of November. This contract was due to be completed earlier, but previous tenderers pulled out, requiring the re-tendering that has resulted in the delays experienced.

MDL 97/14 HOMELESSNESS

In answer to his question if the Council have any statistics on homelessness/sleeping rough in the Letterkenny area, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

All local authorities forward statistics on homelessness including rough sleepers to the Department of Environment Community and Local Government on a quarterly basis. The Council compile these statistics in conjunction with the Approved Housing Bodies. These figures were published on the Departments website on a regional

basis. Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim make up the North West Region. Figures were not available for the Letterkenny area only.

The figures for County Donegal for the period 1st April to the 30th June were as follows:

Number of People in Emergency Accommodation during this period 4.

Number of People who left Emergency Accommodation during this period 41 Adults + 12 Children.

Number of people sleeping rough during this period 1.

MDL 98/14 SPEED LIMIT N56 AT SCOIL NIAMH FIACRA, ILLISTRIN

In answer to his question if the Council could advise on the proper procedure to reduce the speed limit on the N56 at Scoil Niamh Fiacra, Illistrin, Letterkenny, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

Speed limits on a National Road can only be altered by a Local Authority following the written granted permission of the NRA. In a previous review of speed limits countywide, the NRA ruled that it was not appropriate to permanently reduce the speed limits outside schools on the National Roads because the speed limit would only be appropriate for a short period of time in the morning and in the evening, with resulting enforcement issues outside of this. At the time, the prospect of introducing 'Periodic Speed Limits' was considered whereby electronic periodic speed limits signs would apply for a specific period. Costing in the region of €20k these were however ruled out, on the findings of an NRA trial study in the South of Ireland that questioned their effectiveness. Both Illistrin and Lurgybrack have been referred again to the Roads Safety Engineer, and in the event that their findings recommend the implementation of a periodic speed limit, then the MD can follow through accordingly.

MDL 99/14 TRAFFIC CALMING – BROWNKNOWE N.S.

In answer to his question if the Council could implement traffic calming measures at Brownknowe N.S., Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised 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.

MDL 100/14 ROAD NETWORK

In answer to his question as to how many Kilometres of road network is DCC responsible for in Letterkenny electoral area and how many out door staff are employed, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

The equivalent old Letterkenny electoral area had 22 permanent outdoor workers, of which 3 were on long-term sick leave. In the past 2 years, 3 additional outdoor staff retired but could not be replaced because of the recruitment embargo. To enable the area to function, we have been required to temporarily employ 7 outdoor staff on short term contracts, due to expire in November. There were 1,249km of public road network in the old Letterkenny Electoral Area.

MDL 101/14 LETTERKENNY TOWN COUNCIL/ELECTORAL AREA ROAD NETWORK

In answer to his question, if the Council could provide a breakdown between the old Letterkenny Town Council and the rest of the electoral area in relation to length of road and staff employed? Including temporary numbers, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

The equivalent former Letterkenny Town Council area had 28 permanent outdoor workers, made up of 12 roads, 10 parks/open spaces, 3 housing, and 3 traffic wardens. Two additional seasonal workers were employed for a number of months during the summer, however there are none employed now. There were 80km of public road network in the former Letterkenny Town Council area.

MDL 102/14 ROWAN PARK, LISMONAGHAN

In answer to his question as to what proposals has the Council to remedy the situation where Residents of Rowan Park on the Lismonaghan Road have expressed serious concerns of the danger of exiting the estate due to the speeding traffic coming down the hill and around the corner vision lines are severely impaired and urgent action is required, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

This location would be investigated to establish what if any appropriate measures can be taken, and an implementation cost will be brought to a subsequent meeting.

MDL 103/14 LETTERKENNY GENERAL HOSPITAL

Cllr. D. Shiels asked if the Council can confirm if planning permission was sought for recent works carried out at Letterkenny General Hospital including the digging of an extensive trench and whether or not retention permission will be required for those works.

C. Mc Gettigan, A/Area Manager, Planning advised that a full report on this matter would be given at the November meeting.

MDL 104/14 BROTHERS - LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question if the Council can confirm if it has received any Planning Enforcement complaints in respect of the use of any residential properties in the Letterkenny Municipal area as brothels and if so what enforcement action has been taken in respect of those properties, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

The Council had not been in receipt of any complaints in relation to the use of properties as brothels.

MDL 105/14 PORT ROAD/LYIT TRAFFIC CROSSING

In answer to his question if the Council can confirm what traffic management plan is in relation to the Port Road at the LYIT traffic crossing/traffic lights and can same be reviewed to alleviate current traffic delays in the area, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

The traffic at the LYIT was controlled by the newly installed traffic lights, which operate on a MOVA (Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Actuation) means of operation to maximise the capacity of the junction, whereby detectors on the approaches, minimise the periods of unnecessary delay. Recent inspection of the lights confirmed that they appear to be operating as designed, with any delays due solely to the unavoidable volume of vehicles.

MDL 106/14 DISABILITY AUDIT

In answer to his question if an audit could be carried out in the Letterkenny Municipal area in conjunction with the Irish Wheelchair Association to find how we can improve our infrastructure and facilities for service users, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

A disability access audit was carried out on Letterkenny Town in 2007. All the high priority works identified in this report were carried out via Disability Grant funding up to 2010, after which time this grant was ceased. DCC have recently further identified works that would improve infrastructure for service users, and should be carried out upon the identification of a suitable budget.

MDL 107/14 BALLYARE BRIDGE

In answer to his question if an update could be given on the Ballyare Bridge where there is currently a single file traffic system in operation, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

Ballyare Bridge (Barrack Bridge) was operating on a 'Give Way to Priority Traffic' system due to the narrow nature of the Bridge.

MDL 108/14 WILD DEER POPULATION

In answer to his question if a report could be given on the wild deer population in Co. Donegal and the projected numbers going forward and what impact will this have on our county, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

The National Parks & Wildlife Service have advised that some of the current topics that relate to deer in Donegal are as follows:

- *Population trends and distribution.*
- *Release of Fallow Deer into the wild where they are not naturally found.*
- *Colonisation of eastern parts of the county by Japanese Sika deer from County Tyrone.*
- *Possible introduction to the wild of Muntjac (a miniature Asian species which is highly invasive)*
- *Damage to farmland and crops by deer.*
- *Farm animal disease control and deer.*
- *Deer as a traffic hazard.*
- *Illegal hunting.*
- *Legal hunting.*
- *The Wildlife Act.*

The National Parks & Wildlife Service suggested the issues might be best dealt with by setting up a meeting of the various players involved in deer issues in the county (e.g. NPWS, Garda Siochana, D.A.F.M.) and staff would be glad to participate in whatever information sharing is proposed.

MDL 109/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Municipal District of Letterkenny would be held on Tuesday, 11th November, 2014 at 2.00 p.m. in Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

As previously agreed a Workshop on Take Over of Housing Estates/ Draft Standing Orders would take place prior to Monthly Meeting at 11.00 a.m. on the 11th November 2014 in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

This concluded the business of the meeting.