

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY-MILFORD MEETING,  
HELD ON 14 JUNE 2022 AT 2:00 P.M.**

**MDL262/22 MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh (Mayor), Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, Cllr. Liam Blaney, Cllr. Kevin Bradley, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, Cllr. Donal Coyle, Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly, Cllr. Michael McBride, Cllr. Ian McGarvey

**MDL263/22 OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Liam Ward, Director of Service, Linda McCann, Senior Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services; Bernadine McGee, Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services; David McIlwaine, S.E.E. / Area Manager, Roads & Transportation; Geraldine Havlin, Executive Planner, Joe Ferry, A/Senior Executive Chemist, Francis Conaghan, Development Officer and Breid Neely, Information Systems

**MDL264/22 MEMBERS APOLOGIES**

Cllr. John O'Donnell

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh.

**MDL265/22 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey the Minutes of Meeting of the MD Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were adopted.

**MDL266/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting.

**MDL267/22 MORE ACCESS LANES FOR BERNARD MCGLINCHEY TOWN PARK**

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Kevin Bradley, the following motion was adopted:

***“That this Council look into upgrading and installing more access lanes into the Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Park to help link in all the existing and surrounding Housing Estates in the area please.”***

Members were advised that:

***“As part of the funding received from the NTA Active travel Schemes options for improving pedestrian and cycle links through the town are being assessed. One of the schemes currently being progressed is the improvement of the connections between Whitehorn Housing estate and Letterkenny Town Park.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly noted that he was happy with the response. He had been contacted by residents of the surrounding estates and requested that the current lane is improved and other access lanes put in place as this would increase use of the park and alleviate traffic congestion.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kevin Bradley stated that he was happy to second the motion which had been well summed up by Cllr. Kelly.

**MDL268/22 REPAIR/REPLACEMENT OF GLENCAR ROUNDABOUT**

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Kevin Bradley, the following motion was adopted:

***“That this Council address the Glencar Roundabout at the junction on Glencar road as it is nearly non existing at the minute and is becoming a real safety concern for road users.”***

Members were advised that:

***“The road markings at the Mini Roundabout at this location in addition to the Roads markings on other Mini Roundabouts around the town are included in the programme of works for the Road Markings Contractor. We are currently making arrangement to have these works carried out as soon as is practical.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly welcomed that the work is included in the programme of works, however, stated concerns regarding no visible markings at present and requested that measures are put in place to alleviate safety concerns prior to the rally weekend and until the improvements were carried out by the road markings contractor.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kevin Bradley stated that he was happy to second the motion noting that a temporary measure should be considered for this weekend.

David McIlwaine advised it was not feasible to have the work done before the weekend and acknowledged issues with road markings which would be resolved as part of the programme.

**MDL269/22 AREA AROUND RESERVOIR AND WATER PUMP AT ARD O'DONNELL**

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Kevin Bradley, the following motion was adopted:

**“That this Council engage with Irish Water to have the area around the reservoir and water pump at Ard O'Donnell tidied up and keep up to standard for all the residents and the community group in the area please.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“Maintenance works have been carried out at the location and a further review of the requirement for strimming sloped areas is being carried out. Approval from Irish Water is needed if works are deemed necessary.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly welcomed the response given and acknowledged the great work of the local Community Group. He advised it was agreed this work would be carried out last summer and asked that works would continue to be done to maintain this area.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kevin Bradley commended the Council on the work done and asked that the area be kept up to standard. He noted the work of the Community Group in the area.

**MDL270/22 WASTEWATER / SEWERAGE EXTENSION ALONG MILFORD ROAD FROM BRIDGEND TO ROUGHAN, RAMELTON**

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

**“That this Council ask Irish Water to provide a Wastewater/ Sewerage extension from Bridgend along Milford Road to Town Boundary at Roughan, Ramelton which is inside the Town Boundary.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“Donegal County Council has forwarded this Motion request to Irish Water.”***

On proposing this motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey stated that this had been raised before and noted that he was far from satisfied with the response as it did not say anything. Any correspondence he had received from Irish Water states that they operate in partnership with Donegal County Council and requested that Donegal County Council provide a response on what can be done.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Michael McBride noted that the Council can only refer queries to Irish Water and there were issues with sewerage in general, particularly, in smaller towns and villages with no treatment facility. He stated that It was a sad day when the Council lost control.

Liam Ward noted that Cllr. McGarvey was entitled to seek a response and acknowledged the Members frustration, however, advised that the Council

can do nothing other than pass on queries as the responsibility lies with Irish Water since it was established in line with the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water.

Cllr. McGarvey thanked Cllr. McBride for seconding his motion and Liam Ward for his response noting that it was not good enough and stating that the Council needed more authority. He asked if Irish Water could be required to provide a response under the Constitution.

Liam Ward noted that the motion had been seconded and agreed by the Members and was outside the control of the Council.

### **MDL271/22 ENGAGE WITH REGISTERED OWNERS OF DERELICT BUILDINGS**

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

**“That this Council exercise their powers within the Local Authority Act 2001 by engaging with the registered owners of derelict buildings to improve the appearance of these buildings.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The Government’s recent ‘Housing for All’ strategy has placed a new focus on this issue. This strategy will require a review of vacancy and dereliction across the county, accompanied by a list of where priority interventions, including potential CPO actions, may lie within the overarching aims of regeneration and provision of housing options. A high level examination of vacancy in the region has already been published by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly that will also inform the work of Council. A Vacant Homes Officer will be appointed to follow through with identified priorities.***

***Resources have also been applied to the preparation of focused baseline studies using the Town Centre Health Check approach, which is backed by the Heritage Council.***

***This and other strategies have been included in work which has been done in a number of towns, including Letterkenny, Ballyshannon, Bundoran, Donegal Town, Bunrana, Moville, Ramelton, Ballybofey/Stranorlar, Dungloe, Rathmullan and Carndonagh with further assessments planned during 2022.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey referred to a Bill before the Dáil in relation to vacant / derelict buildings and noted the poor condition of properties in Ramelton, Milford and Lower Main Street, Letterkenny and asked that the Council engage with the owners.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Michael McBride referred to the discussion at the recent workshop in the Aura Leisure Centre in relation to dereliction and asked that buildings were identified, and a programme put in place to make them safe or to bring them back into use.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh noted that there had been a long discussion on this at the Planning Workshop and at previous MD meetings.

Liam Ward acknowledged the number of motions that have been raised before in the Municipal District in relation to this. He noted that there had been a significant discussion at the Plenary Planning workshop on the County Development Plan review. The Council needs to be more aggressive on this issue using either the Derelict Sites legislation or CPO legislation to consider options available to meet current housing needs and provide accommodation options. He advised the work was resource intensive and that the Chief Executive advised that the issue would be considered in detail and respond to the Members.

Referring to the Bill before the Dáil Cllr. McGarvey noted that he was frustrated with the lack of progress on this matter and asked that the Council be more proactive.

Liam Ward noted that the Council must apply resources to this area of work and again referred to the strong representations made at the recent Planning workshop.

**MDL272/22 PROVISION OF OFF-STREET PARKING AREAS WITH CHARGING POINTS, LIGHTING AND CAMERA FACILITIES**

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

**“That this Council identify areas in Towns in our Municipal District for off street Parking with charging points that has Lighting and Camera facilities.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The ESB have constructed charging points at a number of locations within the MD. If this motion is passed, we will consult with Senior Management regarding possible methods of progressing this issue.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey stated that Donegal County Council and the Electricity Supply Board should provide parking areas where vehicles can pull in and charge. Locations for this should be identified.

David McIlwaine stated that the Council was working with Electric Ireland who were leading out on the delivery of charging points in relation to locations. An application process was in place and maps available on the ESB website for the public to find locations. Cllr. McGarvey asked for details on locations throughout the county and that the Council write to Electric Ireland in relation to proposed locations.

David advised that there was no programme in place at present and was not aware if funding was available and a discussion was needed on a countywide basis.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle noted that the issue had been outlined well. Information was needed on locations and charges. He asked that charging points were made available through the county in line with the Council's aim to increase tourism throughout the county. He noted that investment was needed to put the infrastructure in place.

Cllr. Michael McBride noted that employers had charging points for staff, such as An Craobhín in Termon and that these facilities could be extended to the general public in the evenings.

#### **MDL273/22 SAFETY MEASURES AT CRIEVESMITH**

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

**"That the Council look at safety measures as a matter of urgency at Crieve Smith in the vicinity of Meehan's home."**

***Members were advised that:***

***"An assessment of this location will be arranged, and we will consult with the Road Safety Engineer about the possibility of developing a safety scheme at this junction."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh asked that the Council contact the family to find a solution to ongoing accidents that have damaged their property and garden. He stated that they live in fear of the next accident and the damage that it may cause. There were 15 cars incidents at this location over 22 years. He thanked Brendan Walsh for putting up barriers. He asked that the Council liaise with the family want resolved in relation to issue with water.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Michael McBride supported the motion. He also asked that the Council remove the pole on the existing footpath works in this area as residents have contacted him regarding safety concerns.

David McIlwaine stated that he would meet with the family and that an application was with the ESB to have the pole removed.

**MDL274/22 DETERIORATION OF N14 AT MONDOOEY, MANORCUNNINGHAM**

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

**“That this Council urgently contact Transport Infra Structure Ireland regarding the serious deterioration of the N14 at Mondooley, Manorcunningham.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The TII have been notified about this section of the N14. The road is being assessed and prioritised for funding in accordance with the TII Pavement Management System. The following is the criteria that is used when prioritising sections of road for Maintenance Treatment.***

- ☐ Identify the overall need for pavement maintenance***
- ☐ Determine the level of funding needed***
- ☐ Select feasible funding options and strategies***
- ☐ Determine the impact of different options on condition and level of service***
- ☐ Develop the preferred funding option and strategy***
- ☐ Identify road lengths for maintenance under available funding***
- ☐ Define relative priority of road section lengths in the maintenance programme within available budgets***
- ☐ Identify suitable treatments”***

On proposing his motion Cllr. Donal Coyle stated that this was the third time in two years that he had raised the issue of this road. He advised that a lorry went off the road previously and the road had deteriorated further since then. He received two calls last Saturday about water lying on the road after heavy rain and asked when work would be carried out as the road is cracked and falling away with a serious drop below.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Liam Blaney supported the motion and noted the response.

**MDL275/22 RAISED TABLES TO REDUCE SPEEDING ON LECK ROAD**

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

**“That this Council install "Raised Tables" on the Leck Road as a matter of extreme urgency in order to reduce the excessive speeding that is constantly occurring on this road.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The Roads SPC are currently developing a policy for the use of a policy for the use of ramps /raised tables. We will carry out an assessment of this location in accordance with this policy. The erection of ramps or traffic calming measures will be dependent on the availability of funding.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Donal Coyle asked that raised tables were installed to reduce the current problem with excess speeding on this road, in particular, at Leck Graveyard, creche/Tinney’s Toys and residential properties. He noted there was a reluctance to provide ramps on rural roads, however there was a high volume of traffic which has increased due to work on the four-lane project. Speed checks were in place but were not effective.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Liam Blaney supported the motion and asked that the Council look at issue of speed on minor roads.

David McIlwaine advised that a policy was being developed by the Roads SPC, speed limit signs were erected and would look at the options available should funding become available.

#### **MDL276/22 REFRESH STREET FURNITURE IN THE MARKET SQUARE**

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

**“That this Council refresh the street furniture in the Market Square.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“Plans are significantly advanced to publish a Part 8 proposed development for the redevelopment of Market Square following on from the Architectural Competition for concept designs. This includes the complete transformation of the space to a visual pen and accessible public space and will also include proposals for replacement of existing street furniture. The project benefits from a level of funding secured via the URDF Provisional Allocation and subject to all statutory process, detailed design and confirmation of funding as the project refines, it is anticipated that works may commence before year end 2023.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Donal Coyle advised that the Tidy Town Committee had asked him to raise this issue. He noted the response and was aware of the plans for the Square and asked that in the interim the furniture



was repainted as the judging for Tidy Towns would take place soon. Letterkenny had a great record having won the National award in 2015 and had achieved the Gold Medal status last year.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Liam Blaney supported the motion.

David McIlwaine agreed to follow up on this matter and advised that the roads staff were working with the Tidy Towns Committee on the painting of street furniture on the Main Street.

**MDL277/22 RAMPS FOR ROAD IN FRONT OF WINDMILL VIEW TO DETER SPEEDING**

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

**“That we install Ramps on the road at the front of houses at Windmill View to deter speeding on the road and enhance pedestrian safety.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The Roads SPC are currently developing a policy for the use of a policy for the use of ramps /raised tables. We will carry out an assessment of this location in accordance with this policy. The erection of ramps or traffic calming measures will be dependent on the availability of funding.”***

On proposing this motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle asked that the Council install ramps on this road due to speeding. He noted future plans for development and asked that the existing traffic calming measures in other areas of this road as extended.

Cllr. McMonagle referred to a previous motion in relation to a security fence requested by Windmill View Residents on waste ground behind the estate and asked that this is put in place.

Cllr. McMonagle asked that the Council install traffic calming measures on New Line Road as requested by residents due to increased speed and two blind corners on the road.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh advised that the Residents of Lower Ard O’Donnell have requested that a ramp be installed on road leading to the Cathedral.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey noted that this was a problem familiar to many areas and there was a need to restrict speed and install appropriate signage.

David McIlwaine agreed to follow up on the matters raised.

Cllr. McMonagle asked when the new policy would be finalised and David advised that he would seek an update for Members as the policy was currently with the SPC. There were restrictions for regional roads and an issue with funding. Access for emergency services must also be considered.

Cllr. McMonagle noted that there were ramps and pedestrian crossings in towns and villages throughout the country but there was a resistance to these in Donegal. He noted that pedestrian crossings were recently installed Ballybofey and said that clearly defined crossing points were needed for this Municipal District. The current tram lines were not working as it is unclear who has right of way, pedestrians, or traffic. Proper zebra crossings were needed and that a policy was needed to ensure uniformity with other towns.

David advised that under NTA Active Travel funding there were eleven sites approved which should identify and resolve issues in these areas.

Cllr. McMonagle stated that ramps and crossing were in place elsewhere and Active Travel was not needed for them and suggested this was just a Donegal thing. David advised that it was the national standard.

Cllr. Kevin Bradley added his support to the motion noting that he had tried to submit a motion in relation to the road at Windyhall, however, it was after the time and he expressed his frustration that there was no flexibility on submissions.

#### **MDL278/22 NEED FOR PROVISION OF EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION**

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

**“That this Council discusses the urgent need for provision of Emergency Accommodation to meet the growing demand of those who find themselves homeless or in a vulnerable situation.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“Donegal County Council is aware of the need for additional Emergency Accommodation in the County and are proactively seeking to address this matter. A number of avenues to provided accommodation are being explored with Approved Housing Bodies, state agencies and the private sector at present.***

***Members will be kept advised accordingly and this specific item can be added to the agenda of future Housing Workshops so that it remains a priority body of work.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle welcomed the response that several avenues were being explored. He advised in detail the challenges that people that find themselves homeless are facing, lack of supply of housing, support from the Council of B&B vouchers, financial pressures in securing private rented accommodation due to high rents and deposits at present. He also noted that people were staying longer in the homeless hostel due to the lack of housing which reduces the service that the hostel provides.

Cllr. McMonagle asked that the Council invest in providing more emergency accommodation facilities and work with other agencies to support people in these circumstances including victims of domestic violence. He said this could be achieved dealing with the derelict and vacant properties in the town, for example, Gleneaney House and noted that there were 10,000 derelict units in Donegal, 4,500 of which were in Letterkenny, the majority of these were houses. Cllr. McMonagle requested that additional resources were allocated to the Letterkenny housing office and housing capital to deal with the extreme pressures and growing housing crisis in the area.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Michael McBride supported the motion and noted the potential of HSE building on St. Conal's Campus to accommodate people with mental health as a rehabilitation / transitional home facility and asked Cllr. McMonagle and Cllr. Brogan to raise this with the Saolta group.

Liam Ward advised that there were two specific needs for emergency accommodation, homeless and domestic violence. The response given set out the approach and a widened discussion was needed on vacancy and dereliction. He agreed that resources needed to be allocated and considerable work had been done on regeneration and a similar approach should be adopted and a programme put in place as a proactive response by the Council.

Cllr. McMonagle welcomed the comments adding that staff resources and funding were required for the provision of Vacant House Officer. He added that the Council was currently fire-fighting and staff were under pressure.

#### **MDL279/22 CHOICE BASED LETTING**

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

**“That Donegal County Council consider the policy of choice based letting to speed up the reletting of vacant County Council houses.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“Donegal County Council operate Choice Based Letting generally on properties which have had a number of refusals. When a property is designated for allocation under Choice Based Letting, notices advertising***

*the availability of the property and inviting applications are published the first week of any month in which a property is available.*

*Notices are advertised as follows:*

- At the headquarters office in Lifford*
- Online at [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie)*
- At each Public Service Centre*

*Consideration has been given to extending the CBL model recently by the Letterkenny Milford MD Area Manager but it is believed that the current model is the most appropriate approach given the challenges at the moment including high demand, increased homeless presentations and the defective blocks issue.*

*It is the Area Managers intention to keep this decision under review and consider further the CBL model as stock availability increases."*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Michael McBride acknowledged the response given and referred to an example of a dwelling where the tenant passed away. The dwelling had been maintained well by the tenant, but it was vacant for 8 months and said this was unacceptable. Cllr. McBride asked that a workshop was arranged prior to August to discuss the re-letting of vacant properties and the need to set re-letting targets within a three to four months period.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh supported the motion and noted that monthly meetings were taken up with housing issues and highlighted the volume of queries he receives in relation to housing issues throughout the county and described it as a perfect storm.

#### **MDL280/22 INTERVALS OF NEW TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN LETTERKENNY ON PEARSE ROAD**

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

**"That Donegal County Council revisit the intervals of the new traffic lights in Letterkenny as motorists are complaining of great tailbacks on the Pearse Road."**

**Members were advised that:**

***"The Justice Walsh Road is a strategic link which allows traffic to divert from the town centre and associated junctions, the installation of these lights facilitates traffic movements from the town along the Justice Walsh Road and reduces town centre congestion. Justice Walsh road has also been identified as having very poor pedestrian access at its junction with Pearse Road, the provision of these lights allows pedestrians to safely utilize the***

***urban area enhancing linkages to the town centre and the upgraded footpath to the south of the Pearse Road.***

***The installation of the lights was completed on the 30th of May and since then the testing period for the operation of the lights has been in progress. Between Monday the 13th of June until Wednesday the 15th of June the suppliers will be carrying out a validation of the lights and will optimise the phasing of the lights to ensure that they are operating as efficiently as possible.***

***The introduction of the signals at the junction and the improvement in safe use of the junction for both vehicular and pedestrian users will have an impact on the free flow of traffic on the Pearse Road but the optimisation of the lights will minimise the delay as far as possible.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Michael McBride advised that the lights on the Pearse Road were causing tailbacks from McGinley Motors to the Oldtown and welcomed that the company were back reviewing the timing as advised to him by David McIlwaine. He had received representations from taxi drivers and driving instructors.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kevin Bradley welcomed the installation of the lights but noted that the timing needs to be right.

Cllr. Donal Coyle noted that traffic exiting from Rosemount onto the Pearse Road were having difficulties and suggested that a yellow box might help this.

David McIlwaine advised that the suppliers were undertaking a process to test the lights and carrying out a validation process. A technician was on site and modifications were made and lights seem to be working more efficiently. The lights make it safer for traffic turning right and while there will be some delays at the start this should improve. He agreed to follow up on traffic issue at Rosemount.

## **MDL281/22   MAYORS BUSINESS**

### **281.1 IBAL Litter Survey**

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh noted that Letterkenny have moved up to second place on the IBAL Litter Survey. He offered his congratulations to the Tidy Towns Committee and Volunteers.

### **281.2 Reception for Letterkenny Cricket Team**

Cllr. Kavanagh advised that Cllr. McBride asked if the Reception for the Letterkenny Cricket Team could be organised soon as they will have to return the trophy they got. It was agreed that the Reception should be organised for Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July commencing at 7.00 p.m.

### **281.3 Recent Receptions**

Cllr. Kavanagh referred to the recent Receptions held for Martin Orr and Paddy Doherty and for Coláiste Ailigh. He thanked the Staff involved in organising the events.

### **281.4 Errigal College Blanket of Hope**

Cllr. Kavanagh attended the launch of Errigal College's Blanket of Hope on 12<sup>th</sup> May. The occasion was used to welcome the Ukrainian Community to the Town and Michael Murphy was the guest of honour.

### **281.5 Relay for Life**

Cllr. Kavanagh attended the countdown for Relay for Life along with Cllr. Coyle and Cllr. Bradley on 25<sup>th</sup> May. He noted that over €50,000 was raised during the event.

### **281.6 Official opening of astro turf pitch at Letterkenny Rovers FC**

Cllr. Kavanagh attended the official opening of the astro turf pitch at Letterkenny Rovers FC by Deputy Joe McHugh. Some of the other Members were also in attendance.

### **281.7 Open Day at St. Bernadette's School**

Cllr. Kavanagh attended the open day at St. Bernadette's School. He congratulated the Staff on what was a nice event.

### **281.8 Unveiling of Town Council Plaque**

Cllr. Kavanagh referred to the unveiling of the Plaque to acknowledge the former Chairpersons and Town Clerks of the Town Council which took place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The event was well attended with some former Chairpersons, Town Clerks and Town Council Staff attending. He congratulated Darren Nash on the design of the plaque.

### **281.9 Sod Turning for Linear Park**

Cllr. Kavanagh referred to the sod turning for the new linear park in Letterkenny which took place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

### **281.10 Trad Week**

Cllr. Kavanagh referred to Trad Week which took place recently. He attended a great concert by Altan in An Grianan Theatre.

### **281.11 Blues & Roots Festival 2022**

Cllr. Kavanagh thanked Cllr. Gerry McMonagle for deputising for him at the launch of the Blues & Roots Festival 2022. This is a big event which takes place at the end of June beginning of July.

### **281.12 Earagail Arts Festival**

Cllr. Kavanagh attended the launch of the Earagail Arts Festival on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June.

**MDL282/22 CORRESPONDENCE**

**282.1 Lónra Leitir Ceanainn – Bernard McGlinchey Town Park**

Linda McCann advised that correspondence has been received from Lónra Leitir Ceanainn requesting permission to use the Bernard McGlinchey Town Park on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October for Féile an Fhómhair.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, seconded by Cllr. Donal Coyle the use of the Park was approved.

**282.2 Response from An Garda Síochána**

Linda updated the Members in relation to correspondence sent to An Garda Síochána following motion from Cllr. John O'Donnell at the April Municipal District meeting in relation to retention of status of Milford Headquarters. Correspondence had been forwarded to the Chief Superintendent for response which would be circulated to the Members when received.

**MDL283/22 PLANNING SERVICE**

The contents of the Planning report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

Geraldine Havlin advised that Central Planning have requested a date for workshop with the Members early in July to discuss Casual Trading Byelaws. Date proposed was Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July. It was noted that the Planning SPC are due to meet that day. It was suggested that the workshop be held in the morning of Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July commencing at 11 a.m. Geraldine will advise Central Planning.

Geraldine referred to report from Building Control updating Members on number of Commencement notices received. The report also includes details on what must be submitted for Opt-out Commencement notices. The Building Control team can request further information where required.

Geraldine advised that a resolution is before the Members seeking their approval to complete the Taking in Charge for The Steeples, Ramelton.

On the proposal of Cllr. Ian McGarvey and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney the creation of a public right of way and the taking in charge of the estate at The Steeples, Ramelton was adopted.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey advised that Ramelton has been shortlisted for a National Award under the RIAI Public Choice Award 2022 and advised that voting is available online.

**MDL284/22 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

The contents of the Roads report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

**284.1 2022 Restoration Maintenance & Improvement Programmes**

David McIlwaine advised that a progress report has been provided in the monthly report.

**284.2 Restoration Improvement and Maintenance Projects to be completed in 2022**

David advised that an update has been provided in relation to what projects can be completed with the funding allocated.

**284.3 Carrigart Bridge Widening and Strengthening Project**

An update is provided in the report.

**284.4 Southern Network Project and Cathedral on-way system**

Updates are provided on both projects.

**284.5 Staff Changes in Roads**

David advised that Michael McFadden has moved to a new position as Senior Executive Engineer in Inishowen area. Donal Murphy will replace Michael from 27<sup>th</sup> June. He thanked Michael for all the work he has done as both Town Engineer and Executive Engineer in this area.

The Members all expressed their thanks to Michael for the work done in this area. It was noted that he has been in the area a long time, has a vast experience and was always helpful. They congratulated him on his new appointment and wished him well in his new post.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh asked if a letter could be sent to Michael McFadden thanking him for his time in this Municipal District.

Liam Ward added his thanks to Michael noting that he had worked closely with him over the years. A letter can be sent to him expressing the thanks of the Members and congratulating him on his new post.

The Members raised the following items: -

- Cllr. Michael McBride asked if the Main Street in Letterkenny would be closed during the Rally as there were rumours that this would happen. If there is no truth in this then the public need to be made aware of this.
- Cllr. Gerry McMonagle referred to meeting held in relation to the Rally between Donegal County Council, An Garda Síochána, Representatives from the Rally Committee, Diffing Committee and the Chamber of Commerce where the need to ensure a safe rally was discussed and a strategy adopted. The Town would remain open with locals and businesses needs respected. There may be a necessity from time to



time to close off roads for safety reasons. A massive crowd is expected to attend, and it is hoped that everyone can enjoy the rally and be safe. The Gardaí oversee traffic and may need to close off roads to free up traffic at times.

- Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh noted that there were no plans to close off the Town.
- Cllr. McMonagle referred to shortfall in money for Restoration Programme asking if a request has been made for the shortfall and whether any response has been received.
- Cllr. Donal Coyle also asked if an application has been made for extra funding and noted that any projects not completed would need to be prioritised for next year.
- Cllr. Liam Blaney referred to funding for CLÁR noting that prices for work has increased. Work on a car park under the programme has only been two thirds completed. An effort should be made to get extra funding.
- Cllr. Ciaran Brogan advised that there are holes in the footpath on the new one-way system and asked that this be looked at.
- Cllr. Brogan wished everyone good luck in the Rally and noted that Cllr. Bradley would be competing.
- Cllr. Ian McGarvey asked if any consideration has been given to the traffic in Ramelton. Lorries are having difficulty turning left. This is an accident waiting to happen.
- Cllr. McGarvey asked if National Representatives are aware of the shortfall in funding for projects.

David McIlwaine responded as follow: -

- David confirmed that no official road closures are planned for the Town during the Rally, but the Gardaí have the right to do so as required. He advised that right turn off to the Cullion Road will not be allowed to assist with traffic flow.
- David advised that approaches have been made to the Department in relation to additional funding for the Restoration programme. No confirmation or indication of funding has been made to date but if this changes he will advise the Members.
- David advised that additional CLÁR funding will be sought. It is essential to get this funding this year as there are changes to the programme next year.
- Liam Ward advised the shortfall in funding has been raised with the National Representatives.
- David advised that he will be meeting with the Members to prioritise and agree the programme for 2023.
- In relation to traffic in Ramelton, David advised that there is Part 8 Planning in process for a one way further up in the town. The junction has been looked at. The Rural Regeneration Programme must be considered first as this could impact any potential works. Both would need to be considered together.

## **MDL285/22 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES**

The contents of the Housing and Corporate Services report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

The Members raised the following items: -

- Cllr. Gerry McMonagle asked what is happening with houses in Fairgreen Hill that are affected by MICA. He referred to allocation of €20,000 for the green area noting that nothing has happened yet. He also asked what is happening with the safety barrier following a recent tragedy. The wall on the right-hand side has collapsed and there is a bow in part of it.
- Cllr. McMonagle asked when the purchase of homes will start up again and can the houses be tested.
- Cllr. Ian McGarvey noted that there is a need for more Housing and asked if there has been any progress with the scheme for Ramelton.

Linda McCann agreed to follow up on the matters raised and respond to the Members.

## **MDL286/22 ENVIRONMENT**

The contents of the Environment report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

### **286.1 Half Price on Bulky Goods**

Joe Ferry referred to update in the report in relation to the Half Price on Bulky Goods event which is taking place.

### **286.2 Beaches**

Joe advised that there are updates in the report in relation to Beaches.

### **286.3 Water Safety**

There is an article in the report on Water Safety – Summer Programme.

### **286.4 Flood Relief Schemes**

There is an update on Flood Relief Schemes included in the report.

The Members raised the following items: -

- Cllr. Ian McGarvey asked when the Ramelton Flood Relief Scheme would commence.
- Cllr. Gerry McMonagle asked if there were any figures available on the uptake of the Bulky Goods event.
- Cllr. Donal Coyle added his congratulation to Martin Roarty for the erection of no dumping signs at Magheraboy.

Joe Ferry responded as follows: -

- Joe advised that update on the Ramelton Flood Relief Scheme is in the report.
- Joe advised that information would be provided later in relation to the Bulky Goods event.

## **MDL287/22 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, I.S. & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The contents of the Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

### **287.1 Remote Working Holiday Campaign**

Breid Neely advised that there have been over 100 sign-ups to date for this campaign.

### **287.2 Caravan, Camping, Campervan and Motorhome Facilities Grant Scheme**

Breid advised that Phase 2 of this scheme is now open with minimum grants of €5,000 and maximum grants of €20,000. Closing date for applications is 30<sup>th</sup> June.

### **287.3 Irish Legends Festival of Golf**

Breid advised that “A Donegal Festival of Golf” will be held on the grounds of the GAA pitch in Rosapenna on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> August. There will be live music during the festival from Nathan Carter and The Mooneys.

The Members raised the following items: -

- Cllr. Gerry McMonagle referred to an email he had received in relation to the Caravan and Camping Grant and welcomed the scheme. It will be a great benefit to the County and asked that something be done to speed up the process. Owners should be made to feel more welcome and consideration should be given to height restrictions, no overnight parking signs, and no furniture signs.
- Cllr. Liam Blaney welcomed the Caravan, Camping and Campervan Information event for encouraging existing and new sites to include spaces. He had discussed this with a site owner, and they don't see why they should be regulated as this may not work. There is a feeling that site owners are being targeted and they are annoyed about it. Residents want regulations as items are being left behind by users. More discussions are needed on this. Park owners won't spend a huge amount of money on sites if users won't come. There are sites made available by the Council but there are no sewerage facilities provided. This will be difficult to enforce or police. Users feel they should be able to park where they want.
- In relation to the Irish Legends Tour Cllr. Blaney noted that there is an opportunity to make this an excellent even. He noted the work that has been done by Donegal County Council and noted that a civic event

will be held in honour of Paul McGinley. This event will bring visitors to the area with the magnificent golf courses available.

- Cllr. Ciaran Brogan also noted that the Freedom of the County was being extended to Paul McGinley to recognise what he has done for County Donegal. A lot has been invested in the area and this is a huge opportunity to benefit from this. This is a positive event starting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August and he congratulated the Council on the work done.

Breid Neely advised that she would relay the comments made to the various units.

### **MDL288/22 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

The contents of the Community Development Division report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

#### **288.1 Town & Village Renewal 2022**

Francis Conaghan advised that the scheme is open for applications with a closing date of Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **288.2 Rural Programme**

Francis advised that updates will be provided at the Workshop on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **288.3 Sweet Factory Playground**

Works are completed and the playground will be open to the public later today.

#### **288.4 Digital Hub – gteic@Carraig Airt**

Francis advised of potential date for official opening of the hub on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July.

The Members made the following comments: -

- Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh welcomed the news that the Playground would be open from 5.00 p.m. today.
- Cllr. Liam Blaney welcomed the news re. the opening of the digital hub in Carrigart.
- Cllr. Blaney acknowledged the work done on the streetscape in Milford in partnership with the Resource Centre. A masterplan is now needed for the town.
- Cllr. Blaney noted that a lot of work has been done in relation to the submission under the 2022 Outdoor and Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme and thanked those involved.
- Cllr. Blaney noted that the car park and path to the Great Arch have been completed. He thanked everyone involved noting that there is a great view from the path.

Francis Conaghan advised that he would pass on the comments.

## QUESTIONS

### **MDL289/22 UPDATE ON EXTENSION OF FOOTPATH FROM KERNANS SHOP TO AURA LEISURE CENTRE AND O'DONNELL PARK**

In answer to his question requesting an update on any progress made regarding extending the footpath from Kernan's shop out by the Aura / O'Donnell Park on the opposite side of the road to the existing footpath, Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly was advised:

*"The NTA have allocated €250,000 as part of the Active Travel funding for the development of 11 Active Travel Schemes in Letterkenny Town. The link between Kernan's Shop and the Ballymacool Roundabout are one of the schemes being considered as part of the process.*

*Road Design have compiled a tender for the appointment of a consultant to carry out the progression of the project in accordance with the National Transport Authority (NTA) Project Approval Guidelines. The NTA have now approved this brief to allow a Consultant to be procured. Procurement of the Consultant is ongoing and it is hoped that this process will be concluded by the end of July 2022. Subject to the appointment of the consultant, work will likely commence of the topographic survey and the development of options in Q3 2022."*

### **MDL290/22 UPDATE ON SIGNAGE REQUESTED FOR DIFFERENT LOCATIONS**

In answer to his question requesting an update regarding signage that was to be erected at different locations within the Municipal District regarding different motions he had passed as they seem to be a long time coming, Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly was advised:

*"The Area Roads Team are currently fully involved in completing the Restoration Improvement and Maintenance Programmes. When these works are an advanced stage the erection of the signage referred to will be carried out."*

### **MDL291/22 ROAD SAFETY MARKINGS OUTSIDE ALL ROADSIDE NATIONAL SCHOOLS**

In answer to his will Roads check the Road safety Markings outside all Roadside N.S. for safety reasons, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

*"Signages with flashing lights are erected on the approaches to National Schools on public roads. The need for road markings and the type of road Markings is assessed on a case by case basis."*

**MDL292/22 LIST OF ALL HISTORICAL AND OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST IN THIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

In answer to his question will the Heritage Section of Council make a list of all Historical & other items of interest associated with our Towns and Villages in our Municipal District to everyone, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

*“There is a wealth of heritage and historical sites, items, places, objects and archives associated with our towns and villages in the Letterkenny-Milford Municipal District. Sources of information on this heritage and history is contained in a variety of national and local repositories. The Donegal County Museum houses a substantial collection of artefacts relating to the history and heritage of County Donegal ([www.donegalcoco.ie/culture/museum](http://www.donegalcoco.ie/culture/museum)). The Donegal County Archives preserves and makes accessible a variety of public and private archives relating to the history, heritage and culture of the county ([www.donegalcoco.ie/culture/archives](http://www.donegalcoco.ie/culture/archives)). The Central Library maintains a collection of books and sources of information on the history and heritage of the county in its Donegal Studies collection ([www.donegallibrary.ie](http://www.donegallibrary.ie)). As part of the County Donegal Heritage Plan, the County Donegal Heritage Office has commissioned countywide surveys of selected aspects of our built, archaeological, cultural and natural heritage that may include information on towns and villages ([www.donegalcoco.ie/culture/heritage](http://www.donegalcoco.ie/culture/heritage)). An example of specific information held would include:*

*Ramelton Audio Heritage Tour brochure:*

<https://www.donegalcoco.ie/media/donegalcountyc/heritage/pdfs/RameltonAudioHeritageTourBrochure.pdf>

*Ramelton Audio Heritage Tour audio guide:*

<https://www.donegalcoco.ie/culture/heritage/RameltonAudio/RameltonFinalVersion.mp3>

*Ramelton Heritage Town brochure:*

<https://www.donegalcoco.ie/media/donegalcountyc/heritage/pdfs/RameltonHeritageTownBrochure.pdf>

*Further details of the information held in these local repositories on aspects of history and heritage of towns and villages in the Letterkenny-Milford Municipal District are available by contacting these Donegal County Council services directly or by investigating their on-line or in-house databases.*

*National sources of information on the heritage and history of towns and villages in the Letterkenny-Milford Municipal District that may prove useful include:*

☐ *Record of Monuments & Places (maintained by the National Monuments Service) that lists and maps the archaeological monuments of the area:*

[www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)

<http://webqis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>

☐ *National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (maintained by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage) that lists and maps aspects of the built heritage of the area:*

[www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie)

<http://webqis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>

☐ *Record of Protected Structures for County Donegal (maintained by the Conservation Office, Donegal County Council) that lists and maps architectural heritage protected under the Planning & Development Act in the area:*

<http://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/conservation/>

☐ *Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas, National Parks, Ramsar Sites, Nature Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries (maintained by the National Parks & Wildlife Service) that lists and maps areas of natural heritage interest in the area:*

[www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)

☐ *Manuscript Collection, Schools' Folklore Collection & Photographic Collection (maintained by the National Folklore Collection, UCD) that has information on history and settlements in the area:*

[www.duchas.ie](http://www.duchas.ie)

☐ *Census of Ireland 1901 & 1911 (maintained by the National Archives) that provides information on former residents and historic buildings in the area:*

[www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie) ”

**MDL293/22 POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CORN MILL AND SALMON POOL, GREENSIDE, RAMELTON**

In answer to his question does the vacant Corn mill and Salmon Pool, Greenside, Ramelton present any interest for development, jointly or otherwise, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

*“The vacant corn mill and Salmon pool at Greenside Ramelton can be investigated with the permission of the land owner(s) to assess the development potential of the site from both an economic or tourism perspective.”*

**MDL294/22 FLOODING OF BACK GARDENS IN FAIRWAYS ESTATE**

In answer to his question requesting an update on his previous motion regarding flooding of back gardens in Fairways estate, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

*“The Roads Area Team have carried out drainage works at this location to ensure that none of the water from the public road runs on to private property and is diverted into the drainage system. The remaining drainage issues are due to ground conditions on private property.”*

**MDL295/22    REMEDIAL WORK ON THE BRIDGE AT ARDIGANNY**

In answer to his question when does the Council intend to carry out the essential remedial works on the bridge at Ardiganny, Cllr. Donal Coyle, was advised:

*“There is currently no funding available to carry out improvement works to the Ardiganny Bridge. We will arrange to have a condition inspection carried out on the bridge. Works on the Carrygally Bridge are due to commence in the next few weeks.”*

**MDL296/22    REPLACEMENT OF LIGHTS AT ENTRANCE TO TARA COURT**

In answer to his question asking when will the lights at entrance to Tara Court (which have not been operable for two months) be replaced, Cllr. Donal Coyle was advised:

*“We are liaising with Airtricity Utility Supplies regarding arranging the repairs to these lights. The repairs to these lights are delayed due to an underground duct being damaged. We are programming works to get the remedial works done on these lights as soon as possible.”*

**MDL297/22    UPDATE ON ROAD SAFETY REVIEW AT CARRIGART**

In answer to his question requesting an update on the Road Safety review at Carrigart and what steps are being proposed to meet the requests of the local community, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

*“Traffic Counts and speed surveys have been carried out on the relevant section of Carrigart Main Street and the School/Church. An assessment of these results is currently being progressed. In addition to this an application for NTA Active funding is currently being prepared to improve the pedestrian linkages between the Main Street and the School/Church.”*

**MDL298/22    PAINTING OF WINDMILL VIEW HOUSES**

In answer to his question when will the painting of Windmill View Houses begin, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:



*“The majority of Windmill View estate is complete.*

*A small number of houses are outstanding which have already been prepped with cracks filled and power washing complete.*

*The Painting contractor has given an undertaking to commence Monday 13th June and complete painting works within a month.”*

**MDL299/22 FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR AGENCIES IN DONEGAL SUPPORTING RESETTLEMENT OF UKRAINE PEOPLE**

In answer to his question what financial supports have been put in place to support the agencies in Donegal that are supporting the resettlement of the Ukraine people in Donegal, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised:

*“The Community Response Forum, which is chaired by Donegal County Council, was set up to co-ordinate the response to the Ukraine crisis across the various agencies. A number of agencies are supporting the families who are living in the County but the Council is not aware of exact details of any funding being provided to the various agencies in this support role.”*

**MDL300/22 CONTACT DETAILS FOR PARTIES / AGENCIES DEALING WITH REHOUSING OF UKRAINE PEOPLE**

In answer to his question requesting the complete list of direct contact details for all parties and agencies who deal with rehousing the Ukraine people in Donegal, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised:

*“The agencies who deal with rehousing people affected by the Ukraine humanitarian crisis are as follows:*

*Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Block 1, Miesian Plaza, 50 - 58 Lower Baggot Street, DO2 XW14. T: 01 6473000 or E: [contact@equality.gov.ie](mailto:contact@equality.gov.ie)*

*International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) - [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie)*

*The Irish Red Cross, 16 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, D02 XF85. T: 01 6424600. W: [www.redcross.ie](http://www.redcross.ie)”*

**MDL301/22 APPLICATION UNDER ORIS FOR FUNDING OF PATHWAY FROM CARRIGART TO DOWNINGS**

In answer to his question requesting an update on his proposal to make an application under ORIS for funding for the Pathway from Carrigart to Downings, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

*“Two applications were made for funding to develop the Carrigart to Downings pedestrian link, to the Department Rural and Community Development under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2022 on 25th May.*

*A measure two application for €200,000 and a measure three application for €500,000 have been submitted.”*

**MDL302/22    DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in a venue to be confirmed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator