

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY-  
MILFORD MEETING, HELD IN LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES  
CENTRE, ON 10 MARCH, 2020 AT 2:00 P.M.**

**MDL109/20 MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr. Liam Blaney  
Cllr. Kevin Bradley  
Cllr. Ciaran Brogan  
Cllr. Donal Coyle  
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh  
Cllr. Donal Kelly  
Cllr. Michael Mc Bride  
Cllr. Ian McGarvey  
Cllr. Gerry McMonagle

**MDL110/20 MEMBERS APOLOGIES**

Cllr. John O'Donnell

**MDL111/20 OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Liam Ward, Director of Service  
Patricia McIntyre, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services  
Linda McCann, Senior Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services  
Graham Diamond, Executive Planner  
Elaine McEntee, A/Executive Planner  
Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation  
Joe Ferry, A/Senior Executive Chemist  
Francis Conaghan, Development Officer  
Ciaran Martin, IS  
David Friel, Coastal Officer

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Kevin Bradley.

**MDL112/20 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of 12 November, 2019.

**MDL113/20 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 21  
FEBRUARY, 2020**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 21 February 2020, were adopted.

**MDL114/20 POLICY ON SI HOUSES**

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

*“That this MD change the Policy on the Construction of S.I Houses in Donegal.”*

The Members were advised that:

*“The SI assessment process involves determining in the first instance whether an applicant can be approved in principle for an SI dwelling. Then, along with ensuring that the applicant has clear title to the site, further stages of assessment comprise inter alia, determining the suitability of the site, having regard to access, services, environment and planning issues, etc. The next stages involve design and Part 8 approval. Following Part 8 approval, we proceed to tender stage, funding approval stage and finally construction. The current SI policy was adopted in 2016, and it was agreed at the September 2019 Plenary Council meeting to carry out a review of same through the Housing & Corporate Strategic Policy Committee.”*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey said the currently policy obstructs applicants with a site to build their own home and welcomed that the policy would be reviewed.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan asked that this form of support would be provided to people in rural areas and that this Municipal District would be a pilot/model.

Patricia McIntyre advised that it was agreed at Plenary that the Policy would be reviewed by the Housing & Corporate Strategic Policy Committee.

**MDL115/20 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY RAMELTON TOWN**

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

*“That this Council look at pedestrian safety in Ramelton Town.”*

The Members were advised that:

*“The Roads section have completed footpath works in recent years in Ramelton and are currently completing works at the Bank Terrace that will improve safety for pedestrians. Also in 2020 the Council will expend €57k on footpaths in Ramelton under the Community Involvement Scheme Programme, focusing on Church Road, Rectory road and the Tank brae.”*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey asked that consideration was given to pedestrian crossings at Tank Road, Whoriskey’s shop and Bridge Street due to the high volume of traffic and speed at times. Cllr. McGarvey reported repairs required to flags on a number of footpaths which were in a dangerous condition.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney supported the motion and welcomed the funding under the Community Involvement Scheme. Cllr. Blaney

raised that the footpath to the housing estate at the Cup and Saucer had not materialised as part of the development.

Fergal Doherty advised that funding of €81,000 would be spent on Church Road, Rectory Road and Tank Brae. Works had been completed on Bank Terrace and that the necessary repairs raised would be investigated. There was a potential for further works in Ramelton under the Footpath & Public Lighting Programme 2020 which would be considered in workshop in the coming months.

**MDL116/20 SAFETY OF WALL FROM QUAY TO BRIDGE RAMELTON**

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

*“That this Council assess the safety of the wall from the Quay to the Bridge in Ramelton.*

The Members were advised that:

*“The Council are identifying the appropriate programme under which the wall should be assessed. This may relate to the Ramelton CFRAM programme.”*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey asked that a survey was carried out on the structure of the wall from the Quay to the Bridge.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney support the motion and sought clarity on whether this wall was surveyed a number of years ago under CFRAMs.

Fergal Doherty advised that he was not aware of a previous structure survey having been carried out on this wall.

**MDL117/20 TREES AT GOLF COURSE ROAD**

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

*“That this Council as a matter of urgency cut back the trees on the Golf Course Road.”*

The Members were advised that:

*“Roads will arrange to get an inspection of the trees referred to, and develop measures as appropriate.”*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle raised concerns of residents on overhanging branches which were covered in ivy and weakening the trees. The height of the trees were also interfering with the public lighting on the road.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kelly fully supported the motion.

**MDL118/20 ENTRANCE AT LETTERKENNY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

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

*“That this Council in conjunction with Letterkenny University Hospital provide adequate signage on the approach to and at the entrance to the Accident and Emergency Department.”*

The Members were advised that:

*“Extensive upgrading of signage for the A&E department of the hospital from all approaches, was carried out a number of years ago. Roads will work in conjunction with the HSE in relation to any identified deficiencies.”*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle asked that further signage be considered due to the nature and urgency of people needing to access Accident & Emergency.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kavanagh fully supported the motion.

**MDL119/20 TOWN BUS ROUTE**

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

*“That this Council contact the National Transport Authority seeking an extension to the Town Bus routes so that the Oldtown area and all the estates up to Lismonaghan as far as and including Hillview would be included.”*

Members were advised that:

*“The Members of the Letterkenny Milford MD requested a meeting with the Town Bus Operator to discuss a number of issues relating to the service in the town of Letterkenny.*

*In this regard a workshop was held between the members, officials and the town bus operator on Wednesday 12th February and a number of issues were raised including the lack of service to the areas mentioned in this motion. Arising from this meeting the following actions were agreed:*

*That the bus operator would reconsider returning the Long Lane Route  
Proposed routes are to be submitted by members*

*That the workshop would reconvene in 4 to 6 weeks time*

*Donegal County Council would obtain feedback from the NTA*

*Add this item to the agenda of future Letterkenny Town Forum meetings*

*In light of these agreed actions and on the passing of this motion contact will be made with the National Transport Authority to discuss the current*

*service plans and identify the resources required to provide an adequate town bus service for Letterkenny.”*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle asked that the service is extended to the areas listed where there is a high volume of estates.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride supported the motion and highlighted the need for a regular bus service throughout the town to alleviate traffic congestion.

**MDL120/20 CRASH BARRIER ON LR DROMORE ROAD JUNCTION**

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, the following motion was adopted:

*“That this Council assess the junction at Lower Dromore Road with the Dual Carriageway, and consider erecting a Crash Barrier.”*

Members were advised that:

*“Further clarification required in exactly where the safety barrier is requested for, at this junction. This junction has been assessed previously by the TII and deemed to be to specification. Erection of barrier along the Dual Carriageway is not deemed required and would compromise vision lines for emerging traffic. The Roads Engineer can meet Cllr on site for clarification.”*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kelly welcomed a meeting on site with the Engineer to discuss options available.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan supported the motion.

**MDL121/20 HOUSING MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME**

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

*“That this MD discuss our Housing Maintenance Programme.”*

The Members were advised that:

*“The Housing Maintenance Programme of €995,561 for the Letterkenny – Milford Municipal District funds the response maintenance programme, the annual planned programmes of work and the works carried out to voids or casual vacancies to return them to productive use. In certain cases the Council can recoup some of the monies spent on voids/casual vacancies from the Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government, which helps to supplement the budgets.*

*In relation to the response maintenance, there are 1,510 units in the Municipal District. In 2019, there were approximately 1,300 maintenance requests, which includes multiple request from the same tenant in relation*

*to different works. The maintenance requests are prioritised and calls relating to, for example, electrical works and leaks are deemed urgent and dealt with immediately. Maintenance calls of a less urgent nature are dealt with in the order that they are received by the maintenance team and assessed accordingly. The response maintenance assessment informs the planned maintenance programme as non routine works are included on the annual planned programme of work.*

*In 2020, the Municipal District has planned programmes of works for painting, replacement of oil boilers, replacement of kitchen units, replacement of roofs/chimneys and servicing windows and doors. In addition, there is a budget for general planned maintenance works which do not fall within these main categories, such as fencing works, etc. The planned programme of works are prioritised into annual programmes of work and works carried out in line with the budget provisions.*

*The Council pursues all other available funding opportunities to improve the Council stock. In 2019, a number of homes benefited from installation works carried out under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme which was funded by the European Union through the Department. In 2020, the Council are actively exploring potential funding opportunities for further energy efficiency works.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle welcomed the reply however felt it did not reflect what was happening locally. Cllr. McMonagle asked that further funding and staff resources where allocated to Letterkenny-Milford MD taking into consideration the volume of houses and geographical spread in order to maintain the existing stock and reduce the re-letting times for vacancies and that the income collected from housing rents was reinvested into housing maintenance. Cllr. McMonagle raised the matter of the Mica Redress Scheme for private houses only and did not include funding to address this issue within the Council's housing stock. Some tenants were living in substandard conditions because of mica. Cllr. McMonagle requested a meeting with the Executive to discuss the matters raised in his motion.

Cllr. McMonagle asked that Council tenants would not be required to complete a Housing Adaptation application for required bathroom adaptation works as these works did not structurally change the property.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kavanagh fully supported the motion.

Patricia McIntyre outlined the process regarding routine, planned and casual vacancy maintenance and confirmed that there was a Housing Engineer, Clerk of Works and five maintenance staff within the housing office in the MD. The Council was engaging with the Department in relation to funding the Mica issues within Council stock and agreed to raise Members views with management.

Cllr. Blaney raised concern on the level of works now proposed on casual vacancies due to lack of funding from the Department in 2020 as compared to previous years resulting in houses within the same estate having a lower

standard of works carried out. Cllr. Blaney asked that if funding did become available during the year that these properties would be revisited.

**MDL122/20 LIGHTING ON NEW FOOTPATH AT DOWNINGS**

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

*“That Donegal County Council includes Public Lighting at the new footpath in Downings in the Public Lighting Programme for 2020.”*

The Members were advised that:

*“The recently constructed footpath at Downings has been left ready for the installation of lighting. This location to be include in the list for consideration at the proposed year 4 workshop on Footpaths and Public Lighting to take place in the coming months.”*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney welcomed the reply and asked that this would continue onto Magherabeg in a future programme.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey supported the motion.

**MDL123/20 PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS GLENCAR**

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

*“That the lights at the pedestrian crossing at Glencar Park be repaired.”*

The Members were advised that:

*“The pedestrian lights service provider has been notified of the damage done to the lights and has advised that his repair team will be on site this week.”*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh welcomed the response.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle supported the motion.

**MDL124/20 O'DONNELL PARK ROUNDABOUT**

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

*“That the Council consider a suitable sculpture or piece of art for the roundabout at O'Donnell Park, to recognise the contribution of the St.Eunan's Club to Gaelic Games in the county and beyond. The club is 90 years old this year.”*

Members were advised that:

*“The Council’s public art programme is based on the public art budget, which is associated with the capital programme. Where there is a public art budget as a result of recent capital developments, a plan for same can be considered. In some instances a budget is provided from other sources, in which case public art is not dependent on the Council’s own capital programme and can be delivered independently of it. On establishing the budget, this proposal will be considered further.”*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh advised that St. Eunan’s GAA Club would celebrate 90 years this year and asked that the Council apply for a % Art Scheme in recognition of the Club’s contribution to the town and wider community in promoting sport, Irish language and culture.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan supported the motion.

**MDL125/20 BUS HUB LETTERKENNY**

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

*“That Donegal County Council consider the Gleneany House and Thompsons yard (which has become available) at the station roundabout for a bus hub, as it is close to all amenities and the perfect location. At present there is no adequate parking for buses in the Letterkenny area.”*

The Members were advised that:

*“As part of the URDF funding programme, Donegal Co. Council has secured funding for the appointment of consultants to develop a Regeneration Strategy for Letterkenny. As part of this process and indeed as one of the key outputs from the strategy, the location of the most appropriate site for a Transport Hub to serve the needs of the town into the future will be identified.*

*The site put forward for consideration under this motion will be included in this process and there will be extensive Public Consultations in the preparation of this strategy, including Elected Members, the general public and other stakeholders.”*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Bradley welcomed the response and said this was an ideal location centre to all amenities in the town.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan supported the motion.

**MDL126/20 ST. CONAL’S HOSPITAL**

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

*“I am calling on the HSE to consider restoration of St. Conal's Hospital now that the Acute Stroke Unit has got the go ahead as there is a perfectly good hospital space sitting derelict and could be put to good use.*

The Members were advised that:

*“The Motion is noted and if adopted the Council will forward the request to the HSE.”*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Bradley asked that consideration be given to restore the existing building to facilitate the recently approved Acute Stroke Unit following the hard work of Dr. Mulpeters.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan supported the motion and advised that the regeneration of the building was raised on numerous occasions at the Regional Health Forum. Cllr. Brogan asked that the Council engage with the HSE to discuss future development opportunities within this site.

Cllr. McBride advised that the building was raised at the last Regional Health Forum meeting and was to be included in the next Capital Programme to provide office space.

#### **MDL127/20 FORMER OLDTOWN FOOTBALL PITCH**

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

*“I am calling on the Donegal County Council to restore the Old Town football field. The residents have approached me and they have only a small budget to work with. They have to hire facilities to do their training and there is a pitch in the area for them but it is in poor condition and unplayable and needs a facelift.”*

Members were advised that:

*“It is acknowledged that Members in the Letterkenny MD have raised this matter on a number of occasions. It is also noted that the Council has assisted many sporting clubs to develop and improve their facilities through the Development Fund Initiative and other funding programmes. The main source of funding for sporting clubs to develop their facilities is the Sports Capital Programme and the Council has in the past assisted clubs in making applications under this programme. While under current structures, the Council does not have a direct role in developing playing facilities for any sport, the Council has, in conjunction with LYIT, made application to the Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund seeking funding to support LYIT in their plans to develop a sports campus on their lands at Knocknamona in Letterkenny. This application was successful in being allocated funds towards the design and planning of multi-sport facilities at this location, which will be a major boost to sporting facilities generally in the town.*

*Notwithstanding the above, following consideration of the motion and if adopted, a meeting can be arranged with the relevant stakeholders to discuss options for funding the improvements required to restore this playing field.”*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Bradley asked that the Council would assist in providing a facility at the existing grounds.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle supported the motion which had been raised by him previously.

Liam Ward agreed that the Council would facilitate a meeting that would take in views of all involved in the area and source funding.

**MDL128/20 RAILINGS AT ST EUNAN'S TERRACE**

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

*“I propose that the railings at St Eunan's Terrace be replaced immediately.”*

The Members were advised that

*“Sections of railing that have become damaged, will be repaired presently.”*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan welcomed the reply and asked that the repairs were done as soon as possible.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle supported the motion.

**MDL129/20 MAYORS BUSINESS**

As the Mayor was unable to attend the meeting there was no report.

**MDL130/20 CORRESPONDENCE**

Patricia McIntyre advised of the following correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney the Members agreed to receive a deputation from Mulroy Drive Group prior to the April meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Kevin Bradley the Members agreed to receive a deputation from Love 30 Camp to highlight the campaign to reduce the speed limit in estates to 30 kph prior to the May meeting.

The Members agreed to a request to hold a Review of Parking Workshop on the morning of the April meeting.

The Members agreed to meet with Irish Water on Friday, 20 March 2020 at 2 p.m. in Letterkenny PSC.

## MDL131/20 ENVIRONMENT

The Members noted the content of the Environment Report and in particular the following:

- Big Donegal Clean Up '20 Campaign
- Environment Grants for Community Groups
- Waste & Recycling Talks available to interested groups
- Air Quality Report – completed door to door campaign and encouraging households to purchase smokeless fuel.

David Friel, Coastal Officer updated the Members on the following:

- Coastal Storm Damage – when weather settles damaged ringbuoys and access paths will be restored.
- Rathmullan Sea Buckthorn Project – Rathmullan Clean Cosat group helped to address the Sea Buckthorn invading the beach and dunes on 6 March 2020 and a beach clean up was also held.

Cllr. McGarvey raised concerns in relation to the Rathmullan, Milford and Ramelton Treatment facility. Liam Ward advised that this should be raised with Irish Water as the Water Services Authority at the meeting on 20 March 2020. Cllr. Blaney concurred with Cllr. McGarvey on the concerns raised by residents.

Cllr. McBride asked that the Council contact Karol McElhinney requesting an opportunity for Members to visit the Anaerobic Digestion Plant following talks given to Members at a conference in Longford. Cllr. Blaney seconded this proposal.

Cllr. Blaney highlighted erosion at Magherawarden Beach and repairs/access to the bridges constructed at the beach. Cllr. Blaney said that the burn was straightened in the past to avoid undermining the dunes and floods in adjoining lands and required action due to the flooding issues in the area now. David Friel advised that the issues raised fell between two directorates and offered to meet Cllr. Blaney at the locations to discuss the concerns. In relation to the burn this was straightened by National Parks & Wildlife as this was an area of conservation and the bridge provided by the Roads section.

Cllr. Blaney also raised concerns in relation erosion at Rinboy, Fanad and Ballyheernan. David Friel advised that the dunes were recovering at Rinboy in 2019 and damage was caused by quads and unauthorised removal of sand and agreed to meet the landowner regarding erecting signage.

David Friel agreed to meet with Cllr. Blaney at the locations raised.

## **MDL132/20 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, I.S. & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Members considered the report circulated with the Agenda. Ciaran Martin updated Members on the following areas of work the Economic Unit were focusing on:

- Economic Development Strategy to provide a framework to guide the work of the Council in a 5 year Economic Development Strategy.
- Tourism Strategy to set out clear direction on how the Council can build on successes and continue to increase visitor numbers.
- Concierge Services dedicated as a first point of contact for potential business start-ups or business expansion opportunities.
- Property Solutions identifying, marketing and option appraisal of Council owned property and land for economic development.
- Proactive Engagement with existing businesses across Donegal as part of Enterprise Week.
- Global Engagement to expand to European and US markets in collaboration with Derry City & Strabane District Council.
- Branding & Marketing to develop a Donegal brand as a great place to do business and invest.
- Working internally with Community Development and Planning Services to progress a range of strategic projects across the county.
- Atlantic Economic Corridor working with local authority partners along the western coast to progress mutually beneficial projects and initiates.

The Members welcomed the report. Cllr. McMonagle asked for an update on the Council's policy in relation to Covid-19.

Liam Ward advised that Senior Management had met on Friday and Monday past and a Business Continuity Plan was developed to ensure essential services are met. A crisis management team had been established. The Council would be guided by the advice of the Chief Medical Officer and the HSE and this would be under continued review. The Chief Executive had communicated to staff and Members and further advices would issue as matters change.

Cllr. McMonagle asked that there would be a press release on the Council's plans.

## **MDL133/20 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The Members noted the content of the Community Development Report.

### **Development Fund Initiative**

The Members agreed to hold the DFI workshop on Thursday, 12 March 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in Letterkenny PSC.

### **MDL134/20 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

The Members noted the content of the Roads report circulated in particular the following:

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey the Members agreed to adopt the Community Involvement Scheme as circulated at the meeting.

### **MDL135/20 HOUSING**

The Members noted the content of the Housing Report.

Patricia McIntyre advised the Members of the following:

Progress on the Long Lane development of 29 social houses were continuing and on target for delivery Q4 of 2020.

Cllr. McMonagle asked that the Council proceed to prune the remaining trees in Glenwood and thanked the Council for the quick response to this request.

Cllr. McBride thanked the Council for erecting the fence between Upper and Lower Ard O'Donnell.

Cllr. Blaney asked that more resources are put in place to deliver social housing outside of Letterkenny due to the high demand for housing and lack of private rented accommodation and asked for an update on the requests for turnkey developments previously advertised. Patricia McIntyre advised that this was commercially sensitive and could only be reported on when Stage 4 approval was received from the Department.

Cllr. Blaney and Cllr. McGarvey asked for an update on the purchase of 18 houses in Ramelton. Patricia McIntyre advised that this remained at conveyancing stage.

### **MDL136/20 PLANNING SERVICES**

The Members noted the content of the Planning Report.

Liam Ward updated Members on the new structure and staff within the Planning directorate as circulated with the Planning report. He welcomed Elaine McEntee to the meeting who would be replacing Graham Diamond.

The Members welcomed Ms. McEntee and thanked Martin McDermott and Graham Diamond for their work within the MD.

#### **136.2 Letterkenny Local Area Plan**

Members were advised that a workshop would be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in Letterkenny PSC to discuss housing and the town centre within the Local Area Plan.

**MDL137/20    FINANCE**

On the proposal Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh the Members adopted for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, the Schedule of Municipal District Works as set out in the schedules presented at the Municipal District meeting as required by Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) and in line with requirements of Circular LG27/2014/Fin21/2014.”

Cllr. McMonagle asked that the Members not proceed to adopt any future Budget until sufficient funding is provided by Housing and Roads for the Letterkenny-Milford Municipal District.

**Questions**

**MDL138/20    BRIDGEND, RAMELTON**

In answer to his question requesting that this MD address the obstruction placed at Bridgend, Ramelton to the River and to Council property, as previously raised, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

*“The obstruction referred to in the question is blocking vehicular access to Council property at Ballyboe, Rameton. The Council is presently taking the necessary steps to have the matter addressed with a view to gaining access to it’s property at this location and it is expected that this will be concluded shortly.”*

**MDL139/20    RATHMULLAN PIER**

In answer to his question requesting what progress had been made to safeguard to Rathmullan Pier at the approach end, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

*“Rathmullan Pier is major infrastructure in Donegal. It’s viaduct was built in 1934 while it’s pier head was built in 1957. The structure is now beyond its normal structural end of life and needs significant works or replacement (estimated at between €2.5 to €4m). There are a small number of significant users of this important Pier. The exceptional feature of this viaduct / pierhead is the deep water nature of the pier head location. Other than Killybegs Port, Rathmullan viaduct with pier head offers the ONLY other natural (no maintenance requirement (dredging)) deep water facility between Killybegs and Belfast. The Sea fishery Protection Authority has expressed an interested in making this pier a designated port for landing for white fish. It is already a designated port for landing palaegic fish.*

*However there has been limited opportunity for capital investment to undertake the significant maintenance works required for such a piece of infrastructure. A report was undertaken in 1991 (Nicholas O’Dwyer) to outline the condition of the structure following the completion of a survey and to detail proposals for necessary works. At this time, a weight*

*restriction of 7.5t was applied. This is still in place today. No funding was made available to undertake the works.*

*A subsequent review was undertaken in 2008 (Nicholas O'Dwyer) and an options report recommended a solution to repair the structure by part replacement and part repair. Again no funds were made available to complete the works at this time.*

*The Piers & Harbours team has appointed consultants Nicolas O'Dwyer to review and update the 2008 report with a view to adding 50 years to the life of this important facility. This work is ongoing at present and the report will be presented to the Council on completion with a recommendation on the most appropriate solution. The Council has in the meantime, written to its significant users and asked for information on use and for workable options for alternative locations for docking should the need arise."*

**MDL140/20    FOOTPATH FROM KINNEGAR TO RATHMULLAN TOWN**

In answer to his question requesting what progress had been made on his Motion to construct a footpath from the Kinnegar to Rathmullan Town, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

*"A footpath on this Road is not included in any current programme. This can be considered when prioritising the next footpath programme. The construction of a footpath along this section of road will be expensive as it would involve a large amount of accommodation works and land purchase."*

**MDL141/20    LIGHTS AT GLENSWILLY CHURCH & KILPHEAK CEMETERY**

In answer to his question requesting an update as to when the lights were going to be erected at Glenswilly Church and Kilpheak Cemetery, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

*"This location is on the 2020 programme and is programmed to be completed by August 2020."*

**MDL142/20    LIGHTS AT BARRACK BREENAGH**

In answer to his question requesting an update as to when the lights were going to be erected at Barrack Breenagh, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

*"This location is on the 2020 programme and is programmed to be completed by August 2020."*

**MDL143/20    LED PUBLIC LIGHTING**

In answer to his question requesting a detailed works programme for upgrading of public lighting to LED for the Letterkenny Area for 2020, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

*“The SOX upgrade programme overall is now commencing (early 2020), following delays in relation to award of contract beyond the councils control. The towns in MDL-M included in Year 1 of Programme are: Milford, Ramelton, Kilmacrennan & Downings. Letterkenny is in Year 2 (2021), along with Rathmullan & Carrigart.”*

**MDL144/20 PARKING AT AN GRIANAN THEATRE**

In answer to his question requesting had measures now been put in place to ensure that parking issues at An Grianan Theatre were now managed so as to prevent residents being blocked from entering/exiting their premises during busy times, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

*“The double yellow lines have been refreshed and extended around the Theatre. Bollards have been procured and installation will commence on Wednesday 11th March 2020.”*

**MDL145/20 LIGHTS AT LISMONAGHAN**

In answer to his question requesting when the infill lights would be installed at Lismonaghan, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

*“The columns for these lights have been installed, and application for installation of light heads and their activation has been submitted to ESB/Airtricity. It is anticipated that the lights will be fully working in the coming weeks.”*

**MDL146/20 FOOTPATH WORKS AT GLENWOOD**

In answer to his question requesting when the footpath improve works in Glenwood would take place and would the trees be tidied up, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

*“The footpath works will be carried out during the summer months. Pruning back off a number of trees within the estate are being carried out separately in the coming weeks.”*

**MDL147/20 PUBLIC LIGHTING IN ESTATES**

In answer to his question requesting when the footpath works at the Community Centre at Pearse Road would take place, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

*“Timing of these works will follow the removal of the trees within the Community Centre Lands, which the Community Center committee are currently arranging.”*

**MDL147/20 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 14 April 2020 at Milford Public Services Centre.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Mayor

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Meetings Administrator