

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY-MILFORD MEETING,  
HELD ON 14 APRIL 2022 AT 10:00 A.M.**

**MDL172/22 MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh (Mayor), Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, Cllr. Liam Blaney, Cllr. Donal Coyle, Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly, Cllr. Michael McBride, Cllr. Ian McGarvey and Cllr. John O'Donnell

**MDL173/22 MEMBERS APOLOGIES**

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and Cllr. Kevin Bradley

**MDL174/22 OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Liam Ward, Director of Service, Eamonn Brown, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services; Bernadine McGee, Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services; David McIlwaine, S.E.E. / Area Manager, Roads & Transportation; Joe Ferry, A/Senior Executive Chemist, Francis Conaghan, Development Officer, Rosita Mahony, Senior Economic Development Officer

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh.

**MDL175/22 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Coyle and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle the Minutes of Meeting of the MD Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were adopted.

**MDL176/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

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

**MDL177/22 EMERGENCY MOTION**

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh advised that he had received an Emergency Motion from Cllr. Ian McGarvey and that it had been signed by 4 other Members. The Members unanimously agreed that the following Motion should be included:

**“That this M.D. discuss the Housing crisis as an emergency to arrive at the position where a Planned programme can be agreed to alleviate the housing deficit in this M.D.”**

It was agreed that the Motion would be discussed after Item No. 17.

**MDL178/22 LETTER TO GARDA COMMISSIONER RE. MILFORD HEADQUARTERS**

On the proposal of Cllr. John O'Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

**“Calling on this Council to write to the Garda Commissioner and seek clarity that when Letterkenny becomes a Gaeltacht district that Milford still retains to be a distinct headquarters like it currently is at present.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“If the motion is approved by Members the Executive will write to the Garda Commissioner to seek clarification on the matter.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. John O’Donnell noted that he was seeking clarity as this had been brought to his attention. He welcomed the response given that the Council would write to the Garda Commissioner.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle noted that Letterkenny being made a Gaeltacht district is in line with current policy and is in recognition of Gardaí in the Town. To his knowledge the areas are to remain the same.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey noted that the Milford district extends to Falcarragh. He welcomed the motion stating that Milford should retain its status.

**MDL179/22    REPLACE SEWER LINE IN RATHMULLAN**

On the proposal of Cllr. John O’Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

**“Calling on this Council to replace the sewer line that discharges into the sea in Rathmullan as a matter of urgency.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“In the event that this motion is adopted by Letterkenny Milford Municipal District Committee, Donegal County Council will forward this submission to Irish Water (IW), and request that IW respond directly to Councillor O’Donnell with their response and copy it to the other Elected Members of Letterkenny Milford Municipal District. Any response received by the Council will be passed on to Councillor O’Donnell.”***

***There are a number of avenues available to the Elected Members to raise queries/ questions with Irish Water which include:***

***- Use of the dedicated Local Representative telephone number, 0818 178 178.***

***- IW has also provided a dedicated Local Representative Support Service email, [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie).”***

On proposing his motion Cllr. John O'Donnell noted that he had raised this at the last M.D. meeting. Loads of representations have been made to Irish Water and to Council Staff in relation to this. The pipe is still leaking with raw sewage leaking onto the beach and into the sea. It is six months since this was first raised. He noted that he had contacted a Senior figure in Irish Water in relation to an issue in Kilmacrennan and it took that phone call to get it resolved. The Easter weekend is approaching and there will be tourists about with this pipe still discharging.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey noted that this had been raised before and the pipe is continuously breaking and noted that it is leaking upstream.

Cllr. Liam Blaney noted that the breakage reported six months ago had been repaired prior to Christmas. This is a new breakage and he acknowledged that the work had been done by Council Staff. He supported the call for the pipe to be replaced.

Cllr. O'Donnell welcomed the support from the other Members agreeing that the pipe needs to be replaced in the long term.

#### **MDL180/22 PARK WARDENS FOR SUMMER SEASON**

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

**“That the Council again look at providing Park wardens during the busy Summer season.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The Town Parks currently have a compliment of maintenance staff working within the parks during normal working hours, a private security firm has been appointed to monitor the park during out of hours.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh referred to two recent incidents in the Town Park where young lads and a man were attacked. The Park is a popular amenity and is widely used. There is a lot happening in the Park with the new adventure area and The Vestry plans. There are concerns that the Park is not safe to visit. Letterkenny is a large town and has the issues that arise in the larger towns. A new fund was announced by Minister McEntee called the Community Safety Innovation Fund. This fund is being provided for improvement of community safety and to tackle crime/reduce fears of crime. Grants are available until 8<sup>th</sup> June. The Council should look at making an application for funding on a pilot basis. Noting the response given, Cllr. Kavanagh stated that the incidents are happening between 5pm and 8pm when there is no one there. Someone with authority is needed in

the parks between those hours. Issues elsewhere in the country have highlighted this need.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle noted that these issues have been raised with the Garda Commissioner and the Minister of Finance. There is a fund for crime initiatives which can be applied for through the JPC. In Derry City the Community Policing Board have employed wardens to patrol estates who are in uniform. They engage with the young people to prevent crime. Funding should be sought through the JPC.

Cllr. Kavanagh asked if this would be possible.

David McIlwaine advised that he would follow up and see what opportunities there are for funding for this.

Liam Ward added that Francis Conaghan could work with David on this.

**MDL181/22 CLEAR VEGETATION FROM TOP OF OLD RAILWAY BRIDGE AT UPPER CORKEY**

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

**“That the Council clear the trees, ivy, vegetation etc., growing from the top of the old railway bridge at Upper Corkey, to prevent it from collapsing.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“These works have been added to the Roads Area Team works programme and signage that is required has been ordered.”***

On proposing this motion Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh advised that there is a tree growing on top of the bridge. This is an old railway bridge and is in danger of collapsing. He welcomed the response given and asked for a timeline when this work would be done.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Donal Coyle stated that he knows the bridge well. The roots of the tree growing through the bridge has left it in danger of collapse.

**MDL182/22 ACADEMY COURT, LETTERKENNY**

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

**“That the Council take in charge Academy Court in Letterkenny.”**

Members were advised that:

***“The taking in charge process, for residential estates, is carried out under Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts which allows the Planning Authority to initiate the procedures under Section 11 of the Roads Act to make a Declaration of a Public Road.***

***Where a development for which planning permission was granted includes the construction of 2 or more houses with new roads, open spaces, car parks etc and it has been completed in compliance with its planning permission, an application needs to be submitted by either the person who completed the development or the majority of the owners of the houses involved before the Council can consider taking it in charge.***

***Where it is proposed to declare a road to be a public road, the Council needs to be satisfied that the road is of general public utility, consider the financial implications of any proposed declaration and consider any objections or representations that may be submitted following the publication of public notices giving notice of the intention to make the declaration.***

***Where the planning authority is not the water services authority it shall not take in charge any sewers, watermains or service connections but shall request the relevant water services authority to do so.***

***The Council’s Taking in Charge policy sets out the rules and procedures for the Taking in Charge of estates and clarifies that the estate must be occupied on a full time basis and shall not be a scheme of holiday houses, special housing or a gated development.***

***In order for the Council to give consideration to the Taking in Charge of Academy Court as a residential estate, an application would need to be submitted from the developer or from the majority of the owners of the houses involved.***

***To date, the Council have not received any application in relation to Academy Court.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh stated that he knows the procedure noting that this estate is in existence since the 1980s and has never been taken in charge and has no public lighting. He accepts the response given noting that a group of residents want the estate taken in charge. He will revert to them in relation to the procedure.

Liam Ward advised that he had spoken to Paddy Mullen in relation to this noting that the request must be from more than 50% of the residents.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey queried the procedure asking if this is not the responsibility of the Council.

Liam Ward advised that current policy is that the Developer should suggest/pursue the takeover. In the absence of a Developer it is up to the residents to make the request.

Cllr. John O'Donnell stated that it is great that this motion has been raised. He advised that since the last M.D. meeting Paddy has met with a new Developer and provided him with all the documents he requires for the new development to ensure it is ready for takeover when completed. It is important to ensure all work is done beforehand. He paid tribute to the Council for now having a team in place to deal with this.

Cllr. Kavanagh agreed with Cllr. O'Donnell's statement.

**MDL183/22 RIGHT HAND TURNING LANES BETWEEN ROUNDABOUT AT MOUNTAIN TOP AND ILLISTRIN**

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

***"That Donegal County Council ask the TII to carry out a traffic survey on the N56 between the roundabout at the Mountain Top and Ellistrin with a view to installing right hand turn lanes at strategic points in the interest of health and safety."***

**Members were advised that:**

***"In respect to this issue it will be referred to the Road Safety Engineer for review. They will report back on the need and scope of a potential HD 17 Site then all options will be considered to deal with the specific Safety Issue identified."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Michael McBride advised that he had been approached by residents on the right-hand side of the road who must cross two lanes to access their properties. The road from Kilmacrennan to Letterkenny has heavy traffic and is particularly busy on holiday weekends. The road needs to be reviewed to provide turning lanes. Further out the road there are right hand turning lanes making it safer for residents to turn in off the road. The TII should be asked to review this. There should be a roundabout at Illistrin School as there are over 500 pupils in the school.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle agreed that a survey is needed. There are other road users turning right at Curraghleas. The whole road should be surveyed from the Mountain Top to Illistrin School. The junction is staggered and dangerous.

Cllr. McBride noted that he was happy with the response given. The cycle lane there is being used a lot and it is important to make the road safer for everyone.

**MDL184/22 EXTEND FOOTPATH FROM CALLAGHANS BAR TO THE WOOD GATE IN CHURCHILL**

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

**“That Donegal County Council work in conjunction with the local development group in Churchill with a view to extending the footpath from Callaghan’s Bar to the wood gate so they can tie in with Coillte and the trails they are prepared to allow the local community to use for recreational purposes.”**

***Members were advised that:***

***“This can be considered for prioritising as part of the 22/23 Footpath & Public Lighting programme.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Michael McBride advised that the Local Development Group have liaised with Coillte in relation to use of their trails and Coillte have given permission for the use of their trails and paths. There are focal points along the trails looking out over Gartan and trails leading to the Chapel and the Centre. A path about 300 yards long is needed to progress this.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Liam Blaney noted the good work done in the Community adding that it is essential this path is put in place as there would be a lot of people who would use it.

**MDL185/22 UPGRADE BONAGEE LANE**

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

**“That Donegal County Council support the business community on the Bonagee lane by upgrading the lane as it has fallen into a state of disrepair in recent times.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“There is currently no budget available to carry out these upgrading works. It can be considered for inclusion in future Road works programmes.***

***Improvement works on this road have been condition on future proposed developments.”***

On proposing his motion Cllr. Michael McBride stated that the road is in a state of disrepair and is in one of the main commercial areas in Letterkenny. There are a variety of businesses there including the sewage treatment plant, Tinneys Oil etc. The ratepayers in that area are getting nothing back. He noted that the entrance to the lane may change with current roadworks but the lane itself will remain the same. This road needs to be included on the programme and upgraded as it is in an important area.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Donal Coyle noted that there are a lot of businesses in this location and also Bonagee Football Club are there. The road is in bad shape and needs to be upgraded.

### **MDL186/22 DUMPING ON MAGHERABOY HILL**

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

**“That this Council erect signs and install cameras on Magheraboy Hill where there is persistent and serious dumping of rubbish along the road.”**

Members were advised that:

***“The Litter Warden for the Letterkenny Milford MD has been in contact with Cllr. Coyle on a number of occasions on this matter.***

***The Environment team is aware of the dumping and has agreed that signage will be installed in the area in the next few weeks.***

#### ***On other matters***

***- Bring Banks are to be installed at the Craoibhin Centre, Termon in the coming days. A promotion of the site will then take place in the next few weeks.***

***- A large number of Community and Tidy Towns Groups have been actively engaged in Clean Ups in their areas throughout the MD in recent weeks and the Litter Team are providing support in this work.***

***The Litter Team also attended the Letterkenny Cleaner Community Campaign launch on the 12th April 2022.***

***Donegal County Council would like to thank the members of the public who report littering or illegal dumping and encourage any member of the public who has information regarding any instance of unauthorised waste activity to call 074 9153900 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday Thursday and 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM on Friday. Outside of the Council's office hours or where a member of the public may wish to report an issue directly to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), they can make a report to the national environmental complaints line on 1800 365 123 or via the EPA's "See it? Say it?" smart phone App. These services operate on a 24-hour basis. Donegal County Council is committed to thoroughly investigating all reports received.***

***It is also extremely important to recognise and thank the 5,500 volunteers in community groups and Tidy Towns Committees who work tirelessly in collaboration with the Council in our journey to ensuring that Donegal is the cleanest and greenest county in Ireland."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Donal Coyle advised that he had received a phone call from an irate resident about 10-15 plastic shopping bags of rubbish that had been dumped in the area that were being attacked by birds and dogs. The resident had lifted bags before but wouldn't this time. Cllr. Coyle complimented Martin Roarty and his team on the final clean up of the rubbish, some of which had been cleared by someone else. He also acknowledged the great work being done by local groups, volunteers, and Tidy Town committees. Martin Roarty had advised that signs would be erected but Cllr. Coyle asked that CCTV be installed as there is persistent dumping in this area and CCTV is one of the most effective tools to prevent this. A new Bill is being considered to allow the use of CCTV footage for prosecution of offences and this would allow Local Authorities to use it for this purpose. Cllr. Coyle asked that this be done as a pilot in this area to stop the dumping.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Liam Blaney noted that this is a problem all over especially in scenic areas. He asked that Members be kept informed of the successes with using CCTV.

**MDL187/22 REPAIRS TO FOOTPATHS OUTSIDE HOUSES NOS. 70 TO 73 BALLYRAINE PARK**

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

***"That this Council implement immediate repairs to the footpaths outside houses nos. 70 to 73 Ballyraine Park."***

Members were advised that:

***“Arrangements are being made to carry out emergency repairs to this location. This footpath will be considered for inclusion in the draft priority list for the 2022 Footpath & Public Lighting programme.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Donal Coyle advised that residents had brought this to his attention. The paving is broken and there is a deep hole in a section of the path that needs immediate attention. There are trees growing on the path on the other side and the roots of the trees are interfering with the paving. There is a through road to Orchard Grove there and the path is being used by residents of that estate too. He noted that he was happy with the response given stating that a new footpath is required.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Liam Blaney advised that he was happy to support the motion.

#### **MDL188/22 FEASIBILITY OF A DIGITAL HUB IN MANORCUNNINGHAM**

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

***“That this Council explore the feasibility of a digital hub in the village of Manorcunningham.”***

Members were advised that:

***“Donegal County Council’s Remote Working for Business Strategy has identified the importance of the availability of remote working spaces across the county and the Council’s Economic Development Team currently supports community based groups around the county who have developed remote working spaces or digital hubs. The Economic Development Team is happy to engage with groups interested in developing such a facility in Manorcunningham and encourages anyone interested to email: [economicdevelopment@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:economicdevelopment@donegalcoco.ie) .***

***Funding for such a facility may also be available under the Town and Village Programme administered by Community Development Division or the Rural Regeneration Development Fund under the auspices of the Councils Regeneration and Development Team.”***

On proposing this motion Cllr. Donal Coyle welcomed the response given noting that there are several vacant buildings on the Main Street some of which would be ideal for a digital hub. He asked what help would be available if there were people interested in this as the property would need renovation. This would be a boost to the village. Remote working is happening a lot not and this would keep people in the area.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Liam Blaney agreed with what Cllr. Coyle had said, stating that this is an excellent proposal.

Liam Ward advised that the response had been provided by the Economic Development team. He agreed with the response noting that for small towns/villages a local group is needed to support such a facility. Rosita Mahony advised that the group can engage with the Economic Development team who can provide advice and guidance. In relation to the renovation of a vacant building there he advised that there is potential to apply for funding under the Town and Village programme. There must be a group available to manage the facility into the future.

Cllr. Coyle asked if funding would be available to purchase a vacant building for this purpose.

Liam Ward advised that there are other examples such as the digital hub in Carrigart where the Council took ownership and it has now been developed and completed.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle noted that there is an interested Group there and he will follow up with them.

**MDL189/22 SAFETY RAILING BETWEEN OATFIELD TERRACE AND MUCKISH AVENUE**

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

**“That we request our Road Section to erect a Safety Railing along the footpath between Oatfield Terrace and Muckish Avenue to give protection to pedestrians using the footpath along this busy stretch of the Circular Road.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The Circular Road is one of the locations under consideration as part of the NTA Active travel funding for developing Active Travel Schemes in Letterkenny Town. The Active Travel team in Road Design will be requested to consider this issue as part of this process.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle noted the response given that this will be considered under the Active Travel programme. There is a huge volume of traffic in this area and this stretch of the footpath has no safety rail. The path has become broken up with traffic turning right exiting the hospital even though they are not allowed to. There are multiple junctions at this location with the potential for someone to get hurt.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh agreed that this is a dangerous section of the pathway. This should be considered as a priority.

David McIlwaine advised that he would look at this in more detail and noted that there is a crossing at this location.

David McIlwaine advised that a solution will be sought. The process is in motion and a consultant has been appointed.

Cllr. McMonagle noted that there have been minor accidents there that have not been reported.

**MDL190/22 VACANT HOUSES AT FAIRGREEN PARK**

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

**“That this Council moves as a matter of urgency and safety to secure the two vacant and abandoned houses at Fairgreen Park which have been a site for anti-social behaviour and vandalism for a number of years now and that we investigate the possibility of buying these houses with a view to returning them to provide Social Housing in the area.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“Donegal County Council will inspect these properties and consider if they meet the Department’s criteria for the acquisition of properties for Social Housing as set out in the Housing Circular 20/2021.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle noted that the two vacant houses are subject to anti-social behaviour. They were previously revamped to four apartments. They had been occupied, were abandoned and are now being vandalised. The fire brigade is called there regularly. They are being used as a den and this is a nightmare for residents.

Cllr. McMonagle stated that the properties should be acquired and put back to use as social housing to take people off the waiting list. There is a need to stop places being available for congregation to protect the locals. The vacant sites legislation should be used if there is no money to buy the properties. The Council need to find a mechanism to acquire them. The owner is doing nothing.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh added that this is a common problem in the town. There is an opportunity now to look at these properties with the MICA crisis and Refugees needing accommodation.

Cllr. McMonagle noted the response given and that the Council may not consider the properties because of the state they are in.

Eamonn Brown advised that he had spoken to Cllr. McMonagle in relation to the properties and had paid a site visit. There is issue over the ownership of the properties. They had not been offered under expression of interest call. He has spoken to the Housing Construction Section in relation to a mechanism to acquire the properties and they are liaising with the Department on this. This would be a good pilot project and he will revert to the Members when feedback has been received.

Cllr. McMonagle thanked Eamonn for his response. A solution needs to be identified and focus should be on protecting the young people there.

**MDL191/22 LANEWAY AT BACK OF FR. ARNOLD TERRACE, MANORCUNNINGHAM**

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

***“That our Housing Section look at widening the laneway at the back of the houses at Fr Arnold Terrace, Manorcunningham to enable Service vehicles to access the back of the houses on this street.”***

**Members were advised that:**

***“The Roads and Housing Section are currently reviewing back lanes in the MD and assessing the works needed and costs associated with same.***

***Once completed a report will be brought to Members with a view to prioritising works in line with the available budget.”***

On proposing this motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle noted that oil and bin lorries use the lane, access is limited, and a turning area is needed for them. Otherwise deliveries are being made through the houses. There is a banking area behind that could be used to widen the lane. The work should be costed and added to the list for funding under the programme.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Donal Coyle agreed that there is scope there to do the work and would be a great help to the residents.

David McIlwaine advised that he would be arranging a workshop with the Members to agree how the Housing estate money will be allocated this year. The Public Lights and Footpaths allocation from Roads Central is awaited.

Cllr. McMonagle noted that there is an area in Manorcunningham where there is a gap in lights. There are a couple of poles there that could be used, and two lights may solve the problem.

David McIlwaine advised that he will look at this under the draft programme.

**MDL192/22 FOOTPATH-CYCLE WAY FOR CARRIGART TO DOWNINGS**

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

**“That this Municipal District supports my Proposal for Donegal County Council to make an application under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme [ORIS] Measure 3 [500,000 Euro] for the Carrigart to Downings Footpath-Cycle Way.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The Council are currently assessing reviewing proposed projects for inclusion submission to the DRCD in relation to the Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2022 and in this regard the proposed footpath / cycleway between Carrigart and Downings is being considered for an application for funding subject to it meeting the eligibility criteria required as outlined by the Scheme Outline.”***

On proposing this motion Cllr. Liam Blaney stated that this footpath/cycleway has been talked about for years by both past and present Members. He thanked the Council for planning having been put through but noted that no funding is available yet for the project. This would be an ideal candidate for funding under Measure 3 and he noted that there will be demands from the whole County. For a project this size the only option for funding for the project would be under this Measure. He’s not sure if the application meets the criteria but noted that Letterkenny-Milford M.D. are due money from this Measure. Tourism is being promoted in the area and a path needs to be put in place.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey stated that it is a nice area to walk and a path would be important for locals as well as tourists. This should be investigated fully, and the Members advised of the outcome.

Liam Ward thanked Cllr. Blaney for his motion and confirmed that this project is being considered for funding in 2022. The closing date for applications is 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> May. The challenge is that this funding may not be sufficient but this it is being looked at. He acknowledged the work of the Roads Department to get planning permission for the project as this is always an obstacle which can delay a project. This is subject to landowner agreement.

Cllr. Blaney thanked Liam Ward for his comments noting that it is being considered with other projects.

**MDL193/22 LAUNCHING SLIPWAY AT MEEVAGH**

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

**“That Donegal County Council develop a launching slipway at Meevagh alongside the proposed Pontoon that would enable the Coastguard in particular launch from their base here.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The piers and Harbours section are available to meet with the Irish Coast Guard and others to discuss the requirements and feasibility of providing further infrastructure at Meevagh.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Liam Blaney stated that a slipway would be beneficial to the Coastguard who have 29 volunteers but no suitable launching slipway and currently rely on a commercial slipway there. Leisure boats would also benefit from a facility. They are currently dependent on the goodwill of the boatyard and it can be busy at times with large boats there. Sometimes there is no way they can launch from there. He met with the Marine Engineer there and he agreed with him that a slipway is needed. A visit could be arranged for the Members to see the status for themselves. Some work has been done there and a pontoon has been allocated. The Coastguard can launch from Downings pier but at busy times the roads are jammed with tourists. A launch area is needed for them.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey stated that he assumed that there was a launching area there. This needs to be looked at seriously and facilitated in the interests of safety.

Cllr. John O’Donnell added his support to the motion and to previous motion submitted by Cllr. Blaney on funding for footpath/cycleway from Carrigart to Downings. He noted that he had met Cathal Sweeney there 7 years ago. The Coastguard are very busy there and their station is located beside it.

Cllr. Blaney thanked the Members for their support. He noted that after next year there would be no funding available from Brexit. It would be important to apply for funding now in the second tranche of Brexit funding.

**MDL194/22 EMERGENCY MOTION**

The following emergency motion was proposed by Cllr. Ian McGarvey:

**“That this M.D. discuss the Housing crisis as an emergency to arrive at the position where a Planned programme can be agreed to alleviate the housing deficit in this M.D.”**

On proposing the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey stated that a planned programme is required to deal with the current Housing crisis. He referred to number of housing applications, projected number of houses to be provided and projected increase in population for the Letterkenny-Milford M.D. This is an emergency and the Council are currently playing catch up. A discussion needs to be held on the needs for this Municipal District with the Chief Executive, Directors, and the Planning service. Contractors should also be involved in these discussions. The Council need to talk to the national Representatives about the Council’s projections.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle supported the motion stating that there is a serious housing shortage and no will or way to resolve it currently. Outside of the Council the various Ministers are saying the current Housing plan is the best plan and will eradicate the problems. Figures are only getting worse and MICA is affecting this. The Refugees from Ukraine are currently being housed in hotels, but houses will be needed for them. In relation to the vacant houses currently on the Housing report he asked how many of them have been offered and how many are awaiting repairs noting that the length of time to relet these houses is unbelievable. There are people on the waiting list living in overcrowded conditions and need bigger houses. This is a serious problem with a lack of investment and a lack of developers providing houses and this is leading to a ‘perfect storm’.

Liam Ward referred to the motion which is wide ranging and accepted that this is an urgent situation. The challenges have been outlined and all relevant parties should be brought together to discuss this. He noted the Members frustrations. He noted that Planning play a key part in removing obstacles. In reviewing the local area plan lands need to be designated and the capacity to deliver the needs over the period of the plan need to be looked at. Finance also needs to be looked at with a lack of development of private housing schemes in this Municipal District as this area is not as active as other areas such as Donegal Town where there is a lot happening. The situation is leading to a ‘perfect storm’ with existing demands, MICA, obligations to Refugees and rising costs. He referred to a previous Motion from the Mayor on derelict properties noting that a pilot project is needed. A vacant homes officer is to be appointed by the Council and he is currently working with the Director of Housing on this. A starting point is needed as there are too many unknowns.

Eamonn Brown acknowledged the comments made. He noted that the Members are very vocal on what is required to meet the needs. The Council are currently transitioning to the Housing for All plan and have submitted their plan to the Department. Work is ongoing on this. Meetings of Area Teams has restarted with their first meeting in February. All services are involved, and

they are looking at any lands proposed for development. Comments are then relayed back to Housing Construction. The team are meeting again in May. The Housing workshops will continue, and this will give the Members an opportunity to interact with John and the Housing Construction team.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh noted that workshops are planned, and he thanked Eamonn for his responses.

Cllr. McGarvey thanked Liam and Eamonn and Cllr. McMonagle for their comments. A policy needs to be agreed between everyone. He asked if funding can be got from the Department.

Liam Ward advised that the construction process requires approval at every stage of provision of houses.

## **MDL195/22   MAYORS BUSINESS**

### **195.1 Youthreach Coffee Morning**

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh advised that he had attended the Youthreach coffee morning on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March with funds going to the Irish Motor Neuron Disease Association and Pieta House.

### **195.2 Rathmullan Tidy Towns & Cleaner Coasts**

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March Cllr. Kavanagh attended an event organised by the group. Cllr. Donal Coyle and Cllr. Ian McGarvey also attended. Presentations were made by Suzanne Bogan and in relation to SEAI grants.

### **195.3 Letterkenny Credit Union**

Cllr. Kavanagh recently attended Letterkenny Credit Unions 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations.

### **195.4 Visit to Rudolstadt**

Cllr. Kavanagh advised that he had visited Rudolstadt along with Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and Eamonn Brown from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March. He acknowledged the great reception they got there adding that they had been treated well. A busy schedule had been prepared for them including visits to other cities. Two local National Schools were also represented on the visit. The St. Patrick's Festival have several thousand attendees every night, mostly Germans with Irish music being played. There is a great opportunity to develop this link which would boost tourism here. There are fifty people visiting here from Rudolstadt at the end of September for four days. A programme should be put together for them to match the hospitality they provided for this visit.

### **195.5 Letterkenny Tidy Towns Cleaner Community Campaign**

Cllr. Kavanagh attended the launch of the Letterkenny Tidy Towns Cleaner Community Campaign on 12<sup>th</sup> April. Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly also attended. It is an ambitious plan and he wants to acknowledge the work they do keeping Letterkenny at the top for years now. They want to work with Donegal County Council as they need help on some issues. This is a great voluntary effort.

### **195.6 Climb Errigal Event**

Cllr. Kavanagh attended the Climb Errigal Event on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly also attended. Cllr. Kavanagh congratulated Cllr. Ciaran Brogan on organizing the event which was very successful.

### **195.7 St. Eunan's College National Title Win**

Cllr. Kavanagh congratulated St. Eunan's College on their recent success winning a National Title. He asked that a letter of congratulations be sent to them from the Members.

### **195.8 Mayors' Receptions**

Cllr. Kavanagh asked that arrangements be made to organise agreed receptions. The first one would be for the Entertainment sector and the two people it should be for are Martin Orr and Patrick Doherty (Letterkenny Pantomime Society). Proposed date for this of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Receptions could then be arranged every two weeks. Other Receptions proposed were by Cllr. Michael McBride for the Letterkenny Cricket Club, Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly for Paddy McShane (leave until next term), Cllr. Ciaran Brogan for Susan McCauley. The Reception for Coláiste Ailigh's 21<sup>st</sup> celebrations could possibly be held on 9<sup>th</sup> May. A Reception was also proposed for those who participated in the Olympics.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle asked that a Reception be held for the All Ireland winning team from St. Eunan's College.

Cllr. McMonagle referring to the visit to Rudolstadt noted that they had been well received, and the hospitality shown to them was second to none. There was a fantastic music festival there, the biggest in Germany. The German people turned out in their thousands in all their greenery. Donegal TV are interested in going out there and look forward to talking to the group when they are here in September. Donegal News were there and had a piece in the paper about the visit. This has been one of the better twinning agreements and he looks forward to the visit in September.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey noted that he had received great hospitality when he had visited there previously. The twinning is important for both education and tourism. He hopes that a proper schedule will be put in place for September. It is important going forward to have alliances in Europe.

Cllr. Michael McBride noted that the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Letterkenny had been an outstanding success this year. Cllr. Donal Coyle had spoke well on behalf of the Mayor. A letter should be sent to the Groups who organised it, Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce, etc. There was a great turnout.

Cllr. Kavanagh noted that he had seen the photos in the paper.

Eamonn Brown concurred with what had been said about the visit to Rudolstadt. They were treated well and with respect. There was a full programme of events which showed the tourism potential and was important for building relations and strengthening links. There was great attention to detail during the visit. It would be important to return the hospitality/welcome to the group of fifty who will visit in September. A meeting was held with the Chief Executive and Liam Ward to ensure this happens and that a calendar of events is organised. A committee has been put in place. He noted that the signed agreement took Pride of Place there. He looks forward to the visit and a good programme of events being in place for the group.

## **MDL196/22 CORRESPONDENCE**

### **196.1 Conwal Church – Easter Trail Event**

Eamonn Brown advised that correspondence had been received from Conwal Church seeking permission to hold an Easter Trail event in Ballymacool Park on 10<sup>th</sup> April last. Request was received too late for the last M.D. meeting.

### **196.2 Fun Day in the Park – Scoil Mhuire gan Smál**

Eamonn advised that correspondence has been received from Scoil Mhuire gan Smál seeking permission to hold a Fun Day in the Bernard McGlinchey Town Park on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle this was approved.

### **196.3 Party in the Park – Donegal Youth Service**

Eamonn advised that correspondence had been received from Donegal Youth Service seeking permission to host their annual event in the Bernard McGlinchey Town Park on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, seconded by Cllr. Donal Coyle this was agreed.

### **196.4 Request for meeting with OPW**

Liam Ward advised that an email had been sent on behalf of the Municipal District on foot of the request from the Members for a meeting in preparation for the local area plan. Concerns in relation to Letterkenny had been referred to in the letter. Liam read the letter of response which he received from Conor Galvin of the OPW. Liam has responded to the letter that the M.D. would like

to take him up on the offer and referred to the Minister's request that Maurice Buckley, Chairman of the OPW, would meet with the Members in relation to future progression of flood relief schemes. It is hoped that both these meetings could be held at the one time. Liam advised that he would follow up on a date for the meeting(s) after the 19<sup>th</sup> April and would revert to the Members.

### **MDL197/22 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 raised concerns about Housing grant levels as the cost of material have increased and contractors are reluctant to take on work. The grant levels need to be increased. A lot of the applicants are on disability and have low incomes and unable to fund the difference.
- Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh agreed that a letter should be sent to the Department in relation to grant levels.
- Cllr. Michael McBride referred to a recent application for replacement of a roof on a house. He was impressed with the speed at which the application was processed but the grant offer was less than €3000. Houses will fall into disrepair. Grant levels need to be looked at. He will contact Housing in relation to this case.
- Cllr. McBride referred to the need for temporary accommodation for people affected by MICA and for the Ukrainian Refugees. The Chairman of An Craoibhín, Termon was contacted in relation to use of the sports hall there as there are no houses in the area. There is no accommodation available for when people must move out of their homes. He has received calls from someone who has a site available for temporary accommodation. Finance is needed to provide modular homes on the site. Sites should be looked at to see what work is required rather than wait several months
- Cllr. Liam Blaney supported Cllr. McBride's comments and asked if the Council has issued a call for sites to be provided.
- Cllr. Blaney noted that the last call for land for turnkeys was in 2017 and only one has been provided in the last five years. Applicants have been approved for HAP but there are no houses available to rent.
- In relation to the apartments at Cnoc Ard Cllr. Blaney noted the hold up because of tiles off the roof and asked if the buildings had been passed by an Engineer. He also asked if results of MICA tests in that estate and in any other acquisitions could be given to the Members. He also what properties in this M.D. have been tested.
- Cllr. Ian McGarvey asked what the figures for this Local Authority are under Housing for All.

- Cllr. McMonagle asked if a strategy for rehousing tenants of social housing affected by MICA is in place. People are living in houses that are not fit and unsafe and detrimental to health. He referred to a text message he had received about a family with a sick child adding that it is currently warmer outside the house than it is in. He is constantly receiving text messages. A strategy is needed as it is taking too long to find them houses.
- Cllr. McBride asked that a letter be sent to the Minister in relation to sites offered advising that there are no surplus houses and asking that exemptions be made.

Eamonn Brown responded as follows: -

- Eamonn advised that various representations have been made in relation to grant levels. An email has been received from the Minister's Private Secretary advising that a review of limits and income thresholds is under way. It is hoped that new levels will be announced in coming months. Currently the grant levels are Mobility Aids €6,000, Housing Aid for Older People €8,000, and Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability €30,000. He will forward a copy of the email to the Members.
- In relation to query from Cllr. McGarvey, Liam Ward advised that all Local Authorities must submit plans under the programme.
- Eamonn advised that the Council target is to provide 879 units from 2022-2026. The target is set as a minimum and can be exceeded. Increased staff resources are being put in place. Local Area Team meetings have recommenced, and staff will work closely with the Members to see what can be achieved.
- Liam Ward agreed that there is an urgent need for sites for temporary accommodation for people affected by MICA and for the Ukrainian Refugees. Sites are being investigated however there are issues around providing modular homes in terms of planning and building control. Emergency powers are needed, and regulations need to be set aside. The Department are considering this but there has been no response so far. He added that the Council would be interested to hear of sites that can be made available.
- Eamon advised that a meeting was held with the developer in relation to the Milford turnkey units and they should be ready in six weeks' time. There is currently snagging to be done.
- In relation to the properties under long term lease, discussions have been had with the owner and they are close to agreeing terms. The agreements are national agreements and cannot be modified. In this case they are looking to extend the agreement and he is hopeful this will be agreed in coming weeks.
- The apartments at Cnoc Ard are within the defects period and the contractor will be carrying out the repairs. They are currently waiting on materials to be brought over from England. This is being managed by Housing Construction.

- MICA testing is being done through Housing Construction and an update will be requested from them and a request that the information provided is extended.
- Liam Ward advised that a structure is in place in the County for the Ukrainian Refugee status similar to the forum for Covid. It will focus on the Refugees and involves all statutory agencies.
- Liam advised that he had met with Chief Executive, the Director and others and a letter will be sent to the Department referring to the challenges here because of MICA. This will include the need for temporary accommodation. Letters have issued to owners of properties that could be adapted on a short-term basis.

## **MDL198/22 ENVIRONMENT**

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

### **198.1 Notices on local radio stations**

Joe Ferry referred to information in the report from the Lab in relation to notices that would be running on local radio stations in relation to use of pesticides as evidence of them have been found in drinking water.

### **198.2 Effluent Licences**

Joe referred to article in report about the requirement to have a licence for discharge of effluent.

### **198.3 Septic Tank Inspections**

Joe advised that there is an item in the report in relation to septic tank inspections and reasons for failure.

### **198.4 New Build & Rebuild 2022 Exhibition**

Joe advised that the Lab team had a stand at the exhibition which had been very successful with a lot of interest shown in new structures.

### **198.5 Beach Lifeguard Course**

Joe referred to item in report in relation to a Beach Lifeguard Certificate Course which is being held in Ballyshannon from 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> April. This could lead to a good employment opportunity.

Cllr. Liam Blaney stated that he wished to acknowledge the work of the 5,500 volunteers who are out lifting litter at this time of year. He also acknowledged the Council's role in collection of bags of rubbish.

Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly stated that he also wished to thank the volunteers. There was a community clean up in Glenswilly/Churchill recently and it was a great success with equipment provided by the Council.

## **MDL199/22 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.

### **199.1 Alpha Innovation Centre**

Rosita referred to the Alpha Innovation Centre which has recently received Part 8 approval at a special meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February. This centre is part of the ongoing regeneration plans for Letterkenny town centre.

### **199.2 Remote Working**

A remote working holiday campaign is to be launched at the end of April with the intention of encouraging visitors to come to Donegal to work and offering free passes to help to promote awareness and usage of Donegal's network of digital hubs.

### **199.3 March Business Event – Boston**

The annual Boston St. Patrick's Breakfast took place recently and was attended by Donegal County Council Members and Officials. This is an opportunity for businesses to showcase what they offer and to get a flavour of the Donegal investment supports.

### **199.4 London Business Breakfast**

The Donegal Business Breakfast was held on 18<sup>th</sup> March in Islington. Cllr. Ciaran Brogan attended and it was co hosted with the Mayor of Islington, Troy Gallagher. The important role played by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was acknowledged.

### **199.5 Golf Campaign**

A digital golf campaign ran from 25<sup>th</sup> February over a five-week period promoting Donegal as a world-class golf destination targeting Irish and UK markets.

### **199.6 Ireland in Music**

The TV show Ireland In Music will be broadcast on Easter Monday with acts and locations in Donegal included.

### **199.7 North West City Region Marketing Campaign**

This is a joint marketing campaign with Derry City and Strabane District Council which commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April with the aim of encouraging staycations locally.

The Members raised the following items: -

- Cllr. Gerry McMonagle asked if there was any update in relation to his previous query regarding recruitment for the Emergency Services. He also asked if details could be provided in relation to the types of callout, how many there were, the charges applied and how many sent out/paid/not paid.

- Cllr. Liam Blaney asked if there was any update to his motion that a weeklong festival be held for the Legends tour in August.
- Cllr. Michael McBride referred to the Digital Hub in An Craoibhín, Termon which was launched recently. He thanked Annette McGrenra and Mary Clyde for their work on this project. The five hot desks are already in use. This is a great asset to the area, and he would encourage any community to go ahead. The group in Termon would be happy to help other areas in any way they can. Multi agencies are involved and he acknowledged the role of Donegal County Council in this.
- Cllr. Kavanagh advised that the Mayor of Islington, Troy Gallagher may visit here later in the year and may possibly meet with the Members.

Rosita Mahony responded as follows: -

- She will bring Cllr. McMonagle's query to her colleagues in the Fire Service for response.
- She will relay Cllr. Blaney's query to the Tourism unit for follow up.
- She acknowledged the comments by Cllr. McBride

## **MDL200/22 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

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

### **200.1 Donegal Youth Council**

Francis advised that the Youth Council were unable to attend the meeting today due to school holidays. A time can be agreed for them to attend the May meeting.

### **200.2 Rural Programme Workshop**

It was agreed that a workshop on the Rural Programme would be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May commencing at 11.00 a.m.

### **200.3 Community Activities Fund**

Letters will issue to successful applicants.

### **200.4 Swilly Ferry**

Liam Ward referred to query from Cllr. Liam Blaney in relation to the ferry service as contract had ended. Tenders were invited in March and are currently being evaluated. The successful applicant should be appointed in May with the service commencing in June

Cllr. Blaney asked if the contract could be for a minimum of five years to allow the provider the opportunity to promote the service. This could lead to a decrease in the Council's contributions. He also asked if the period of operation could be extended to Easter for future years.

Liam Ward advised that he is not sure the length of the contract advertised on the tender. The Greencastle Magilligan ferry service works outside the contract periods at their own cost. This could be looked at for the Swilly Ferry.

## **MDL201/22 PLANNING SERVICE**

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

Liam Ward advised that Elaine McEntee had sent her apologies for not attending. The planning files are a priority with two short weeks.

### **201.1 Regeneration Strategy**

Liam reminded the Members that Sinead McCauley has organised a Regeneration Strategy workshop for Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April commencing at 2 p.m. The Consultants will be in attendance.

### **201.2 Letterkenny Local Area Plan**

Further to the correspondence from the OPW a workshop is to be held on the plan on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May commencing at 10 a.m. in the Chamber. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss the Plenary meeting decisions and how they feed into the next period of reporting.

### **201.3 Meeting with OPW**

Dates for meeting will be brought to the Members for consideration.

The Members commented as follows:

- Cllr. Michael McBride referred to the Bracken Lea estate at Mountain Top that applied to be taken over seven or eight years ago. The Council sent correspondence to the residents in relation to the programme of work that needed to be done. The contractor has completed the works, but the takeover has not progressed. The Senior Planner was happy with the work done.
- Cllr. Liam Blaney advised that at the recent LAMA Conference they were advised that Minister Dara O'Brien would be sending a letter to the Chief Executives within the next two weeks in relation to County Development Plans stating that lands zoned for housing with planning permission and services are not to be de-zoned. Cllr. Donal Coyle also attended the conference.

Liam Ward responded to the queries as follows: -

- He advised that the Council would await the letter from the Minister in relation to the County Development Plan.
- He will ask Paddy Mullen to follow up on query from Cllr. McBride in relation to takeover of Bracken Lea.

## **MDL202/22 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

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

### **202.1 2022 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations**

The Grant Allocations were announced by the Department on 15<sup>th</sup> February. An appendix is attached with the distribution of the funding over the area.

### **202.2 2022 Local Improvement Scheme**

The Department announced an allocation of €11 million nationally on 5<sup>th</sup> April. An allocation of €716,560 has been made to Donegal. The allocation for Letterkenny-Milford last year was €211,000. Submissions must be made by 6<sup>th</sup> May. A workshop will be held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April online commencing at 10 a.m. to agree the list. A draft list will be sent out to the Members in advance.

### **202.3 TII notification – N56 Doonwell to Drumbrick Road Scheme**

The project is for a stretch of road approximately 1.2kms in length north of Kilmacrennan. A Public Consultation will be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April at the Lagoon in Termon. Interested parties are encouraged to attend.

The Members raised the following items: -

- Cllr. Donal Coyle noted that LIS funding is allocated on a countywide basis. He asked how many eligible applications there are and the cost of them. With an allocation of €716,560 it will take years to complete them. Is it worth the hassle? Further funding should be acquired if available.
- Cllr. Coyle referred to previous motion in relation to the road from Manor Roundabout to Lifford. A lorry had gone off the road at Mondooey and the barrier/cones that were there initially are now gone. Repairs are needed at this location as there is a steep drop from the road. The TII should be contacted in relation to having work done on this.
- Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly referred to calls for the crash barrier at Rahan Road in the Oldtown to be fixed and extended if possible.
- Cllr. Gerry McMonagle referred to the increase in cost of materials which will put pressure on work to be done.
- Cllr. McMonagle referred to Letterkenny Gaels who recently celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They need help with repairs to the access road to their grounds and clubhouse. They have not received any support to date. The road is approx. 1km long and is through farmland. Is there any grant available for a more permanent job or could they be assisted with materials? There are a lot of people using the grounds.
- Cllr. Liam Blaney supported the comments re paltry funding for Local Improvement Schemes. It is hardly worth the effort, but extra funding has been received in previous years.

- Cllr. Blaney referred to proposed works on the N56. It's approx. fifteen years since part of the road was done and this section has been awaited since. It would be important to get this information out to the public on what is happening.
- Cllr. Blaney noted the subsidy from the rural areas to the Town under the Roads budget allocation.
- Cllr. Ian McGarvey referring to marginal roads awaiting LIS funding stated the materials should be given to people to fill the holes from tractors as they are used by a lot of people. A special case should be made for additional LIS funding.
- Cllr. Michael McBride noting the dramatic cost increase of materials asked how the agreed Roads Programme would be affected. Will the distance to be done be reduced or will some projects be deferred?
- In relation to the Local Improvement Scheme, Cllr. McBride noted that the allocation is not near enough, and a letter should be sent to the Department showing the number of roads that need to be done and how much money would be needed. More roads are being added each year than are being done.
- Cllr. McBride referring to the avenue in Gartan noted that all the LIS funding would be needed to do it. It could possibly be done in phases. It is one of the most used walkways in the Municipal District. There are a lot of problems with overgrown vegetation and the surface almost impassable. The road is used for a lot of activities
- Cllr. McBride advised that he had spoken to Brendan Walsh last week about the Kilmacrennan to Trentagh Road. The side of the road had been filled last year but has subsided again. There is a 10ft drop at the side of the road. The road may require traffic lights to allow single lane traffic only in the interests of safety in the short term. Cllr. Blaney added his support to this request.

David McIlwaine responded as follow: -

- He agreed that the LIS allocation does not meet the demand. There are between 350 and 400 applications in the M.D. He raises this regularly with Roads Central.
- The Manor to Lifford road has been raised with the TII in relation to road safety. He will revert to Members in relation to funding.
- He will look at the crash barrier on the Rahan Road. There is no specific funding for crash barriers, and they must be covered out of maintenance money which is a restricted resource. This will continue to be an issue.
- The cost of materials is having a big impact with 30% increase in cost of works. He plans to discuss this with the Members at the LIS Workshop and decide on how to approach this. The recommendation would be to reduce the number of schemes and then if extra money is received the list could be completed. There may be some exceptions where the routes can be shortened.

- There is an application by Letterkenny Gaels for LIS funding which will be before the Members for consideration. He is not aware of any other funding they could avail of.
- The works previously done on the N56 was in 2006/2008. There was a request at that time to extend the works.
- He advised Cllr. McGarvey that the only funding available for other roads is LIS. There may be funding available under recreational programmes.
- David advised that he would raise the issue of additional funding for LIS projects with the Divisional Manager. The funding is allocated from the Department of Rural Affairs.
- The avenue at Gartan was raised before. The money is allocated on a countywide basis and it is up to the Members to decide at the workshop as to how it is allocated in this area.
- He noted that the Kilmacrennan to Trentagh road is not in a good condition. An attempt to get funding was made last year. He will look at safety measures and revert to the Members.

## QUESTIONS

### **MDL203/22 FOOTPATHS IN ASHLAWN**

In answer to his question has Donegal County Council carried out any work on the footpaths in Ashlawn on foot of a previous motion I brought before Council, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised:

“There is currently no funding available. This will be considered for prioritising as part of the 22/23 Footpath & Public Lighting programme.”

### **MDL204/22 SIGNS AT BYRNES BAR**

In answer to his question when can we expect the concealed entrance signs on each side of Byrne’s Bar to be erected, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised:

“These works have been included in the programme of works for the Roads Maintenance Team and will be completed as soon as resources are available.”

### **MDL205/22 CABLES ON CHURCH LANE**

In answer to his question when can we expect the work to commence laying the cables on the Church Lane underground, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised:

“Part 8 approval was secured by Roads and Transportation in respect of a Shared Surface Scheme on Church Lane including undergrounding of ESB cables. This project subsequently formed part of the URDF application submitted to the 2nd URDF call and for which a Letter of Provisional

Allocation was received in August 2021. Work is ongoing to satisfy requirements under the funding approval process/Public Spending Code in order to secure pre-tender approval from DHLGH for necessary design services leading to construction. This involves the preparation of a Preliminary Business Case (submitted to DHLGH in March 2022) alongside a Detailed Project Brief and Procurement Strategy for submission and approval by DHLGH. The purpose of the Project Brief and Procurement Strategy is to set out detailed proposals in respect of procurement, consultancy services, key milestones and delivery timelines. This work is being advanced in collaboration with the Councils newly established Capital Projects Team and once complete will provide a clear timeline for the delivery of the Church Lane project. Once this work is complete, Members will be updated on timelines via MD workshop.”

**MDL206/22 SAFETY MEASURES AT READY MIX CROSSROADS ON CULLION ROADS**

In answer to his question are there any plans for further safety measures at the ready-mix crossroads on the Cullion Road, as it is still very dangerous with another accident recently, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

*“Works were carried out at this junction at the end of March. These works involved removing the existing hedge line along the cullion road, placed new drainage and erected a new fence line 2m back from the original line, some road marking works are still to be completed as part of these works. There is currently no further funding available for improvement works at this location but we will monitor the location and consider it for future funding applications.”*

**MDL207/22 ADD FOOTPATHS AT DR. MCGINLEY ROAD ESTATE TO FOOTPATHS PROGRAMME**

In answer to his question can we add the footpaths at Dr. McGinley Road estate to our footpaths programme and can we look at carrying out urgent repairs to one section that is in particularly bad condition, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

*“This footpath will be included in the draft priority list for the Footpath & Public Lighting programme that will be presented to the members for consideration later in the year.”*

**MDL208/22 PROGRESS ON ENGRAVED COMMEMORATION STONE IN TOWN PARK**

In answer to his question requesting an update on any progress in relation to my proposal to provide an engraved stone in the Town Park to commemorate those who lost their lives to Covid-19 and to acknowledge those who worked through the pandemic providing essential services, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

*“Over the next few weeks possible options and locations will be considered and presented to the members for consultation and agreement on a final proposal.”*

**MDL209/22 INSTALLATION OF YELLOW BOX ON RAMELTON ROAD AT JUNCTION TO DONEGAL ETB**

In answer to his question what is the result of the review that the Council was to carry out regarding the installation of a Yellow Box on the Ramelton Road at the junction leading to the Donegal ETB Centre at Ballyraine, Cllr. Donal Coyle, was advised:

*“A review has been carried out of this location and it has been determined that the appropriate solution would be to use a half box in front of the access land to the side road. This will allow traffic to access the side road when traffic is queued back from the Creamery Roundabout. This will be added to the Road Markings programme.”*

**MDL210/22 RESURFACING OF GLENCAR ROAD**

In answer to his question as to when the Road Resurfacing of the Glencar Road is scheduled to begin, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

*“The programmed Surfacing works on the Glencar Road commenced on Monday the 11th of April and are due to be completed by the 15th of April.”*

**MDL211/22 APARTMENTS AT CNOC ARD**

In answer to his question when will the Apartments at Cnoc Ard be allocated, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

*“Subject to the repair works being completed it is hoped to allow the tenants allocated to Block A to take up their tenancies the first week in May with Block B allocations being issued the last week in April.”*

**MDL212/22 SAFETY WORKS AT KINCRAIGY AT ROOSKY BRIDGE**

In answer to his question when will the promised safety works at Kincraigy at Roosky Bridge be carried out, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

*“These works are programmed to be carried out within the next 3 weeks.”*

**MDL213/22 EXTENSION OF FOOTPATH FROM CONWALL GRAVEYARD TO NEWMILLS CORN & FLAX MILLS**

In answer to his question requesting an update on any progress that has been made regarding his previous motions on extending the Footpath from Cornwall Graveyard to Newmills Corn & Flax please, Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly was advised:

*“No funding has been received for the extension of this footpath. The footpath will be considered for inclusion in priority lists for future opportunities for funding.”*

**MDL214/22 CRASH BARRIERS IN CHURCHILL**

In answer to his question requesting an update on his previous Motion of the erection of new Crash Barriers in Churchill at both outside Churchill Quarries and Pak Doherty’s please, Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly was advised:

*“The design and erection of this Crash Barrier has been included on a priority list that was submitted to Roads Central. Currently there is no source of funding for new Crash Barriers on non-National Roads. We will continue to explore options to source funding for the erection of these crash barriers.”*

**MDL215/22 LIGHTS AT BARRACK CROSSROADS**

In answer to his question requesting an update on when the lights will be erected at Barrack Crossroads please as promised, as it was my understanding that these works were to be carried out months ago, Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly was advised:

*“The Lights have been ordered and the contractor procured to erect them. The Civil works will be completed in the beginning of May and we will Liaise with the contractor to ensure that the Lights are erected as soon as possible.”*

**MDL216/22 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 in a venue to be confirmed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Mayor

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Meetings Administrator

