

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING,  
HELD IN THE MILFORD PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 8<sup>th</sup>  
SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 2PM**

**MDL 325/15 MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MDL 326/15 OFFICIALS PRESENT**

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

**MDL 327/15 APOLOGIES;**

Cllr. Gerry Mc Monagle  
The meeting was chaired by Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Mike Quinn.

**MDL 328/15 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Cllr. I. Mc Garvey seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh, the Minutes of Municipal District of Letterkenny Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 were adopted.

**MDL 329/15 PROPOSED CHANGES TO STANDING ORDER NUMBER 12  
"ORDER OF BUSINESS" FOR LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL  
DISTRICT**

E. Kelly, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate advised that current Standing Orders adopted the draft format as forwarded by the Department. In this regard, the Members considered a report previously circulated with suggestion from the Mayor to change the "Order of Business" to have Motions dealt with immediately. after "Consideration of Minutes of previous meeting" and to add "Mayor's Business", Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or

Resolutions of the Municipal District Members for transaction at such meeting and Correspondence as items on the Agenda.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan, seconded by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey it was agreed that Standing Order No. 12 "Order of Business" would be amended as outlined below and implemented from the October 2015 MDL Meeting;

***Order of Business***

**12.** *The Order of Business of all meetings other than Annual Meetings and Special Meetings shall, subject to the provisions of any enactments, be as follows;*

- (1) Consideration of the Minutes of Municipal District of Letterkenny Meeting held on the xx/yy/zz*
- (2) Notice of Motions*
- (3) Mayors Business*
- (4) Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members for transaction at such meeting.*
- (5) Correspondence*
- (6) Planning & Economic Development*
- (7) Environment Report*
- (8) Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services*
- (9) Roads & Transportation*
- (10) Housing & Corporate Services*
- (11) Questions*

**MDL 330/15 PROPOSED DATE FOR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY BUDGET WORKSHOP**

The Members considered report from G. Martin, Director of Finance proposing to hold the Municipal District of Letterkenny Budget Workshop on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2015. On the proposal of Cllr. M. Mc Bride seconded by Cllr. I. M Garvey it was agreed that a Budget Workshop would be held in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 at 2.30pm

**MDL 331/15 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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

1. Summary of Planning Applications for each District
2. Appeals (received & Decisions Notified)
3. Significant Cases (inlc. Transboundary applications)
4. Other case types (Part 8's etc)

The contents of the report were noted by the Members.

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

- Fanad Lighthouse – Works complete on the 3 holiday accommodation units and an offer has been made for position of Manager. New webpage and Facebook page have been developed. Assistance being given with Rural Broadband Competition.
- Donegal Marathon – Event successfully held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2015. Meeting to be held with committee, Gardai, Donegal volunteer Centre and Marshals to review the 2015 event and decide a date for 2016.
- Culture Night – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Culture Night to be held in Letterkenny on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2015
- Wainfest Arts and Book Festival for Children – Festival to be launched on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 at 7.00pm in Glenveagh Castle by Children’s Laureate and author Eoin Colfer. Invitations to issue to Members in coming weeks.
- IBP Pride of Place – National IPB Pride of Place Awards will take place in Ennis on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.
- Community Tourism Diaspora Initiative 2015 – 51 events have taken place. Only 10 events have submitted Post Event Reports to drawn down funding. Event organisers urged to return necessary documents for funding.
- Donegal Gathering Website & Facebook – 107,856 website views. 54,102 visitors since January 2015. Website views in first 6 months of 2015 have exceeded total website views of 2014.
- Read your Mind Project – Launch 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015. DCC, Jigsaw Donegal, HSE and National Office for Suicide Prevention have collated a catalogue of books on mental health topics for 12 to 25 year olds.
- New County Donegal Heritage Plan – New five year County Donegal Heritage Plan being prepared.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to the success of the Donegal Marathon and paid tribute to all involved. Cllr. C. Brogan also thanked the Committee and Marshalls outlining that sporting events played a major part in the County’s tourism. Cllr. C. Brogan outlined that 2015 was a very positive year for the County in relation to Tourism referring to the success of the Rathmullan Ferry. Cllr. C. Brogan asked that C. Martin, Development Officer look into the possibility of compiling a Donegal Schedule of Events in line with Donegal Tourism.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride also referred to book launch later this year in memory of the late Bertie Fisher, Rally Driver and the suggestion from Motor Club regarding the development of a Motor Sport Museum. Cllr. Mc Bride asked that the Council arrange to meet with Ivan Furey

from the Motor Club and relevant stakeholders to explore this as it could have huge tourism potential.

## **MDL 333/15 ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION**

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

- 1. Outcome of workshop on Parks and Open Spaces**
- 2. Follow Up on Public Lighting Workshop on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2015**
- 3. 2016 Roads Budget Allocations**

Items 1-3 were discussed at previous Workshop. There was no further follow up or discussion at the MDL meeting.

### **4. Transport Infrastructure Ireland**

Members were advised of the merger of the former NRA with the Railways Procurement Agency, under the new name of the Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

### **5. Funding for Kilty Roundabout on the N56**

Members were advised that Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) had announced the allocation for 2015 of €100,000 for furtherance of the Kilty Roundabout. This would be spent on advance construction works such as Ground investigation, Traffic Modelling and utilities investigation. The NRADO were working on the detailed design and construction cost estimate so that the NRA can determine the budget for the Scheme with a view to further allocation for 2016. It was hoped that a further allocation in 2016 will allow construction to commence in the New Year.

### **6. Pelican Crossing at Ballyraine**

Members were advised that funding in the sum of €20,000 has been sourced for Pelican Crossing at Ballyraine Roundabout between the Polestar and the Ballyraine Roundabout.

Cllr. C. Brogan welcomed funding for Pelican Crossing at Ballyraine roundabout and welcomed funding for Kilty roundabout. Cllr. C. Brogan outlined the urgency to continue pressure for the Bonagee Link. Cllr. D. Shiels referred to the drip funding for these roads and that €100,000 for traffic modelling etc did not show real investment from the Government and asked that F. Doherty, Area Manager outline the Council's disappointment at this announcement and seek a serious level of funding. Cllr. L. Blaney did not agree that MDL send a negative message on the funding received outlining that any funding should be welcomed. In this regard, Cllr. D. Shiels outlined that he would personally write to the Minister regarding his disappointment at lack of funding.

Cllr M. Mc Bride referred to the Bluebanks to Kilmacrennan Road and the need to prioritise this road referring in particular to the serious accident on the Kilmacrennan to Termon Road the previous day. Cllr. M. Mc Bride conveyed his condolences to the family of the young man who lost his life in this accident.

A brief discussion followed with the Members welcoming the funding received and referring to the need to prioritise a number of roads in the Municipal area.

### **MDL 334/15 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES**

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

- Progress Report – Grants/Loans Reports
- Progress Report – Casual Vacancies

The Members were informed of the following;

#### **Long Term Leasing.**

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

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

There were currently 129 Rent Supplement Recipients who had transferred to R.A.S. in the M.D. of Letterkenny and 2 other applications were being processed.

#### **2014 House Purchases**

Five house purchases completed and four houses allocated and one to be allocated.

#### **2015 House Purchases**

A number of properties were currently being assessed.

#### **S.I. House**

One S.I. completed and allocated in July.

#### **Voluntary Housing.**

##### ***Anvers Housing Association, Loughnagin, Letterkenny.***

Construction commenced on the construction of a new Group Home on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2014 and due to be completed in September 2015.

##### ***STEER Housing Association.***

A number of other applications from STEER had obtained approval in principle from the Department and were being progressed by STEER.

### Cluid Housing Association

Application received provisional approval from Department and being progressed by Cluid. Four houses expected to be available shortly.

### 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 completed on 415 houses to date

This was a rolling programme funded by the Department and surveys being carried out on further housing units to identify units with low level insulation. Quotations/tenders will then be sought upon completion of the survey to upgrade the energy efficiency in units identified as having poor insulation etc.

### **Housing Stock**

There were currently 1,282 housing units owned and 1368 maintained by the Council in the Municipal District of Letterkenny.

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

H.A.P. introduced in Donegal for all new housing applicants who did not previously get Rent Supplement from 25<sup>th</sup> May 2015. From 14<sup>th</sup> September Council will deal with applications from applicants on R.S. moving accommodation and transfer them to H.A.P. Thereafter, Council will agree a phased transfer for all remaining applicants on R.S. to H.A.P. with intention that all applicants on R.S. are transferred to H.A.P. within two years.

To date 41 HAP applications had been approved and 9 were being processed.

### **Fairgreen Hill**

E. Kelly, Area Manager advised the Members that following survey on dampness issue etc at Fairgreen Hill that repairs to 6 no. houses were put out to tender with work due to commence next Monday. It was hoped that works would be complete in 3 weeks. E. Kelly, Area Manager outlined that further surveys would be carried out to assess further works required.

### **Construction Programme**

E. Kelly, Area Manager advised the Members that expressions of interest were being sought from landowners for parcels of land they would be willing to sell for development of social housing in the

Letterkenny area. The Members were advised that the closing date for receipt of applications was 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 and that a report would be brought back to the Members in this regard.

The Members thanked E. Kelly for his report. Cllr. M . Mc Bride referred to the migrant situation in Syria querying the availability of social housing in the area. L. Ward, Director acknowledged the serious migrant issue advising that the Government were currently looking into this matter.

***MDL 335/15*** **REQUEST FOR RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION**

E. Kelly, Area Manager referred to request from Letterkenny Cathedral Quarter to meet with the Municipal District regarding the regeneration of Church Lane area. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan seconded by Cllr. D. Shiels the Members unanimously agreed to receive a deputation at 1.45pm at the October meeting following a deputation from the Youth Council scheduled for 1.30pm

***MDL 336/15*** **DESIGNATED URBAN CENTRE GRANT SCHEME (BMW REGION)**

L. Ward, Director advised the Members of announcement during the Summer of the ERDF co-financed Designated Urban Centre Grant Scheme. L. Ward further advised that this grant was available to Letterkenny as a Gateway Town. It was proposed that a sum of €2m would be available to each Gateway giving a total investment of €4m at 50% co-financing rate. A request had been made to each Local Authority to select and rank suitable projects using the criteria given with a closing date for submission of 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2015. A Steering Group had been established to progress this.

Cllr. C. Brogan welcomed the announcement and asked that the Council meet with former team who put great work into previous proposals for Letterkenny as a Gateway town and hold a Workshop in this regard. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh. L. Ward, Director advised that a meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow with E. Quinn, Executive Planner who had been a member of the initial team.

***MDL 337/15*** **ENVIRONMENT**

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

- **National Littering Pollution Monitoring System Report, 2014**
  - Results Donegal 2014 – Unpolluted 12%, Slightly Polluted 66%, Moderately Polluted 21%, Significantly Polluted 0% and Grossly Polluted 0%.

- Cigarette Litter 54%, Food Related 16%, Packaging 12%, Sweet related 7% and Paper items 5%.

- **Introduction of New Primary Waste Management Legislation**

- New legislation to commence on 31 August, 2015. Main provisions is set out below;
- Charge by weight basis – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016
- Fixed payment notices for specific Producer Responsibility initiative offences from 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2015.

- **Bring Banks Summer 2015 Campaign**

- Volume of material collected at the 72 Bring Bank sites increasing and average by 25 tonnes per week during the peak season.

- **Enforcement**

- 696 Environmental Complains received for the year to date, 590 for waste and litter.
- 101 Litter Pollution Fixed Penalty Notices served to date
- 38 FPN paid to date
- 7 FPN prosecutions before the courts to date with 4 successful prosecutions for the year to date.

- **Summer Bathing Season/Water Safety**

- 236,866 visitors were recorded across 14 lifeguarded beaches
- 10 beaches now wheelchair accessible

- **Beach Maintenance**

- 7 day a week cleaning programme by Mobile Litter Units on all beaches during the bathing season.

The Members thanked Dearn Mc Clintock for his comprehensive report. Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh welcomed 10 Beaches classified as wheelchair accessible referring to motion from Cllr. J. O'Donnell and the need for access directly to the shoreline.



## **MDL 338/15 FERRY SERVICE**

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

*That negotiation should take place to establish the possibility of a three to five year contract for the Ferry Service between Rathmullan & Buncrana.*

The Members were informed that;

*Following a tender process in July this year Cara na nOileán Teo were appointed to operate a roll on / roll off ferry service between the harbours of Buncrana and Rathmullan, Co. Donegal for the term Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015.*

*The tender request documentation contained the following paragraph: “ Donegal County Council (the Council) invites applications for a licence to use Donegal County Council infrastructure at Rathmullan and Buncrana harbours respectively for the provision of a ferry service between both locations. The contract on offer would be for an initial one season period with the option to extend the contract on a year by year basis to a maximum of five years based on a review after each year, a budget being available and agreement being reached between both parties”.*

*Over the next few weeks, officials from the Community, Development & Enterprise Division would carry out a review of the operation of the service in 2015, will meet with Cara na nOileán Teo and will then prepare a report on the ferry service for review by the Members of the Letterkenny and Inishowen Municipal District Councils.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to the opportunity to provide a connection between the 2 peninsulas and the possibility of providing a contract over a longer period. On seconding the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney proposed that the Ferry operators be invited into a Workshop which would be informative for both parties. It was agreed to invite Ferry operators to a Workshop on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 at 1.30pm.

## **MDL 339/15 WATER – RATHMULLAN & LETTERKENNY**

Cllr. I. Mc Garvey proposed that;

*That the Council request Irish Water to provide detail of timescale for an improved quality of Water to Rathmullan & Letterkenny.*

The Members were informed that;

*The Council would request this information from Irish Water in relation to the specific locations referred to.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to his preference for the Council to meet with Irish Water rather than replies through letters/emails.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. D. Shiels.

**MDL 340/15 SEWERAGE PROBLEMS**

Cllr. I. Mc Garvey proposed that;

*The Council request Irish Water to provide an update for all the urgent Sewerage problems within the Letterkenny Municipal District area.*

The Members were informed that;

*The Council would request this information from Irish Water.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to response received from Irish Water outlining their proposal to upgrade Rathmullan, Kerrykeel etc but felt that it was important that the Council meet with Irish Water and demand a programme of advancement for all these areas.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. D. Shiels advising that he was contacted repeatedly by residents in the Rathmullan area regarding issue of sewerage going into water etc and that this issue had to be resolved.

**MDL 341/15 PARKING – BERNARD MCGLINCHEY TOWN PARK**

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

*That the Municipal area look at the possibility of increasing the car parking spaces at the Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Park as it is unable to deal with parking demands at peak times and many Park visitors are turning and leaving the park due to the lack of parking.*

The Members were informed that;

*This could be considered by Members in the context of the 2016 Budget.*

**MDL 342/15 DANGEROUS CORNER - GLENSWILLY**

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

*That this Council access and investigate a very dangerous corner just past Glenswilly N.S. on the R250 where a series of accidents have*

*occurred recently. There is a huge fear in the locality that a fatal accident will happen at this corner if nothing is done about it urgently.*

The Members were informed that;

*The Council are assessing this location with a view to establishing options and potential funding for their implementation.*

. On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid outlined that this corner was a huge concern for families living adjacent to the corner with 5 cars having gone off the road since April. Cllr. J. Mc Daid referred to the possibility of a short-term plan with perhaps signage etc. Cllr. M. Mc Bride outlined that it would appear to be a grip issue and welcomed the proposal for signage in the short-term.

#### **MDL 343/15 UDPATE FROM IRISH WATER**

On the proposal of Cllr. James Pat Mc Daid seconded by Cllr. C. Brogan the following motion was adopted:

That this Council invite Irish Water to give a full presentation of the on-going work to date in this Municipal area. And what progress has being made and what money has being secured to carry out proposed upgrades. We are now 15 months in this Council and I think a presentation to the members is long over due.

The Members were informed that;

*If the motion is passed the Council would request Irish Water to make a presentation at a future meeting of the Municipal District in relation to ongoing and proposed capital investment in the district.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid referred to the long overdue wait to meet Irish Water to address issues such as serious leaks, sewerage problems etc.

#### **MDL 344/15 BUS STOP – MR. CHIPPIE**

On the proposal of Cllr. J. O Donnell seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh the following motion was adopted:

*Calling on this Council to install a fully sheltered bus stop at Mr Chippie Letterkenny*

The Members were informed that;

*There was currently an existing bus stop to current design standards at the bus set down area near Mr Chippy. There were no plans at present to replace.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell referred to the need to provide an extension to existing shelter and provide more shelter in the area.

### **MDL 345/15 DISABILITY BEACH ACCESS**

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

*Calling on this Council to install a concrete path to access the beach and shore line at Rathmullan and Downings beach to assist people with disabilities to enjoy accessing our beaches and being able to access the shore line. I further call on the Council to roll out disability access to all our beaches in the County.*

The Members were informed that;

*Rathmullan had path access to the beach at two locations; via the slipway or off the centre of the main car park. This had been assessed by An Taisce and deemed satisfactory.*

*Downings had no path access. This beach is prone to erosion/accretion and installing and maintaining such access would be very difficult. However, vehicle access was permitted on to this beach so visitors may drive on to the beach and park and enjoy the shoreline.*

*Maintaining beach access can be challenging with a coastline in constant flux, NPWS permission, land ownership issues, etc. However, Donegal County Council has worked with the Irish Wheelchair Association and improved beach infrastructure to allow them be enjoyed by visitors of all abilities. We have now improved the situation to claim ten key beaches as being wheelchair accessible. These were identified as being part of an existing initiative (Blue Flag, etc). These comprise of; three Designated Bathing Waters, six Blue Flag and one Green Coast beach being wheelchair accessible. There are, of course, many other smaller beaches around our coast which are accessible by all but not necessarily promoted as part of any designation or initiative.*

*We intend to further improve our beach access around the coastline.*

| <b>Beach Name</b>         | <b>Designated</b> | <b>Blue Flag</b> | <b>Green Coast</b> | <b>Wheelchair Accessible</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Ballyhernan               |                   |                  |                    | No                           |
| <i>Bundoran</i>           |                   | <i>x</i>         |                    | <b>Yes</b>                   |
| Carrickfinn               |                   |                  |                    | No                           |
| <i>Culdaff</i>            |                   | <i>X</i>         |                    | <b>Yes</b>                   |
| Dooley                    |                   |                  |                    | No                           |
| <i>Downings</i>           |                   |                  |                    | <b>Yes</b>                   |
| Drumatinney               |                   |                  |                    | No                           |
| <i>Fintra</i>             |                   | <i>x</i>         |                    | <b>Yes</b>                   |
| Killahoey                 |                   |                  |                    | No                           |
| <i>Ladys Bay</i>          | <i>x</i>          |                  |                    | <b>Yes</b>                   |
| Lisfannon                 |                   |                  |                    | No                           |
| Magheroarty               |                   |                  |                    | No                           |
| Marble Hill               |                   |                  |                    | No                           |
| Murvagh                   |                   |                  |                    | No                           |
| <i>Naran,<br/>Portnoo</i> |                   | <i>X</i>         |                    | <b>Yes</b>                   |
| <i>Port Arthur</i>        |                   |                  | <i>X</i>           | <b>Yes</b>                   |
| <i>Port Na<br/>Blagh</i>  | <i>x</i>          |                  |                    | <b>Yes</b>                   |
| Portsalon                 |                   |                  |                    | No                           |
| <i>Rathmullan</i>         | <i>x</i>          |                  |                    | <b>Yes</b>                   |
| <i>Rosstown</i>           |                   | <i>X</i>         |                    | <b>Yes</b>                   |
| Stroove                   |                   |                  |                    | No                           |

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell outlined that he was not satisfied with answer given referring to the need in Downings for a stretch of path to be carried on down towards the beach. Cllr. J. O'Donnell also referred to the accessibility access at Rathmullan Beach but that an extended path was also needed. On seconding the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to the possibility of having a board walk installed to address the issue.

#### **MDL 346/15 WATER – RATHMULLAN & LETTERKENNY**

On the proposal of Cllr. J. O'Donnell seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney the following motion was adopted:

*Calling on this Council as a matter of urgency to address the one way system in Milford*

The Members were informed that;

*Monitoring of the traffic flow since the introduction of the one way system a number of years ago had indicated that traffic flow in Milford was good and vastly improved from the previous two way system. There were no plans to make any modifications to the current operation of the one way system in Milford.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell outlined the need to highlight that this is a one-way system with public still thinking that this is a two-way system. Cllr. L. Blaney referred to the need for improved signage referring also to the issue with the crossing at Kilmacrennan Road. F. Doherty, Area Manager advised that he believed the motion referred to the flow of traffic and will look at approach and revert back.

### **MDL 347/15 LETTERKENNY INNER RELIEF ROAD**

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

*This Municipal Council calls on the NRA to lift its suspension of works on the Letterkenny Inner relief road between Ballyraine and the Dry Arch Roundabout Bonnagee and to take all steps to fast track the construction of the new relief road and also calls on the NRA to provide a written explanation to this Municipal Council as to (1) why substantial monies were spent on purchasing a commercial petrol station premises on the route apparently quite prematurely in circumstances where works were then suspended and (2) provide an explanation as to why that commercial petrol station premises was not then offered for lease etc. to allow the State to generate an income from it during any self imposed period of suspension of works.*

The Members were informed that;

*TII/NRA was currently working with Donegal County Council on reviewing and progressing the TEN-T network in Donegal. This review included the N56 Letterkenny Relief Road. The NRA/TII were also currently seeking to advance as a priority the Kilty Roundabout and this represents a key and substantial element of the planned Relief Road. Preliminary design and Part 8 for the Relief Road had been completed. The tie in location with the N13/14 at Dry Arch Roundabout was identified in that design and in the approved planning. The petrol station referred to was clearly on this alignment. When the opportunity presented itself to purchase the Petrol station by agreement this was correctly taken. The petrol station will be demolished as part of any proposed works. In the interim and in light of the continuing ongoing progression of elements of the scheme and overall advancements in respect of the TEN-T, the short to medium term leasing of the petrol station was considered neither practical nor significantly beneficial.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels pointed out that the petrol station in question was bought using state monies and that same could have been leased over the last 3 years with a potential income of approximately €150,000 (€50,000 per year). Cllr. D. Shiels outlined that he would like to know who decided that it was not beneficial to lease the petrol station. F. Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation advised that this was a decision made by the NRA outlining that it was significantly cheaper to purchase by agreement rather than Compulsory Purchase Order. It was agreed that F. Doherty would seek a further response from the TII/NRA and revert back in this regard. Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to the urgent need for a ring road around Letterkenny.

**MDL 348/15 BUS SERVICE – LETTERKENNY TO RATHMULLAN**

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

*That this Council would support the addition of a dedicated bus service in the Summer months of each year travelling from Letterkenny to Rathmullan via Ramelton and by return to Letterkenny to compliment the Rathmullan to Buncrana Ferry service and with a view to encouraging more persons to travel from Letterkenny to Ramelton and Rathmullan in the peak summer months and likewise to facilitate tourists travelling from Inishowen to also travel further than Rathmullan up as far as Ramelton and Letterkenny.*

The Members were informed that;

*This motion would be forwarded to Department of Transport if Members agree to same.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. D. Shiels welcomed reply given referring to the success of the Ferry Service but that pedestrians travelling on Ferry from Inishowen were limited. Cllr. D. Shiels also outlined that he would like to see a bus service from Letterkenny to Rathmullan whereby families could travel to Rathmullan on a day trip. Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to bus service to Fanad Head in the past but that services now did not cater for those living outside urban centres. Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to opportunities for bus operators doing school runs to do such a service in the Summer months.

**MDL 349/15 MUSEUM OF SPORT IN DONEGAL**

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

*That this Council consider the possible re-use of the existing Letterkenny Courthouse Building (when it is vacated by the Courts Service in due Course) as a dedicated Museum of Sport in Donegal,*

*especially in circumstances where there should be a permanent celebration of sporting achievements of Donegal people, both internationally (for example our numerous Olympians) and nationally (for example the Donegal Senior GAA team) and where the opening of such a Museum of Sport might provide an appropriate centrepiece occasion for the world's most famous athlete, Usain Bolt to make his much awaited visit to Donegal with his Donegal management team.*

The Members were advised that;

*This motion would be forwarded to the Court Service for consideration.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels referred to Sports Museum in Manchester which was a great success and that such a Museum would be great from a tourist perspective. Cllr. D. Shiels referred to great local sporting heroes such as Michael Murphy, Mark English, Danny Mc Daid etc. Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to the possibility of the County Museum widening its scope and asked that Community & Enterprise investigate in relation to funding/manpower etc.

#### **MDL 350/15 FOOTPATH – CAROLINE HOUSE TO LOUGHNAGIN**

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Kavanagh seconded by Cllr. D. Shiels the following motion was adopted;

*That the Council consider continuing the footpath from Carolina House to the entrance to Loughnagin Heights in the next roads programme.*

The Members were informed that;

*This would be considered and added to the list of footpaths to be carried out subject to identified funding. This represents a distance of 0.7km with significant drainage etc. Roads would provisionally price to allow for consideration by Cllrs in any subsequent programme.*

#### **MDL 351/15 RIGHT OF WAY – PORTSALON BEACH**

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

*That Donegal County Council work closely with Portsalon Golf Club to ensure that any funding which is required for the repair of the right of way to the beach at Portsalon is applied for.*

The Members were informed that;



*Donegal County Council would explore the potential to secure funding for the repair of the right of way to the beach at Portsalon.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney referred to works carried out by Golf Club a number of years ago to make access to beach safe. However walls have now caved in. Cllr. L. Blaney referred to funding now available and has written to the Council in this regard. Cllr. J. Kavanagh referred to recent visit by the Minister with Club advised to make an application to the OPW. Cllr. J. Kavanagh outlined that the Golf Club do not use the right of way and queried the number of applications made to the OPW since 2013.

**MDL 352/15 WOODLANDS ROAD**

In answer to his question, for an update on works to start at Woodlands including when would they start and how much would they cost, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

*Tenders were currently being assessed for the completion of Woodlands. Works will commence at the earliest once the successful tenderer is appointed. It is anticipated that the works will take between 8 and 12 weeks commencing in September for completion by the end of the year. The cost will be confirmed once the contractor is appointed.*

**MDL 353/15 JOE BONNAR ROAD**

In answer to his question if we can have a progress report on the Joe Bonnar Road and when will works start as we have had money ring fenced for this project to start, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

*Detailed design was ongoing with a view to proceeding to Part 8 planning permission in October. Whilst some preliminary works may take place before the end of the year, it was anticipated that the main road construction works would take place early in the New Year.*

**MDL 354/15 VACANT HOUSES – ARD NA RI**

In answer to his question as to when will the vacant houses that have been unoccupied for months now in Ard Na Ri be allocated, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that;

*There were currently four vacant properties in this estate. Offers had been made in respect of two houses that were ready for allocation but have been refused and further offers would be issuing over the coming weeks. The other two houses required some repairs before they could be allocated.*

**MDL 355/15 DISABILITY ACCESS SURVEY**

In answer to his question if the Council had carried out the Disability Access Survey of Letterkenny as per his motion to Council last September and if so when can we get the report, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that;

*No disability access survey of Letterkenny had been carried out by the Council since September and no funding had been identified/allocated by Council for disability access modification/improvement. A Walkability Survey was carried out by Age Friendly Ireland in relation to Letterkenny, which had been made available.*

**MDL 356/15 REMEDIAL WORKS – FAIRGREEN HILL**

In answer to his question as to what is the time frame for completion of remedial works to the houses in FairGreen Hill and have the Council tested them for Mica, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that;

*Work was due to commence on six houses in Fairgreen Hill week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> September and due to be completed mid to late October. Tenants of houses where works were due to be carried out had been notified.*

**MDL 357/15 RURAL HOUSING**

In answer to his question if this Municipal District assess the demand for Rural Housing in our District, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

*The Council made a submission to the Department that rural housing would form part of the Social Housing Strategy 2020 however no approvals had been obtained to date.*

*The Council ceased accepting applications for S.I. houses in 2011 when funding was not made available by the Department for new builds. A Draft Policy for provision of S.I. houses was considered by the S.P.C. on the accepting of applications for S.I. houses which would include criteria on eligibility, suitability of site etc*

**MDL 358/15 HSE HEALTH COMMITTEE**

In answer to his question if he can have a report on the benefit accrued by attendance of our Members to the NW HSE Health Committee since it was established, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

*A report would be requested from the HSE in this regard.*

**MDL 359/15 LIASON GROUPS - EMIGRANTS**

In answer to his question if we can organise a liaison Group through our Citizens Advice with Cities & Countries our people emigrate to as

points of contact on arrival for job opportunities and accommodation, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

*The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade currently fund groups such as Cross Care to work with Irish Societies and emigrants arriving in foreign countries who need support. This information was channeled through [www.mindhowyougo.ie](http://www.mindhowyougo.ie), and has specific information for Australia, Canada, USA, UK, Europe and New Zealand.*

**MDL 360/15 TREE DAMAGE – PORT ROAD**

In answer to his question if the Municipal area can try to identify if there is any video evidence available on the Port Road of the damaged caused to a large number of trees on Saturday 29th /Sunday 30th of August, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

*This matter had been referred to the Gardai for investigation.*

**MDL 361/15 TERMON/GLENVEAGH JUNCTION**

In answer to his question if Donegal County Council can look at the Termon / Glenveagh junction as a large number of cars cut the yellow line on the inside of the corner turning off the N 56 on to the Glenveagh road where many children are walking and cycling to the football pitch at the Burn Road, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

*Whilst current lining in place was to standards, the Council would review in conjunction with the TII, to identify appropriate modifications that may be applicable.*

**MDL 362/15 BOTTLEBANKS – CHURCHILL**

In answer to his question if the Churchill bottle banks can be moved behind the hedge at the Council site to reduce their visual impact, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

*The Environment Section of Donegal County Council would follow up on this request to determine how the visual impact of the site could be improved.*

**MDL 363/15 WHITE STONE MOMUMENT**

In answer to his question if this Council clean up around the monument and the surroundings which is situated in Doon Glebe known as the white stone as it has become very over grown and untidy looking, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

*Roads would arrange for weed removal over the coming weeks. Hedging to be cut along with regular maintenance cutting in this area.*

**MDL 364/15 ROAD – CHURCHILL QUARRY**

In answer to his question as to when would the road works leading up to Churchill Quarry(R251) be completed, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

*It was anticipated that works would be completed before the end of October.*

**MDL 365/15 TOWN TWINNING**

In answer to his question if there was any update on my previous motion on Town Twinning for towns in the Municipal area, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

*Council officials made contact with the Department of the Environment and Local Government on the issue of Twinning and were informed that while the Department and the IPA formerly had a role in managing twinning, they no longer do. Twinning is now being driven through the EU and further information is available at [www.twinning.org](http://www.twinning.org) or under the Europe for Citizens programme at <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/>*

**MDL 366/15 DISABLED CAR PARKING – OUTPATIENTS DEPARTMENT**

In answer to his question as to what is the current position on providing additional disabled parking to serve the new Outpatients Department at the car park on Justice Walsh Road as previously raised, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

*An additional disabled parking space was included as per the outcome of the review. This had been delineated on the ground.*

**MDL 367/15 FLOODING – GLENWOOD/BEECHWOOD**

In answer to his question if there is any further indication as to when work on alleviating the recurring flooding issues in Glenwood and Beechwood will commence, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

*Irish Water had advised that “Irish Water were considering inclusion of the diversion of excess stormwater from Glenwood via Circular Road in their upcoming trunk sewer contract. The trunk sewer contract was expected to go to tender later this year with construction anticipated to start early to mid next year. Any further updates from Irish Water would be forwarded to members*

#### **MDL 368/15 PARKING – LOWER MAIN STREET**

In answer to his question following his previous motion regarding parking bay at Lower Main Street Letterkenny on the right hand side, when will you get an Engineer to carry out a traffic study to determine if this is possible, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

*Area Roads Engineer met with Cllr O Donnell on site, following the previous meeting. Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) advised that in areas of low to moderate pedestrian activity, the minimum footpath width was 2.5m, and in areas of moderate to high pedestrian activity (which this location would be classed as), minimum footpath width was 3.0m. DMURS advises that the minimum width for a loading bay is 2.4m, thus requiring a combined width of 5.5m. The width of the footpath outside Déjà Vu varies from 3.5m to 4m wide. As per previous meetings there was insufficient width to install a footpath and loading bay to specification width.*

#### **MDL 369/15 FOOTPATH CARRIGART TO DOWNINGS**

In answer to his question as to what are the latest updates on his previous motions and questions regarding the footpath from Carrigart to Downings, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

*To date no funding had been identified for the carrying out of an Appropriate Assessment (€3,500) which was required at this location due to its being an SAC. The findings of the Appropriate Assessment would determine whether Part 8 planning permission would be forthcoming, which was required before works can commence. There was currently no funding identified for the footpath from Carrigart to Downings.*

#### **MDL 370/15 SIGN – JOE BONNAR ROAD**

In answer to his question as to when is this Council replacing the sign for the Joe Bonnar Road which is broke over 6 months and when will this road be complete, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

*Replacement of broken signs were part of ongoing maintenance routines. The sign for Joe Bonner Road was included in the maintenance programme, and would be addressed in the coming weeks.*

#### **MDL 371/15 GO SAFE VANS**

In answer to his question if this Municipal Council will write to Minister for Transport to request that he commit to a new system whereby Go Safe vans being used in the Letterkenny Municipal District will be more frequently located at accident blackspots in the

Letterkenny Municipal District and less frequently be located at areas of very low speed but with high Density traffic flows where the suspicion is that they are only being used in revenue gathering exercises rather than in genuine efforts to prevent accidents and that the minister be requested to commit to this in writing, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

*Subject to agreement by Letterkenny Municipal District, the Council would write to the Minister for Transport in this regard.*

**MDL 372/15 LECK ROAD**

In answer to his question if the Council could advise on the current status of the unfinished roadworks at the Leck Road, Letterkenny and confirm when it expects that these works will be finished and the programme of road widening completed on this road, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

*The Department of Transport terminated the Specific Improvement Grant and Strategic Grant programmes 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 Leck would be completed until these Grants were reintroduced.*

**MDL 373/15 FLOODING GLENWOOD PARK**

In answer to question if the Council could confirm how many times the Glenwood Park estate in Letterkenny has been flooded in the last 10 years and if on that basis it can be treated as an exceptional case in seeking emergency type funding as no recent funding application appears to have been treated with any urgency, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

*The Glenwood Park estate was known to be subject to almost annual flooding to some extent, due to its location downstream of the Glencar catchment Area and the existing inadequate stormwater infrastructure. To that end the Council intended to install a relief culvert in conjunction with Irish Water who were installing major infrastructure in the Circular Road. With regards to timing, Irish Water had advised that "Irish Water were considering inclusion of the diversion of excess stormwater from Glenwood via Circular Road in their upcoming trunk sewer contract. The trunk sewer contract was expected to go to tender later this year with construction anticipated to start early to mid next year. Any further updates from Irish Water would be forwarded to members.*

*Previous applications by the former Town Council to the OPW for funding were unsuccessful.\*

**MDL 374/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 in The Letterkenny Public Services Centre.