

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY, HELD IN THE  
LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2016.**

**MDL 355/16 MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr. Liam Blaney  
Cllr. Ciaran Brogan  
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh  
Cllr. Michael McBride  
Cllr. James McDaid  
Cllr. Ian McGarvey  
Cllr. Gerry McMonagle  
Cllr. Mick Quinn  
Cllr. Dessie Shiels

**MDL356/16 OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Suzanne Bogan, Waste Information Officer  
Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner  
Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation  
Ciaran Martin, Development Officer  
Linda McCann, Staff Officer  
Liam Ward, Director of Service

**MDL 357/16 APOLOGIES**

Cllr. John O'Donnell  
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate & Housing Services

The meeting was chaired by Mayor, Cllr. James Pat McDaid,

**MDL358/16 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Michael McBride, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 were adopted.

**MDL359/16 TOWN COUNCIL REINSTATEMENT**

On the proposal of Cllr. James Pat McDaid and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

*That this Council make strong representations to the Department of Environment as to why we would want to reinstate the Town Council for Letterkenny,*

*explaining all the detrimental effects it is having on our town in the line of funding for roads, housing, environment, etc.*

The Members were advised that;

*The motion would be referred to the Department of Housing Planning Community and Local Government for consideration if adopted.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McDaid stated that he had been approached by businesses, resident associations and the general public in Letterkenny requesting that the former Town Council was reinstated. Cllr. McDaid raised the following as issues within the MD:

- Poor representation of the people highlighting that the former Letterkenny Town Council had 9 Members and there were now 10 Members for the Municipal District covering a wider area.
- Block Grant funding was insufficient for the MD with 20,000 people approximately in Letterkenny.
- Impact of Brexit on Letterkenny as the economic hub/driver for the County
- Social housing – a large number of social housing units in Letterkenny who had a different need to that in rural areas.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle stated that the people of Letterkenny were not receiving the services that were provided when there was a Town Council and that there was a creation of an urban/rural divide in the MD, for example, mileage funding on roads. Cllr. McMonagle welcomed that the Government was looking at reinstating Town Councils nationally.

Liam Ward stated that the Council would write to the Department informing them of the views of the Members and request the Minister to take these into consideration as part of the Local Government Reform review. Liam Ward agreed to obtain an update on the review nationally.

***MDL360/16 GLENSWILLY / KILMACRENNAN – WINTER GRITTING PROGRAMME***

On the proposal of Cllr. James Pat McDaid and seconded by Cllr. Michael McBride, the following motion was adopted:

*That this Council include the Glenswilly to Kilmacrennan road on the gritting plan for the winter of 2016/17 and into the future.*

The Members were advised that;

*Arising from the review of Winter Service during 2015 / 2016 it had been concluded that the Churchill – Kilmacrennan route would be added to the Winter Gritting Programme without the need for additional resources. Changes to the*

*Winter Gritting Programme were subject to agreement at Plenary Council and Roads Central would be consulting with Elected Members in this regard in the coming months. In the meantime it was intended to provisionally include the Churchill – Kilmacrennan section from the commencement of the 2016/2017 season pending consultation with Members.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McDaid said he welcomed the reply received and the members of the public would greatly welcome this also.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. McBride said he also welcomed the reply.

Fergal Doherty stated that this was subject to Plenary Council agreement.

### ***MDL361/16 MEETING WITH OPW***

On the proposal of Cllr. James Pat McDaid and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

*That this Council seek a meeting with officials from the OPW to outline the lack of signage in this Municipal area for Glenveagh National Park, New Mills Corn & Flax Mill, Glebe Gallery and to also get an update on their plans to address flooding problems? These are two very serious issues in regards to our tourism and flooding*

The Members were advised that;

*The Office of Public Works (OPW) as “the lead State body for the coordination and implementation of Government policy on the management of flood risk in Ireland and ... also the national authority for the implementation of the EU Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks [2007/60/EC],” were currently holding a public consultation day in Letterkenny PSC on Tuesday 18th October, in relation to the draft Flood Risk Management Plans in relation to Letterkenny, Kerrykeel, Downings, Ramelton and Rathmullan.*

*Elected Members and members of the public alike, were invited accordingly to view the draft plans and make representations accordingly, as this represents the avenue through which any government funding of identified mitigation measures were to be allocated in years to come.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McDaid said there was a significant need for proper signage to Glenveagh National Park, New Mills Corn & Fax Mill and Glebe Gallery. Cllr. McDaid spoke of a previous deputation received to include this route as scenic route and how tourists were getting lost as there was no proper signage. He requested a meeting with the OPW to discuss having signage erected directing tourists going to Glenveagh National Park through the village of

Churchill and that Information boards were displayed in Letterkenny outlining this route. Cllr. McDaid also requested a meeting to discuss flooding problems with the OPW.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. McMonagle supported Cllr. McDaid's request for proper signage to be erected and damaged signage replaced. Cllr. McMonagle also requested Information boards were erected in Letterkenny which outlined the route and attractions along it.

Fergal Doherty advised Members that different departments in the OPW deal with flooding and signage and the public consultation on a Draft Flood Risk Management Plan would be held on 18<sup>th</sup> October at which time the Members should make submissions. Cllr. Blaney stated that a meeting had been arranged for Members and the OPW at 1.00 p.m. to discuss flood risks prior to the public consultation. Cllr. McDaid agreed to raise the flooding concerns on the 18<sup>th</sup> October and requested that a meeting was arranged with the OPW in relation signage.

***MDL362/16*** **GLENWOOD PARK ESTATE**

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

*That we carry out an audit of repairs/upgrades that are needed at Glenwood Park Estate in Letterkenny and put together a works programme for to address the issues identified i.e. Roads, Footpaths, Lighting, Drains, etc.*

The Members were advised that:

*Letterkenny Town Roads met with residents of Glenwood Park and a number of matters were identified some of which have been completed. Matters such as road resurfacing, footpaths and lighting were agreed at workshops with Members on the basis of funding being available. Following the allocation of 2017 budgets, similar workshops may take place at which prioritisation based on allocated funding can take place, at which Members will decide which roads will be on the RI and RM programmes, where new lighting is to be installed etc.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McMonagle requested an audit be carried out with the Residents Committee on the repairs/works necessary in the estate. Cllr. McMonagle spoke of the hardworking committee and the need for more public lighting, repairs to the roads, and the need to address the recurring problems with the sewage system.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Quinn asked that the nature of the required works were detailed prior to the 2017 Budget meeting.

***MDL363/16 REVIEW OF POLLING BOOTHS IN LETTERKENNY MD***

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Mick Quinn was adopted:

*That this Municipal District engages with the local Electoral Office to request a review of Polling Booths currently in use throughout the District due to the changing demographics and population of the Municipal District.*

The Members were advised that;

*It was the responsibility of each Local Authority to adopt a Polling Scheme for its administrative Area. The Scheme divided the County into Electoral Areas and these were further broken down into Polling Districts, Electoral Divisions and Townlands. It also specified a Polling Place which was usually a Townland within the Polling District. The making of a Polling Scheme was a reserved function of the elected Members of the Council.*

*In relation to the Polling Station and the number of booths located within a station, this matter could be reviewed in consultation with the County Registrar.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle stated that voters were assigned Polling Booths that were not in their area, for example, Mountain Top residents voted in Letterkenny PSC, Dromore residents in Ballyraine N.S. and Killylastin/Killyclug residents in Trentagh N.S. Cllr. McMonagle asked that Polling Booths were reviewed within the MD for convenience of voters and to maximise franchise.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Quinn concurred with Cllr. McMonagle and stated that not having Polling Booths closer to voters impacted on turnout on elections and spoke of the need to ensure secure forms of identity and possibly linking votes to PPSN.

Liam Ward stated that the Review of Polling Booths was the responsibility of the local authority and agreed to speak with the Country Registrar, and also obtain an update from the Elector Franchise Section in the Department and report back to the MD.

***MDL364/16 HSE***

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

*That this Municipal District support a motion of no confidence in the HSE.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McBride stated that he brought this motion as despite promises from the Minister for Health he feels that the Health Service was not capable of dealing the demands on the service. Cllr. McBride outlined the following:

- High number of patients on trolleys throughout the country
- HSE spending in excess of €3m annually on rental properties in Donegal and should be putting capital funding in existing buildings.
- Ambulance service and the use of private ambulance service from other counties to transfer patients to community hospitals/nursing homes.
- In 2015, €1.6 m was spent on private ambulance services.
- Failure to implement request, approved by HSE West, to carry out staff survey
- Aging population in Donegal and proposal to close community hospitals
- Cut backs in summer months to homecare / home help packages because of overspend, these services are underfunded.
- Time taken to fill vacancies and the number of appointments cancelled.

Cllr. McBride asked the Members of the MD to support the motion and proceed to ask Plenary Council to also support the motion and the motion be sent to all Councils in Ireland.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Brogan fully seconded the motion and stated that the older model of the NWHB served the people of Donegal better. Cllr. Brogan highlighted:

- long public waiting lists
- distance patients have to travel for treatment, ie Rheumatology, dermatology clinics
- service transferred to other hospitals to suit consultants and not patients
- other hospitals full to capacity
- current service needs to be re-examined
- frontline staff not given the resources required to provide safe patient care
- paediatric palliative care and challenges facing families

Cllr. Brogan endorsed the motion to Plenary Council and request this is debated at Plenary Council with a view to being forwarded to other Councils.

***MDL365/16*** **DERELICT HOUSES**

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

*That this Municipal District support my motion asking the Department of Housing, Planning Community and Local Government to introduce a grant scheme to support the refurbishment of derelict houses in towns and villages throughout this country.*

The Members were advised that;

*It was understood that a scheme such as this was being considered by the Department in the context of refurbishing derelict properties for social housing purposes. Details of the scheme were not notified to the Council and the motion could be referred to the Department to get clarification on the proposals under consideration.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McBride stated that small towns have suffered over the economic downturn and houses have become derelict and uninhabitable. In an effort to get people living in towns on the peripheral of the larger towns a grant scheme would be welcome.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Blaney agreed with Cllr. McBride and stated the grant scheme would encourage owners to improve their properties and thus enhance their town.

**MDL366/16 GLENWOOD PARK / BEECHWOOD ROAD**

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

*That the Council investigate as a matter of urgency the smell of sewage in the laneway between Glenwood Park and Beechwood Road.*

The Members were advised that;

*The local inspector was notified of the odour issue and would investigate it as soon as possible.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Kavanagh stated that this was an on-going problems for sometime which is near a play area and asked that a detailed report is given at the next meeting.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. McMonagle stated that this is an on-going problem which was raised with the Housing Engineer who power-hosed the blockage however it continued to re-occur.

**MDL367/16 GREY ROCKS HOUSING ESTATE**

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

*That Donegal County Council install public lighting and construct a footpath from Grey Rocks Housing Estate to the Old Tech, Milford.*

The Members were advised that:

*Matters such as road resurfacing, footpaths and lighting were agreed at workshops with members on the basis of funding available. Following the allocation of 2016 budgets, similar workshops may take place at which prioritisation based on allocated funding can take place.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Blaney asked that priority was given to seek funding for the refurbishment and reinstatement of footpaths in the County. Residents of Grey Rocks have raised safety concerns in respect of public lighting and the footpath for students walking to school. Cllr. Blaney stated that the lack of funding was a major issue for footpaths and bridges throughout the County.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. McGarvey asked that priority was given to provide public lighting and proper footpath on this very busy stretch of road.

Fergal Doherty stated that procurement of funding was a priority for footpaths repair/reinstatement and a budget is required.

#### ***MDL368/16 FUNDING FOR WINDOWS & DOORS***

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

*That this MD requests that money was made available in the upcoming Budget for Doors or Windows that were in bad condition to be replaced in Council owned houses.*

The Members were advised that;

*The Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme provided capital funding, through the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government, to improve the standard and overall quality of local authority housing stock. Phase 1 of this programme commenced in 2013 and aims to ensure that the social housing stock had, as a minimum, cavity wall and attic insulation. These works were ongoing throughout the county and to date Donegal County Council had carried out works to 1,380 properties at a cost of €2.38 million under this programme.*

*Phase 2 of the Programme commenced in 2015 on a pilot basis in a number of local authority areas and would focus on dwellings which had poor performing single glazed windows. The Council had received approval to carry out these works to a limited number of dwellings in 2016 and it was intended that Phase 2 would now run concurrently with Phase 1.*

*In keeping with previous funding allocations for remedial or retrofitting works, insulation works and replacement windows would be provided on a rolling basis commencing in the oldest dwellings and/or dwellings with poorest performing single glazed windows first. Whilst the Council retains details of dwellings that required replacement windows, a full priority list in terms of the order in which these works would be carried out has not yet been finalised pending further details of the Council's funding allocation under this programme in 2017.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Blaney asked that funding was sought to replace the windows & doors in a housing scheme in Milford in the interim of carrying out the current energy efficiency programme works. Cllr. Blaney highlighted the income from rent to the Council and asked that funding is set aside from rents for this work.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. McBride asked that properties with wooden doors/windows are upgraded.

Liam Ward advised Members that in exceptional cases funding was set aside to carry out necessary works.

***MDL369/16*** **RAMELTON/KILMACRENNAN ROAD**

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

*Will the Roads Section provide clearance of growth on the Ramelton / Kilmacrennan road to Milford / Kilmacrennan Junction.*

The Members were advised that;

*Roads section was currently carrying out an extensive programme of clearance of growth through which the above location would be addressed.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McGarvey asked that vision lines, corners, etc. were attended to ensure safety for all road users and asked that the Council encouraged all landowners to cut hedges as required by law.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Liam Blaney stated that this was a problem throughout the County with a percentage of landowners not cutting their hedgerows and asked that the Council enforce their policy on hedge cutting.

Fergal Doherty stated that a small number of landowners did not work with the Council extensive hedge cutting programme which has been carried out since September, but for the most part there is good co-operation..

**MDL370/16 FLOOD RISK AREAS**

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

*Will this MD take steps to deal with flood risk areas to include Oldtown, Letterkenny; Kilmacrennan; and Drumonaghan and Little Bridge, Ramelton.*

The Members were advised that;

*The Office of Public Works (OPW) as “the lead State body for the coordination and implementation of Government policy on the management of flood risk in Ireland and ... also the national authority for the implementation of the EU Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks [2007/60/EC],” were currently holding a public consultation day in Letterkenny PSC on Tuesday 18th October, in relation to the draft Flood Risk Management Plans in relation to Letterkenny, Kerrykeel, Downings, Ramelton and Rathmullan.*

*Elected Members and members of the public alike, were invited accordingly to view the draft plans and make representations accordingly, as this represents the avenue through which any government funding of identified mitigation measures are to be allocated in years to come.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McGarvey requested that funding was sought as a matter of urgency.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Brogan stated that flooding was a major issue and requested that the motion was amended to writing to the OPW regarding this matter.

**MDL371/16 BARRIERS**

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

*Will our roads Section erect Barriers at Newmill Road & Burnside near Ramelton.*

The Members were advised that;

*This location was added to the list to be considered subject to funding being available.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McGarvey stated that the bridge at New Mill road is particularly dangerous for pedestrians and requested that the road at Burnside near Ramelton was assessed.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. BLaney supported the request for barriers at these two locations.

The Members welcomed the response received.

***MDL372/16 SOCIAL HOUSING***

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

*That this Council advise the members of this Council as to (1) what exact land it owns which could be used to develop social housing in the Letterkenny Municipal area and (2) what exact proposals it has (by reference to location, extent of housing proposed, type of housing proposed etc.) to commence development of social housing on such Council owned lands and when these proposals will be advanced.*

The Members were advised that;

*The List of land owned in Letterkenny Municipal District and associated housing programme with indicative timeframe was listed below:*

Sn	Town/ Village	location	Potential number of units	Details/ current status	Time Frame
1	Letterkenny	Long Lane	34	Provisional approval of Budget of €4,966, 234 granted by the department on 5.07.16. Design being finalised. Scheme planned to complete in mid 2018	Scheme planned to complete in mid 2018
2.	Milford	Lower Mount Marian	16	16 units have been planned in phase-1- Negotiations underway with the National School who are looking for site for the school- to start in 2017	To start in 2017 for completion in 2018
3	Kilmacrennan	Ard Na Glaise	24	30 units can be built on this site – May be 10 in Phase -1 as extension to the existing scheme of 40 units. Future plans are subject to need and departmental approval-	- May be 2018 start.
4.	Kilmacrennan-2	Old Kilmacrennan National School	6	The land is being considered for transfer to one of the community groups for Communal use	No definitive plans for development as yet
5	Carrigart-1	MulroyPark	27	14-17 units are being considered in phase-1, within	To start in 2017 for completion in 2018

				the current programme. Right of way through Cluid Housing being negotiated. Initial Design stage.	
6	Carrigart-2	Opposite the Church	8	Steep ground- access issues, currently leased for grazing	No definitive plans for development as yet
7	Tamney	Tamney	10	Phase-2 of the existing housing scheme can be considered for the future housing programme, subject to Housing need.	No definitive plans for development as yet

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Shiels asked for clarification on what exact land the Council owned which could be used to develop social housing in the Letterkenny Municipal area. Cllr. Shiels asked that all lands were considered within and outside Letterkenny because of the demand in this area for social housing and considering the national funding available for this. Cllr. Shiels also asked that the Council consider re-zoning lands in the MD.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. McGarvey asked that the Council to seek funding if land was available.

Liam Ward stated that the priority was to advance proposals on lands available already owned by the Council and agreed to obtain details on and proposals for any lands that have not been considered to date.

**MDL373/16 DISCLOSURES UNDER SECTION 177 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001**

On the proposal of Cllr. Dessie Shiels and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was discussed:

*That this Council carry out a full audit in relation to all disclosures required to be made by section 177 of the Local Government Act, 2001 by members of this Council in relation to pecuniary or other beneficial interests of members of this Council.*

The Members were advised that;

*The disclosure obligation under Section 177 was clearly imposed on each individual Member but arises only in the circumstances covered by the Section. The disclosure requirements were not confined to interests in land. All disclosures made were recorded in accordance with the Section and are publicly available. To the extent that the Motion seeks to have the Council carry out an audit of “all disclosures required to be made” but allegedly not made, there was no requirement for such an audit in the legislation. In any event Council staff or other Council Members may have no knowledge of circumstances that would trigger the obligation in a given case and it is probably for that reason that the*

*onus to disclose was placed on the individual Member. If it happens that someone contends and has grounds for stating that a Member had failed to comply with Section 177, the correct procedure would be to bring this to the attention of the Ethics Registrar in the same way as any other alleged contraventions of the Ethical framework.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Shiels asked that the Council carry out an audit of disclosures made.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. McGarvey asked that the motion was carried to Plenary Council.

Liam Ward advised that the Ethic Registrar had outlined the procedure and obligation of Members under Section 177 of the Local Government Act, 2001. Annual Disclosures are made by Members in January each year and at the AGM of Plenary Council and the onus is on Members and staff to make a disclosure.

Cllr. Shiels stated that he received anonymous correspondence in respect of issues of a sensitive nature that may not be disclosed as required on this legislation and thus brings this matter to the MD in an effort to deal with this.

Cllr. Shiels accepted the procedure outlined in the reply from the Ethics Registrar and was satisfied that the Council meets its obligations under this legislation and was therefore not required to carry out an audit.

***MDL374/16 LOWER MAIN STREET, LETTERKENNY***

On the proposal of Cllr. Dessie Shiels and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was discussed:

*That this Council extend the 'yellow box' at the roundabout at Lower Main Street, Letterkenny backwards (in the Ballymacool direction) to alleviate traffic congestion being caused at Lower Main Street at peak traffic times.*

The Members were advised that;

*Roads reviewed this location on the ground, and did not consider that extending the yellow box as suggested would alleviate traffic congestion. An extension of the hatched area towards Ballymacool leaves too large an area 'inaccessible' until an exit was available thus potentially blocking southbound traffic on the roundabout due to congestion of eastbound traffic that could otherwise get away in the current scenario. In principle optimum flow would result from the traffic along the Old Dunnes Stores entering the roundabout on the basis of the rules of road, giving way to circulating traffic coming from the right.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Sheils asked for this measure to be reconsidered as the traffic was congested in this area, in particular backing up the Main Street.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. McGarvey asked that any improvement measures could be taken to alleviate traffic congestion .

Fergal Doherty stated that this was reviewed and cannot be extended for the reasons outlined in the reply given to the motion.

***MDL375/16*** **ROSEMOUNT COTTAGES**

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

*I propose that this Council invest and improve the steps from Rosemount cottages to the Broad Road in Kilmacrennan and to include a hand railing.*

The Members were advised that;

*Some money had been allocated to the Kilmacrennan Men Shed Group by C&E towards this project and work was expected to commence within the next 2 weeks by the Men Shed Group who were going to put in new steps.*

The Members welcomed this.

***MDL376/16*** **MAYORS BUSINESS**

Cllr. James McDaid, Mayor congratulated:

North West Simon Annual Sleep out coordinator, Colette Ferguson, and volunteers who successfully raised €2,500.

Gabriels Ball who raised €12,000 for the Respiratory Unit of Letterkenny University Hospital

Donegal County Council Road Safety Roadshow celebrating it's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the Aura Leisure Centre on the success of the event.

Letterkenny & Carrigart Tidy Towns Committees on their success in the National Tidy Towns Competition

Cllr. McDaid also informed the Members of the public consultation for interested groups on the new Social Enterprise Centre to be held in Letterkenny Public Services Centre on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2016.

Cllr. McDaid wished Glenswilly well in the County Final and Milford well in their Intermediate Final replay.

***MDL377/16*** **CORRESPONDENCE**

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle informed the Members that the Donegal Youth Service requested permission to plant a tree in remembrance of Orla O'Reilly in Ballymacool Park on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2016. On the proposal of Cllr. McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Brogan it was agreed to grant permission to Donegal Youth Service to plant a remembrance tree in Ballymacool Park.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh informed the Mayor that he had received a request from the Community Heritage Group who wished to make a deputation to the Members at the November meeting.

Cllr. Mick Quinn asked the Members to accept a presentation on the illegal harvesting of organs in China at the November meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mick Quinn and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh it was agreed to receive the deputations at the November meeting. Each Member agreed to forward contact details to Eunan Kelly / Linda McCann.

***MDL378/16*** **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Members considered the report circulated with the Agenda which included:

1. Summary of planning applications for the District
2. Appeals (Received & Decisions Notified).
3. Significant Cases (incl. Transboundary applications)
4. Other case types [Part 8's etc]

***MDL379/16*** **ENVIRONMENT**

Suzanne Bogan updated the Members on a report circulated with the Agenda, in particular,

Bikes 4 Africa project running from 8<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> October in association with The Rotary Club & Bryson Recycling

Reuse Month – Letterkenny Men's Shed Open day on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> October from 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and all Members were invited to the Opening.

Smoky Coal Ban – awareness campaign would commence shortly.

The Members noted the contents of the report.

Cllr. McGarvey requested that the Council seek to increase signage in relation to Dog Fouling on beaches.

***MDL380/16*** **COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES**

The Members noted the content of a report circulated with the Agenda. Ciaran Martin informed the meeting of the following:

Ferry Service had completed the first year of a four year contract and agreed to give an update report to Members at the November meeting.

Social Inclusion Building Open Day on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 – 20 minute information slots have been given to interested groups.

Cllr. Shiels asked for an update on the proposal made by the Cathedral Quarter Group.

Ciaran Martin advised that he has worked closely with the Group over the summer months in preparing a Strategic Plan, seeking funding and liaising with the Planning Department.

Eunan Quinn advised that Donegal County Council were partners in the IMPROVE project with Derry & Strabane District Council, Iceland, Finland, Sweden and Norway to examine and develop a new approach to the delivery of public services. The project focuses on using a 'living labs' approach to engaging with local communities to co-produce innovative methods of service delivery. The focus of Donegal's element of the project was on Planning, improving the accessibility of information to the citizen and providing a means of enabling local information to be captured for public use. The main objective is to increase the innovation capacity and knowledge awareness of the six regions in the project in the field of developing technology-driven public services by strengthening linkages between all stakeholders in the innovation chain and by using transnational cooperation to fill knowledge gaps. The Groups logo is



The Cathedral Quarter Group have been invited to participate in the development of the project within Donegal to examine how the 'living labs' approach can advance the development of their aims, attract consensus on the priorities and act as a platform to enable implementation of initiatives in the Cathedral Quarter of the town.

Cllr. McMonagle advised that the Cathedral Quarter Group were pleased with the support received from the Council to date and when funding is available the Council will continue to assist the Group.

#### ***MDL381/16 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION***

The Members noted the content of the Roads report circulated with the Agenda. Fergal Doherty advised that the:

- CFRAMS Public Consultation will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2016
- Japanese Knotweed – 3-5 year annual eradication programme has commenced.
- Glenmaquinn Junction – copy of report from Road Design was circulated with the Agenda.
- Speed Limit Review – now at public consultation stage and members of the public are invited to make submission to the Council between 6<sup>th</sup> October and 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2016. Submissions can be made at any of the Council offices.

The Members asked that safety measures were put in place as a priority to ensure safety for pupils & parents at the school.

Cllr. McGarvey raised the following:

- that the speedlimit is reduced at the Ballyare junction at Illistrin N.S.
- request pedestrian crossings at Pound Street & Back Lane, Ramelton
- measures put in place to clear traffic congestion at the Mall, Ramelton and parking on left hand corner of the bridge at Ramelton.

Cllr. Blaney asked for clarity on the speed limit review and the periodic speed limit reduction previously agreed. Fergal Doherty confirmed that the required prior consent from the TII (formerly NRA) for the periodic speed limits at both Lurgybrack and Illistrin had been procured, and that similar consent would have to be procured from the TII for any alternatively proposed speed limit at these locations, which would have to form part of a further review of speed limits, beyond the current review, in the event that the TII sanctioned an alternative proposal. Mr. Doherty encouraged Members, public and groups to make submission to the speed limit review in order that their views are taken into consideration.

Cllr. Shiels noted the response to his question in relation to the footpath and public lighting at Lismonaghan and asked when these works would be implemented and completed.

***MDL382/16 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES***

The Members considered a report circulated with the Agenda on Housing and Corporate Services. Liam Ward noted five vacancies currently being offered to applicants for social housing under the Choice-Based Letting Scheme and the Members welcomed this.

***MDL383/16 GLENSWILLY & GLEMAQUINN N.S.***

In an answer to his question on when can we expect all the safety signage to be concluded at Glenswilly national school and when can we expect all the road

markings to be concluded at Glenmaquinn national school, Cllr. James McDaid was advised that:

*Glenswilly white lining had been completed and the remaining lining and signs are to be completed by end of October 2016 as previously stated.*

*With respect to Glenmaquinn School;*

*The findings of the Road Design report in relation to Glenmaquinn were presented in the roads report. The recommendations of the report were taken on board and the upgrading accordingly of the lines and signs are to be added to our current programme with a view to their completion in the coming weeks. Lining contractors were currently engaged for the next three weeks, in the lining of the RI and RM schemes completed this year under the RI and RM programmes.*

***MDL384/16 FIGART & LOSETT***

In an answer to his question when the Council expect the road crossing at Figart to commence and finish? And also the Crossing between Termon and Gartan in the Losett area to be repaired as it is getting in a very dangerous state for road users, Cllr. James Pat was advised that:

*Works were to commence on the Figart road on Monday the 17th of October and will be completed by Friday the 21st. The repair works to the culvert in the Losset area were to be completed by the end of October.*

***MDL385/16 JANPANESE KNOTWEED***

In an answer to his question on what action plan has this Municipal Council to tackle the fast growing Japanese Knotweed, how many Kilometres of roads are estimated in this area that needs treatment for this weed and how many do the Council expect to get treated this year, Cllr. James McDaid was advised that:

*The Municipal District Letterkenny were currently carrying out a Knotweed treatment programme that will continue over the next 5 years. Individual manifestations of the knotweed are to be treated and cannot be measured in kilometres. It is hoped that all identified locations are treated this year. The current database has over 100 identified locations in the MDL and this is continually being added to.*

***MDL386/16 BROOKEFIELD HEIGHTS & HAZELWOOD DRIVE***

In an answer to his question for an update on what the future plans were for dealing with the continual breaking down of the Mechanical Treatment Plants at Brookefield Heights and Hazelwood Drive in Letterkenny and had these estates been taken over by this Council, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised that:

*The services in these two estates were not taken over by Irish Water. However Water Services undertake some emergency work at periodic intervals.*

*Requests were made to Irish Water to extend their network to include these estates. However, to date, its inclusion has not been agreed in the forthcoming sewer upgrade*

**MDL387/16 CARRAIG CRAOIBH ESTATE**

In an answer to his question on when the necessary safety works agreed by the Members as per his motion in March 2016 be carried out at Carraig Craoibh estate Letterkenny, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised that:

*This estate is a private estate which was not taken in charge by the Council and a site meeting could be arranged with Members to explore the issues raised.*

**MDL388/16 JUNCTION AT KILLYLASTIN/KILLYCLUG**

In an answer to his question for an update and works completion date on when the unfinished junction at Killylastin/ Killyclug crossroads would be addressed and would these works incorporate a pedestrian crossing, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised that:

*The completion of this junction was entirely developer driven by a number of developers (all in liquidation). Planning conditions included a complete re alignment from Killylastin Heights over to the Ard Na Ri Pub. Since the liquidation of the developers concerned, there were no works budgeted for this junction in any roads programme. Any proposals to complete this section of road and associated junction required significant funding.*

**MDL389/16 BLUEBANKS TO KILMACRENNAN**

In an answer to his question for an update on the Bluebanks to Kilmacrennan (N56) upgrade from TII, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised that:

*As per last month, this project was ready to tender subject to exchequer funding being made available. There was no allocation in place at present to enable construction to commence.*

**MDL390/16 DISABLED PARKING LETTERKENNY**

In an answer to his question for an update on the provision of extra handicapped parking spaces on Letterkenny Main Street, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised that:

*Donegal County Council took a balanced approach to the assessment and provision of accessible car parking. The Guidelines for the percentage of accessible parking were defined as a minimum of 5% where car parking is provided. The accessible parking spaces within each of the "Public" off-street parking areas (AIB, Courthouse, Grill, Station and Skittle Alley, public parks), currently exceeded this minimum percentage. Existing on street accessible car parking in Letterkenny Town was located close to facilities such as the Post Office, Chemists, Banking and Religious Centres. The Roads Office assessed the need (and location) for additional accessible parking needs on a regular basis. There were currently no plans for the installation of additional bays.*

***MDL391/16 STREET LIGHTS IN CHURCHILL***

In an answer to his question for an update on the installation of new street lights in Churchill, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised that:

*Roads applied for a connection for the new lights and are to carry out the Civils work by the end of October 2016 after which time the lights were programmed to be erected in November 2016.*

***MDL392/16 GLENWOOD ESTATE***

In an answer to his question that the Council fix the potholes in Glenwood Park estate, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

*General patching works were recently carried out in Glenwood Park and the Roads office will revisit to assess and repairs are to be the programme of works, for completion in the coming weeks.*

***MDL393/16 CASHELSHANAGHAN N.S.***

In an answer to his question for an update on the provision of the school ahead warning sign for Castleshanaghan National school, (before the crossroads) that was agreed to at a previous meeting, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

*These signs were to be erected in the coming weeks.*

***MDL394/16 GULLIES AT ASHBROOK & GLENWOOD***

In an answer to his question requesting that the Council clean the gullies in Ashbrook and Glenwood Park, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

*These would be assessed and added to the programme of works if deemed necessary, for completion in the coming weeks.*

**MDL395/16 GREY ROCKS HOUSING ESTATE**

In an answer to his question requesting an update on the footpath along the road frontage at Grey Rocks Housing Estate, Milford, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised that:

*This matter was referred to planning for comment later in the meeting.*

**MDL396/16 RATHMULLAN TOILETS**

In an answer to his question requesting an update on the proposed new Public Toilets and Showering Facilities at Rathmullan, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised that:

*Architects in relation to the new Public Conveniences in Rathmullan were appointed at the end of July. The appointed architects were making good progress in relation to preparing the tender documents and it was hoped that it would go out for tender at the end of October/ beginning of November, 2016.*

**MDL397/16 SEWERAGE TREATMENT**

In an answer to his question requesting that the many problems with Sewage treatment in Rathmullan, Milford, Kilmacrenn, Ramelton and other seaside Towns where sewage is going directly into rivers Lennon & Estuary, Lakes and the sea preventing the areas having Blue Flag Beaches are being addressed, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that:

*This question was referred to Irish Water and an answer will be circulated to Members when received.*

**MDL398/16 RATHMULLAN TOILETS**

In an answer to his question on when the Public Toilets be finished in Rathmullan, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that:

*Architects in relation to the new Public Conveniences in Rathmullan were appointed at the end of July. The appointed architects were making good progress in relation to preparing the tender documents and it was hoped that it would go out for tender at the end of October/ beginning of November, 2016.*

**MDL399/16 RAMELTON ROADS**

In an answer to his question, that the Council provide a better road around Ramelton namely via Drumonaghan, Carnisk and Burnside Road for relief in the event of anything happening between the Bridgend, Breaughy e.g roadworks or accident. Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that:

*There was currently no programme for the construction of new roads which would formerly have been constructed under Specific Improvement Grants.*

**MDL400/16 LAND FOR SOCIAL HOUSING**

In an answer to his question requesting that the Council undertake that for future land purchases to be made by it for social housing, that it will only submit proposals to the Department of the Environment where it has actually entered into a binding contract for such land purchases and which will not then be open to withdrawal by any proposed vendor, Cllr. Dessie Shiels was advised that:

*The Council invites expressions of interest from landowners from time to time for the purpose of acquiring land for development of social housing where it does not have sufficient land bank to develop to meet the housing need. Expressions of interest are assessed against various criteria and a decision is made. Where a proposal satisfies the criteria a process of engagement/negotiation commences with the owner. In any such process there are ultimately contracts prepared which are then considered by the parties to the contract. Whilst the Council can seek to secure agreement to have such a clause included in a contract it is not in a position to compel another party to accept such a condition.*

**MDL401/16 'GO SAFE' VANS**

In an answer to his question if this Council ever contacted the operator of 'Go Safe' vans to request a review of where 'Go Safe' vans are operating in the Letterkenny Municipal District and whether they are actually operating for the most part at accident blackspots in the Letterkenny Municipal District rather than being located at areas of very low speed but with high Density traffic flows where the suspicion is that they are only being used in revenue gathering exercises rather than in genuine efforts to prevent accidents, Cllr. Dessie Shiels was advised that:

*An Garda Síochána contracted Go Safe to operate safety cameras in Ireland on behalf of the organisation. The Garda National Traffic Bureau (GNTB) determine the locations and times of on-road operations and the vans are located at Collision Prone Zones. An Garda Síochána use safety cameras, in conjunction with other technology and resources available to them, to reduce the number of speed related collisions. These can be operated at any location. A list of 355 new Go Safe zones came into effect on the 27th May 2016 giving a National total of 1,031 active zones.*

*These zones are available to view on the Garda website. If a review of a Go Safe location is required, the request can be forwarded to Supt. Con O' Donoghue, Garda National Traffic Bureau, Garda Headquarters, Phoenix Park, Dublin 8.*

**MDL402/16 LISMONAGHAN ROAD PEDESTRIAN & TRAFFIC SAFETY**

In an answer to his question had the Council carried out any work in the last calendar year to improve pedestrian and traffic safety on the Lismonaghan Road in Letterkenny where there are various pedestrian and traffic safety issues such as missing sections of footpath and missing sections of public lighting, Cllr. Dessie Shiels was advised that:

*The Council was engaging with landowners to procure the lands for the construction of a footpath some time in the future. This land is still privately owned. Members agreed on the prioritisation of public lighting spend at a number of workshops held on 14th July, 8th September and 5th October 2015. There are currently no allocation for public lighting at Lismonaghan. Upgrading of lines and signs were carried out at Lismonaghan in the last calendar year.*

**MDL403/16 SAND EMERGENCY BRAKE STOP LURGYBRACK**

In an answer to his question on when works would be carried out on the sand emergency brake stop at Lurgybrack to improve it as it had got into a very poor state, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised that:

*These works were completed in recent weeks.*

**MDL404/16 NOTICE BOARDS**

In an answer to his question on when notice board /signs would be erected in our small towns and villages as agreed per his previous motion, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised that:

*The application for Ramelton under the Town and Village Improvement Scheme was submitted to the Department on September 30th, and the Council is currently awaiting feedback and would update members when this information is available.*

**MDL405/16 THE PINES, CHURCHILL**

In an answer to his question on when the Council plan to take over The Pines estate in Churchill, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised that:

*There is an application for the taking in charge of the housing development known as the Pines, Churchill which is currently under consideration. Donegal County Council has taken in charge the public lighting within the estate. The development is serviced by a stand-alone waste water treatment plant which in line with Circular PL52014 the Department advises planning authorities to refrain from taking in charge until a National strategy has been developed to deal with issues surrounding developer provided infrastructure.*

*The planning authority had not include The Pines, Churchill in the initial tranche of estates for taking in charge consideration due to the fact that there were issues requiring attention within the estate including the waste water treatment plant and roads infrastructure, in this regard a further assessment of the estate will be carried out.*

***MDL406/16 MILLBRIDGE JUNCTION***

In an answer to his question requesting that the Council meet Cllr. O'Donnell in relation to the junction at the Millbridge, Kilmacrennan where there is a blind spot for both pedestrians and motorists, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised that:

*A site meeting was arranged with Cllr O'Donnell and the Area Engineer to assess the junction.*

***MDL407/16 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING***

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 in the Milford Public Services Centre commencing at 2:00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Mayor

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