

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING,
HELD IN LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY,
10th FEBRUARY, 2015 AT 2PM**

***MDL 50/15* 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. Mick Quinn
Cllr. Dessie Shiels

***MDL 51/15* 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
Conal Mc Gettigan, A/Senior Executive Planner
Liam Ward, Director of Service

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Michael Mc Bride.

***MDL 52/15* ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh the Minutes of Municipal District of Letterkenny Meeting held on the 13th January, 2015 were adopted.

In relation to his motion regarding erosion of sand dunes adopted at January MDL Meeting, Cllr. L. Blaney referred to motion adopted at a Council Meeting in 2014 regarding erosion at Ballyhiernan Beach when he was advised that a report was being prepared. Cllr. L. Blaney requested that this report be circulated to the Municipal District of Letterkenny Members and asked that this matter be followed up with relevant officials. F Doherty clarified that neither the response to the January Motion nor the undertaking to prepare report from the Council Meeting of 2014, were from the Area Manager Roads and Transportation, and that erosion of sand dunes is led out by the Environmental section of the Council

***MDL 53/15* REQUEST RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION – MULROY DRIVE
TOURIST & DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

The Members considered a request from Mulroy Drive Tourist & Development Group seeking to meet with the Municipal District of Letterkenny. On the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney, seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, it was agreed to meet the deputation at 1.30pm in Milford Public Services Centre on day of the next MDL Meeting on Tuesday, 10th March, 2015.

MDL 54/15 COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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

- Donegal Marathon planning a return for 2015 with a proposed route change and marketing plan being tendered.
- SNAP Charity – Project officially launched in December 2014. Met Municipal District at Workshop today regarding funding and options in relation to further equipment in Ballymacool Town Park.
- Donegal Community & Economic Plan – work is ongoing on the plan and it is expected a draft will be available in the first quarter of 2015.
- Public Participation Network – Planning meeting to be held on 12th February, 2015 where code of conduct and plans for the year will be decided.
- Letterkenny Age Friendly Initiative – Draft plan being worked on with partners with a view to launching in March.
- Fanad Lighthouse – Met Municipal District at Workshop today. Ongoing meeting to be scheduled with community to discuss development of the site and associated marketing plan.

MDL 55/15 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

F. Doherty briefed the Members on contents of report previously circulated and noted the following;

▪ **Follow up from Meeting held on 13th January, 2015**

F. Doherty advised the Members that the Carraig Craobh Estate had not been taken over by the Council and he has requested an update from the Housing Estate Takeover Section.

Cllr G Mc Monagle stated that the Town Council had met with the Developer and he understood that the public lighting, footpaths and roads had been taken over.

F. Doherty also advised the Members that sections of footpath at the Long Lane are to be repaired and are programmed under the Letterkenny Town programme.

▪ **Adoption of 2015 RI and RM Programme Prioritisation**

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle it was agreed not to adopt the prioritised RI and RM lists as discussed at workshop on 29th January, 2015 due to recent announcement of road grants which did not include former Letterkenny Town Council Block Grant. It was agreed that the adoption of Roads Programme would be put on the Agenda for the March Meeting and that a Workshop would be held in the interim. A lengthy discussion followed with the Members outlining their disappointed and concerns regarding the lack of funding for roads in this area. Cllr. C. Brogan asked that Joe Mc Hugh, Minister of State lead out on a deputation to the Department along with the Chair of Donegal County Council and the Mayor Municipal District of Letterkenny.

Cllr. M. Quinn proposed that a letter be sent to Deputy J. Mc Hugh, Minister of State and Deputy D. Mc Ginley, T.D. asking them to meet with the Council. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell.

Cllr. D. Shiels proposed that a letter be sent to Minister J. Mc Hugh asking him to seek to secure additional funding and to explain his recent statement regarding "extra funding".

Further discussion followed with the Members referring to the need to reintroduce LIS and CIS Schemes particularly with Donegal being a rural County. Cllr. L. Blaney referred to the urgency of a national programme for drainage which was the cause of deterioration of many of our roads and the small amount of money allocated in the MDL for National Road Improvement.

It was agreed that a letter issue this week inviting Minister J. Mc Hugh and Deputy Mc Ginley to meet with the Council.

MDL 56/15 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

- Planning applications for the Municipal District
- Appeals Countywide (received & Decisions Notified)
- Transboundary planning applications
- Other case types (Part 8's etc)
- Response to follow-ups

C. Mc Gettigan advised the Members that in relation to Letterkenny General Hospital, it is proposed to circulate a response to motion prior to the next County Council meeting. Cllr. D. Shiels outlined that MDL was advised at last meeting that report would be available within 3-4 weeks and queried if a retention application or warning letter has issued. C. Mc Gettigan advised that no application has been received and that a warning letter has not as yet issued pending examination of report.

Cllr. D. Shiels also queried Part 8 application for Glendale which showed an “active” status on report. Cllr. C. Brogan referred to decision of Municipal District at previous meeting to abandon plans for this development.

MDL 57/15 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

E. Kelly, Area Manager advised that 5 purchases were now ongoing and that a “Choice Based Letting” would be advertised in March in relation to a number of properties as agreed at the Housing Workshop. This was welcomed by the Members.

The Members also referred to the recent Housing Workshop which had been very informative and thanked all staff that were involved.

Motions

MDL 58/15 LIS SCHEME

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

That this MD write to the Department and ask for an allocation for a much needed LIS Scheme.

The Members were informed that;

The Department have advised in ‘Circular RW 2/2015’ that “The Local Improvement Scheme remains in place for 2015 however there is no separate allocation available towards this grant category. Instead local authorities may use up to 15% of their initial Discretionary Grant (as allocated under this Circular) towards local improvement schemes should they wish to do so. The local contribution for these schemes remains at 20% of the total cost of the project. The same eligibility rules apply for these schemes.”

Given that the Discretionary Maintenance grant is required annually for the maintenance of the road network, the Executive do not recommend a reallocation from the public network to private roads.

On proposing the motion Cllr. I. Mc Garvey outlined the importance of having these schemes re-introduced in Donegal. On seconding the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels referred to the need to keep this on the Agenda. Cllr. Sheils also pointed out that it would be helpful if all Councils

could write to the Department to emphasize how important LIS Schemes are to rural Ireland and ask the Government to give consideration to reinstate same. Cllr. I. Mc Garvey agreed that the motion be sent to all Councils and also that Farming Associations be asked to support the motion.

MDL 59/15 ACCESS ROAD - CARRIGART

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

That the Members of our MD ask the Department to investigate the removal of Access Roads and other Rights of People to Residential Homes and Aghadahor Beach, Carrigart, Co. Donegal.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey outlined that the Members have an opportunity to protect people's rights and asked that an enquiry take place regarding the removal of access roads in this area. Cllr. I. Mc Garvey advised that he was not against development but would like to see an investigation carried out to clarify the matter referring to a similar issue in Belfast. On seconding the motion, Cllr. M. Quinn advised of his sympathy to the residents and that this was still a major issue.

L. Ward, Director of Services advised that the Council can write to the Department if the Members so wish but that this matter was debated in detail at the September Meeting in presence of Law Agent. It was agreed at that time that the Mayor of Letterkenny would sit down with locals concerned and developer to try and solve the matter. The Council subsequently wrote to 12 of the local residents and developer with 3 replying that they did not wish to get involved. L. Ward further outlined that it was his understanding that the Council has no further role in this and that the Ombudsman has closed his file in this case. However, the Members were advised that a letter could issue to the Department if desired.

Cllr. C. Brogan referred to the numerous discussions on this issue and it was clear that the Council can do no more and that the issue was now a civil matter. Cllr. D. Shiels stated that the issue was if the Council would use Section 207 of the Planning Act. A brief discussion followed and it was agreed that the Council write to the Department as per motion submitted.

MDL 60/15 S.I. AND S.F. HOUSES

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

That this MD seeks funding to build SI and SF Houses in Donegal depending on demand.

The Members were informed that;

Donegal County Council was currently preparing a plan to deliver extra housing units across the County under the Government's new Social Housing Strategy which will run until 2020.

It was the Council's intention to seek to include within that plan, the provision of a number of SI rural dwellings. Arising from the fact that the Council ceased acceptance of applications for SI's in 2011 at the time when no capital funding was being made available for new builds, there was no waiting list for such dwellings at present. Work was presently ongoing in the context of preparing a Draft Policy for consideration by the Strategic Policy Committee in the context of the development of a programme including guiding principles in terms of who would qualify and the conditions which may be associated with any site which may be put forward.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey asked that the Council seek out demand for SI houses with Cllr. D. Shiels referring to money allocated to Glendale Drive and hoped that this funding could be diverted elsewhere.

L. Ward advised that SI houses would form part of the significantly increased Housing Programme and that SF Scheme no longer existed.

MDL 61/15 ROLE OF MAYOR

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

"That the Council discuss the role of the Mayor in the new Municipal District setting".

On proposing the motion Cllr. J. Kavanagh outlined that very few towns can use the title as Mayor and that the role should be more prestigious. Cllr. J. Kavanagh referred to the need for a Mayor's Chain and perhaps a Deputy Mayor's Chain as he felt that the role of the Mayor was being eroded. Cllr. J. Kavanagh outlined that the Mayor should speak on behalf of all Councillors on a collective decision and that no Member should be doing a solo run. This motion was seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referring to the need to bring the role of the Mayor back to its previous status and recognise the importance of the office of the Mayor.

Cllr. C. Brogan referred to the Mayor as being the first citizen of the town with a huge community relationship and a huge role to play to continue to make our area grow and become more attractive. Cllr. C. Brogan further outlined that the role of the Mayor as first citizen and was vital for the area and for future investment etc.

Cllr. L. Blaney agreed with the importance of the role of the Mayor but did not see Mayor's Chain as a top priority. Cllr. D. Sheils also agreed that he was not in favour of the purchase of the Mayor's Chain.

Cllr. J. O'Donnell, Deputy Mayor referred to the importance of a Chain for the Mayor to represent the Municipal District at local and national level but did not feel need for Deputy Chain.

All members agreed that Cllr M Mc Bride was doing an excellent job as Mayor in representing the M.D.L.

E. Kelly, Area Manager advised that it had been agreed at a previous meeting to source a Mayor's Chain for the Letterkenny Municipal District and confirmed that a Chain was on order since November, 2014 and was due to be delivered in mid February.

M. Mc Bride, Mayor outlined that as Mayor he was Mayor of the entire Municipal District i.e. town and rural area but felt that the role has not developed in rural areas as much as in town area. He felt the role of the mayor needed to be promoted more.

MDL 62/15 FLOODING - GLENWOOD

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

That we make it a priority of this Municipal District to carry out the necessary works this year to alleviate the Flooding problems at the Glenwood Estate.

The Members were informed that;

The MDL were liaising with Irish Water with a view to their including the installation of the relief culvert in the Circular Road (~€300k estimate) along with their 'Letterkenny Trunk Sewer (~€5m), as representing the best value for money option to the MDL. This liaison was ongoing. In the event that agreement was reached, the installation would be carried out to Irish Waters programme.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle outlined his concerns with Irish Water not doing works till 2016 and that the issue was more than surface water with storm water and sewerage causing major problems. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle advised that the Town Council carried out works in this area and agreed a large pipe was required down Circular Road. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to money which was ring fenced at the time and hoped that this was still available. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle hoped that these works would remain a priority with flooding taking place more frequent in the Glenwood area.

Cllr. M. Quinn asked that an update be given by Irish Water by next meeting on a date to commence these works.

F. Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation advised that at a recent meeting with Irish Water confirmation was given that they were at the design stage of the Sewer Trunk , and at that stage were including design of the Circular Road storm water culvert in their design. F. Doherty added that he was advised by finance that there is a “commitment to fund the Circular Road Storm Drainage from development charges in the sum of €200,000 approx”

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MDL 63/15 PUBLIC TOILETS - RATHMULLAN

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

That this Council confirm a time frame for the erection of public toilets and any other facility as part of that building in Rathmullan and prior to any plans being drawn up that public consultation will take place with the residents to facilitate their input.

The Members were informed that;

The Council was committed to engaging with the members of the Letterkenny Electoral Area and the local community in advance of preparing proposals for the development of a facility in Rathmullan that would primarily include a public convenience and beach lifeguard facilities. It was expected that an outline proposal would be brought to an early meeting of the Municipal District of Letterkenny for consideration in the first instance. Subject to the agreement of the members the planning process would be initiated which would require the approval of Council. It was hoped to have the project advanced to this stage by mid 2015.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney welcomed the reply and asked that the Council arrange a date for public consultation in Rathmullan when the outline proposal was prepared.

MDL 64/15 AURA LEISURE COMPLEX

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

That this Council correspond with Aura Sport & Leisure Management Ltd to enquire as to the cause(s) of the high number of personal injury claims arising at the Aura leisure Centre Letterkenny and to enquire as to how many personal injury claims have arisen since the commencement of occupation of the premises and to enquire as to whether there are safety issues at the premises which require attention.

The Members were informed that;

The Leisure Complex at Sallaghraine was currently managed by Aura Sport and Leisure under licence from Letterkenny Sports Complex Development Ltd. A request could be made to the Management Board to seek this information.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels referred to 4 current cases listed for the Circuit Court and would like to find out the cause of these claims or if there was a safety issue. Cllr. D. Shiels asked that issues be identified to establish who has responsibility.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle advised that a Board meeting was scheduled for next week and that the matter would be raised then. Cllr. J. Kavanagh queried if Cllr. D. Shiels had compared number of claims with other Leisure Centres. Cllr. C. Brogan outlined his concerns that a debate on this matter could be damaging to what was a top class facility.

MDL 65/15 SCHOOLS

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

That this Council carry out a review of all school premises in the Municipal District of Letterkenny (1) to ascertain what additional car parking/lay-bys may be required and (2) to ascertain whether additional speed reduction measures by way of ramps etc. were required and (3) to ascertain whether additional safety signage is required.

The Members were informed that;

A full review of all school premises within the MDL is outside of the scope of the Roads Section under current staffing compliment. Identified deficiencies were addressed as they arise.

On proposing the motion Cllr. D. Sheils outlined that some schools were more than adequately covered but that many rural schools should be looked at from a safety point of view. On seconding the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey felt that more care and warnings were required with the public taking responsibility in areas where schools were located.

MDL 66/15 RESIDENT ASSOCIATIONS

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

That this Council dedicate a member of staff for at least one half day per week to meet with residents associations representatives to discuss and remedy any issues which arise in relation to the maintenance of their housing estates by the Council.

The Members were informed that;

The Council were happy to consider this proposal but in the context of available resources and likely time demand and were not in a position to commit to same at this point in time.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels asked that the Council consider dedicating a Member of Staff even seasonal on a pilot basis. This motion was seconded by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referring to the possibility of having a liaison person to encourage householders to keep their estate and give encouragement to residents groups. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to the policy of meeting groups on an ongoing basis in the former Town Council which worked very well. Cllr. D. Shiels outlined his disappointment at the Council not being in a position to commit to this and suggested that the Council commit on a pilot basis to one hour per week to meet groups at 10 minute intervals.

MDL 67/15 BUS SHELTER CATHEDRAL CARPARK

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

That the Council erect a bus shelter in the Cathedral car park area.

The Members were informed that;

There was currently no official bus route pick up/drop off at the Cathedral Car Park. Further information was required in relation to this motion, along with the identification of funding. The approximate cost for the erection of a bus shelter was €5,000 with ongoing maintenance costs.

Cllr J Mc Daid stated that the existing shelter at this location was open and did not provide adequate shelter for the students who use it

MDL 68/15 DISABLED CAR PARKING – COURT HOUSE CARPARK

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

That the Council put more disabled car parking spaces in the car park below the court house.

The Members were informed that;

This will be reviewed and findings brought to a subsequent meeting.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Mc Daid advised that at the outpatient practice in the area that only 2 spaces were available for

disabled parking which were always full. Cllr. J. Mc Daid also referred to the area being very slippery on frosty mornings and asked that the area be prioritised for gritting along with all public car parks. Cllr. J. Mc Daid asked that the Council review all car parks operated by the Council in relation to sufficient disabled parking. This motion was seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Mc Daid advised that it was 5 years since review of car parking in Letterkenny and referred to complaints received from public in relation who were required to pay for going into the Doctors Surgery or Bank for approximately 15mins while there was a free half hour parking on the street.

MDL 69/15 CARPARKING - LETTERKENNY

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

That this Council review the short term and long term car parking in Letterkenny and see if there is changes that can be made to the current parking strategy.

The Members were informed that;

A study carried out a number of years ago identified a surplus of parking spaces in Letterkenny that are not being utilised, and VMS signs indicating the locations and number of spaces at various car parks were erected. On a daily basis there are always available spaces at one or other of these central car parks. There are currently no plans for a further study.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Mc Daid advised that it was 5 years since review of car parking in Letterkenny and referred to complaints received from public in relation to going into the Doctors surgery or Bank for approximately 15mins. Cllr. J. Mc Daid asked for discretion in this busy car park. Cllr. J. Mc Daid welcomed the 30min free on Main Street and asked that the Council review car parking long-term and short-term in Council car parks in Letterkenny.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. C. Brogan referred to the Bye-Laws adopted in the Town Council approximately 5 years ago and that the 30min free parking on the street works well. Cllr. C. Brogan outlined that he would welcome Council officials carrying out a review and find out how revenue generating they are. Cllr. C. Brogan referred to the issue of parking in general in Letterkenny and in particular in the Hospital area.

MDL 70/15 RATHMULLAN TO BUNCRANA FERRY

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

That all efforts be made to restore the Rathmullan to Buncrana Ferry service this year and in future years.

The Members were informed that;

The Council have tendered the Ferry Service on an annual basis. The funding in respect of the Ferry Service would be the subject of Members discussions under the Development Fund Initiative for both the Letterkenny and Inishowen Municipal Districts.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell outlined the importance of this Ferry service for the Letterkenny and Inishowen Municipal Districts and the County as a whole. Cllr. J. O'Donnell referred to the fact that there was no interested party last year but asked the Council for their support through the Development Fund Initiative in the interest of businesses in the area.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney referred to the Ferry which was in operation for 10 years but unfortunately did not operate in 2014. Cllr. L. Blaney advised that he was confident that this year there would be at least one interested provider. Cllr. L. Blaney referred to the Wild Atlantic Way having a positive effect in the area with Fanad Lighthouse and Malin Head being two iconic points.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride asked regarding the possibility of officials liaising with Municipal District of Inishowen to establish their commitment to the project. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle asked that costings of providing the service be established in order to establish the support required from the Council. Cllr. C. Brogan asked that expression of interests be sought and if received that the Council then move to progress the matter.

A brief discussion followed and it was agreed that the Council would consult Municipal District of Inishowen and report back to the M.D.L.

Questions

MDL 71/15 WATER & SEWERAGE PROGRAMME

In answer to his question if the admin staff have any input in decision making regarding the programme for the MD area in Water & Sewerage, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

The responsibility for the provision of water services transferred to Irish Water in 2014 at which point the Council entered into a service level agreement to continue to deliver services on behalf of Irish Water. The management and staff in water services engage routinely

with Irish Water in relation to the ongoing provision of services including capital investment in line with the provisions of the service level agreement. However, the authority has transferred fully to Irish Water from January 2014.

MDL 72/15 N14 – LIFFORD TO LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question as to when will work start on N14, Lifford to Letterkenny and where, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that

The NRA have not currently allocated funding to the N14 – Lifford to Letterkenny

MDL 73/15 WOODLANDS

In answer to his question as to when will proposed work start to improve traffic conditions at Woodlands, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

As per previous MDL Meetings, 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. Notwithstanding above, the MDL have made representation to the Department to consider allocation of funding to allow completion of this project given the extent of works already carried out. In the short term, the Roads Section would carry out minor works over the coming weeks to mitigate any identified hazards.

MDL 74/15 DISABLED PARKING – SCALLY PRACTICE

In answer to his question if the Council can provide additional disabled parking spaces in the vicinity of the Scally Practice/Out Patients Department, at Justice Walsh Road car park, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

This would be reviewed and findings brought to a subsequent meeting.

MDL 75/15 SAFETY AUDIT – ARD RI JUNCTION, KILLYLASTIN, LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question if the Council carry out a safety audit at the Ard Ri Junction Killylastin and make recommendation on the following:

(A) The unfinished layout of the junction and the dangers it presents.

(B) The lack of safe crossing options at the “Ard Rí” junction, the need for a pedestrian crossing and/or lights.

(C) Review the speed limits in the area.

(D) The need to finish the walkway from the “Ard Rí” junction and the “Grange” area, and suggest possible safety measures, e.g. the erection of a barrier, as at the moment the traffic is above the pedestrian as they use this walkway, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

This would be referred to the Road Design Department and findings brought to a subsequent meeting

MDL 76/15 SIGNAGE

In answer to his question if the Council could provide signage for Letterkenny Women’s Centre, Cara House and Letterkenny Lawn Bowling club, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

There was currently no identified funding for such signing. Councillors have the option to allocate from the GMA.

MDL 77/15 LIGHT – RAMPS AT ST. EUNAN’S COLLEGE

In answer to his question if a light could be erected at the ramps outside St. Eunan’s College, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that;

MDL would review along with the various other requests for the erection of public lighting. There was currently no programme for ‘Cllr Lights’ and as such funding for implementation would require identification should it be deemed required.

MDL 78/15 TRAFFIC LIGHTS – CIRCULAR ROAD

In answer to his question as to when would the traffic lights be replaced on the Circular Road at Glencar Park, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that;

The traffic lights at the Circular road were to be fixed by Friday 6th February.

MDL 79/15 SALTING – KERRYKEEL TO GLENVAR

In answer to his question if the Council would put the road from Kerrykeel to Glenvar on the number one priority list for salting as a matter of urgency, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

The current Salting Routes result in the existing fleet working to full capacity, and the addition of routes would require the removal of other

routes. As per workshops in relation to Salting Routes, that were held in previous years, this is a County wide issue and must be addressed at plenary Council.

Cllr. L. Blaney stated that this route was previously slated and asked regarding the possibility of Council upgrading Salters from 6 m3 to 9m3 capacities. Cllr. C. Brogan also referred to the road from Kilmacrennan to Temple Douglas which had been agreed numerous times to be included in salting route.

Fergal Doherty advised that to add routes would result in the Council buying extra plant or dropping other routes. F. Doherty further advised that this was a matter for the plenary Council.

MDL 80/15 COASTGUARD STATION ROAD

In answer to his question as to what time this year do we expect to tar the Coastguard Station road as he understood it was to be done last year, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

The Coastguard Road was not included in the RM programme agreed by Cllrs in 2014 nor is it on the RM prioritised list to be agreed by Cllrs for 2015. Localised repairs have recently been carried out on this road.

Clarification was offered here in that the Coastguard Road is currently in the prioritised RI list to be adopted as the 2015 RI Programme

MDL 81/15 LETTERKENNY PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

In answer to his question if the Council can confirm what is the current status of enforcement legal proceedings taken by the Environmental Protection Agency against Donegal County Council in relation to the Letterkenny PWS serving approximately 20,000 people and in that context can the Council confirm if Irish Water have confirmed to the Council when the necessary remedial works required to install all necessary treatment systems to prevent carcinogenic THMs formation and prevent contamination from Cryptosporidium will be carried out, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that

The legal proceedings taken by the Environmental Protection Agency against Donegal County Council and Irish Water in relation to the Letterkenny Public Water Supply was listed for hearing at the next sitting of the Letterkenny District Court on the 3rd of March 2015. The Council understands that Irish Water was prioritising the necessary works which would address the water quality issues through its capital investment programme. This also included plans for significant improvement/new works in the Letterkenny and surrounding area. It was understood that work was programmed to commence in 2016.

MDL 82/15 TRAFFIC LIGHTS – LETTERKENNY LYIT

In answer to his question if the Council can carry out a review of the Traffic Light system at the Letterkenny Institute of Technology to with a view to having the current problem with excessive filtering on the lights system remedied, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

Answer: The traffic lights at the LYIT are MOVA (Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Actuation) controlled, which means vehicle and pedestrian detectors will allow for constant assessment of demand to insure the most efficient operation of the lights. The Port Road had priority with a Green light to traffic when there is no demand from the side roads (accesses) or from pedestrians. Traffic flows on the Port Road at certain times of the day are high with some queuing inevitable. The traffic lights were installed to control the junction and assist pedestrian and cycle movements from the car park opposite the LYIT. The lights will not eliminate all queues during peak hour traffic but optimise the capacity within existing road constraints while facilitating safe turning manoeuvres and providing for pedestrians movements. The Traffic Lights are reviewed on an ongoing basis, and notwithstanding initial minor problems following the setting up of the traffic lights in 2014, current reports are that the Traffic Lights are functioning well.

MDL 83/15 GRITTING ROUTE

In answer to his question if the Council can furnish a copy of the usual gritting route map for Letterkenny in times of snowfall/ice and can the Council confirm if there are times when this route is extended and, if so, to where it is extended, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

The 21 'Road Gritting Maps' were available to the public on the Donegal County Council Web Site accessed through a link available on the Homepage. The web page also provided up to date information on the salting that was to occur that day. Under normal call out, the 'Priority 1 and 2' routes as indicated on the webpage were salted, at a rate deemed appropriate for the conditions. Depending on the prevailing weather conditions, a 'Duty Engineer' made a call on whether additional 'Priority 3' routes were to be salted, after Priority 1&2 Roads had been completed. A map of the 'Priority 3' routes was also available on the DCC web page.

MDL 84/15 BONAGEE LINK ROAD

In answer to his question if money was to come available for the new bridge for the Bonagee Link Road, is everything ready to go, Cllr J. Mc Daid was advised that;

Detailed design and CPO were all outstanding and could only progress if funding was available for their furtherance.

Cllr. J. Mc Daid asked that the Council progress on CPO etc and be ready to proceed once funding becomes available.

MDL 85/15 GLENSWILLY N.S.

In answer to his question if the Council can revisit the work carried out at Glenswilly N.S. the road narrows very sudden and still hasn't got the yellow line marking, Cllr. J. Mc Daid was advised that;

Road Lines have been programmed, but contractor postponed due to weather. It was anticipated that road markings would be completed over the next few weeks when weather permits.

MDL 86/15 TREE – OLD ABBEY KILMACRENNAN

In answer to his question, if the Council can confirm what their plans are for cutting down a tree at the Old Abbey in Kilmacrennan which was near to falling down on the last remaining wall of the Old Abbey, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

MDL were liaising with the National Monuments Service, in relation to what conservation works would be permitted on the Old Abbey wall which was currently in a hazardous condition. It was intended that any works to the tree would be carried out following that consultation. The tree was currently not 'near to falling down' and currently provides some wind protection to the Old Abbey Wall.

MDL 87/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The following meetings were agreed;

Roads Workshop and Schedule of Municipal Works to be held on Friday, 27th February, 2015 at 2pm in Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

Community & Enterprise Workshop (DFI) to be held on Tuesday, 10th March, 2015 at 10am in Milford Public Services Centre.

Reception of Deputation – Mulroy Tourism & Development Group – Tuesday, 10th March, 2015 at 1.30pm in Milford Public Services Centre.

It was agreed that the next meeting of Municipal District of Letterkenny would be held in Milford Public Services Centre on 10th March, 2015 at 2.00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

