

**Draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Stranorlar held  
11 am, 08<sup>th</sup> April 2019 in Stranorlar Regional Training Centre**

<b>Members Present</b>	Cllr. Patrick McGowan, Cllr. Martin Harley, Cllr. Gerry Crawford, Cllr. Gary Doherty, Cllr. Liam Doherty, Cllr. Frank McBrearty.
<b>Officials Present</b>	Joe Peoples, Olive Gillespie, Tony Browne, Claire McGeever, Kathleen McGowan, Paul Gallagher, Paddy Doherty, Killian Smith.

Cllr. McGowan thanked everyone for their attendance. Items from the agenda were discussed as follows:

## **216 Corporate Services**

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### **216.01 Votes of Sympathy**

Members passed a vote of sympathy on the passing of:

- Our colleague and former Councillor Dessie Larkin.
- Former Councillor JJ Reid.
- Pat & Margaret Doherty, uncle & aunt of Councillor Liam Doherty.
- Mary (Bim) Coyle, mother-in-law of Councillor Martin Harley.
- Breige Sweeney, sister-in-law of our colleague, Patsy Lafferty, Divisional Manager, Housing.
- Garda Eddie Duffy, son of our colleague Eddie Duffy, Traffic Warden, Bundoran.
- Dermot Ryan, brother of Michael Ryan, Water Works Inspector, Inishowen.
- Neil Devlin, father of our colleagues Charlie Devlin, Housing & Corporate and Patsy Devlin, Roads.
- Willie Fullerton, father of Leona Curran, Parking Section, Letterkenny.
- Pasqueline Blake, sister of our colleague Gerry Keeney, Water Services.
- Loretta McGlinchey, wife of our colleague Pauric McGlinchey, Roads Services.
- Joseph Duncan, Carrigans.

### **216.02 Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Stranorlar held 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019**

The minutes were approved on the proposal of Cllr. F McBrearty and seconded by Cllr. G Doherty.

## **217 Confirmation of Date and Venue for Next Meeting and Business Prescribed by Statute**

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**217.01** It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of the Stranorlar Municipal District would be agreed by the next Council after the Local Elections due to be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

**217.02** The Schedule of Municipal District Works 2019 was proposed by Cllr. M Harley and seconded by Cllr. F McBrearty.

## **218 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations from Services**

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### **218.01 Roads Services**

Claire McGeever was invited to address the meeting. The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read.

- The Restoration Improvements Programme 2019 was proposed by Cllr. L Doherty and seconded by Cllr. G Crawford.
- The Restoration Maintenance Programme 2019 was proposed by Cllr. M Harley and seconded by Cllr. F McBrearty.
- The Drainage Works Programme 2019 was proposed by Cllr. G Doherty and seconded by Cllr. L Doherty.
- The Bridge (Strengthening) Programme 2019 was proposed by Cllr. M Harley and seconded by Cllr. G Doherty.
- Claire McGeever updated Members in relation to the Cloghan Bridge under the Bridge Rehabilitation Works Programme 2019.
- Members were updated in relation to the Severe Weather Funding Programme which is now substantially completed.
- Claire McGeever advised Members that the deadline in relation to receipt of applications under the Community Involvement Scheme 2019 is the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Cllr. P McGowan requested that any update in relation to this Scheme be e-mailed to Members as there are no more Workshops until June 2019.
- Cllr. G Doherty expressed his disappointment at the level of works completed at the footpath at Grahamsland, Castlefinn given the resources provided to complete the works. Claire McGeever agreed to provide an update in relation to the works completed to date and cost of same.
- Cllr. F McBrearty raised an issue in relation to lights not working at the footpath in Raphoe. Claire McGeever agreed to follow up and revert.
- Cllr. L Doherty requested that lights adjacent to Harris's garage be checked.
- Cllr. M Harley raised an issue in relation to the acquisition of land for car parking and the new National School. Cllr. Harley highlighted that a few extra acres of land could benefit the area encompassing the new school, the new Finn Harps pitch while also assisting in the provision of car parking for the area.

### **218.02 Community & Enterprise**

Kathleen McGowan was invited to address the meeting. The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read.

- Kathleen McGowan provided Members with an update in relation to the Foyle/Finn Development.
- It was agreed to hold a Development Fund initiative 2019 Workshop on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2019 at 2pm in Lifford.
- Cllr. F McBrearty outlined that at the Housing & Corporate Specific Policy Committee meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019, it was proposed and seconded that the Members Fund should be used to assist the payment of insurance costs in relation to playgrounds. Joe Peoples agreed to put this on the Agenda of the next meeting of the Corporate Policy Group.

### **218.03 Housing & Corporate Services**

Olive Gillespie was invited to address the meeting. The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Cllr. P McGowan requested an update in relation to the process of providing nominations from the Council's Waiting List to Approved Housing Bodies. Olive Gillespie outlined the current process. It was agreed that the current process would be changed so that Members are informed by the Housing Office when applicants are nominated to an Approved Housing Bodie, accept the accommodation offer and are subsequently removed from the Council's Waiting List.
- Cllr. G Crawford highlighted issues in relation to transfer requests on the grounds of alleged incidents of anti-social behaviour and the challenges of getting Garda Reports to substantiate the transfer request.
- Cllr. M Harley suggested that the Council site at Trusk road, Ballybofey would be an ideal site to provide housing for older residents, given the sites proximity to Ballybofey and access to services within the town. This was supported by Cllr. P McGowan.

### **218.04 Planning Services**

Killian Smith was invited to address the meeting. The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Killian Smith provided Members with an update in relation to Cathedral Hill, Raphoe and advised that a contractor has been appointed with works to begin at the end of April 2019.
- Members queried who is now in charge of Unfinished Housing Estates and why a list of unfinished estates has not been provided to Members for discussion. Joe Peoples advised that the post in relation to unfinished estates will be filled soon and that an update in relation to Unfinished Housing Estates would be provided to Members by the end of week. Members suggested that creative solutions are required in relation to Unfinished Housing Estates and that contractors should be compelled to complete all works in relation to providing new housing estates.
- Members requested that Unfinished Housing Estates be placed as an item on the Agenda for the next Municipal District Meeting.
- Cllr. M Harley requested an update in relation to neon signs and suggested that an advisory notice be placed on the Councils website to highlight that neon signage is not permitted.
- Cllr. M Harley referred to a new planning application by Glenmore Estate Farms Ltd, Ballybofey and highlighted an issue in relation to smells emanating from the estate and traffic from vehicles at this site. He queried if there is a way of letting the public know that this planning application will not make the current situation worse. Killian Smith advised that he could not comment on this application as the application process had not yet been completed.

## 218.05 Environmental Services

Paul Gallagher was invited to address the meeting. The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Members were advised that letters of offer have been issued to successful applicants in relation to CFRAMS vacancies.
- Paul Gallagher updated Members in relation to the Big Donegal Clean Up 2019, Waste/Recycling Talks and Grants for Community Groups.
- Members were advised that a presentation was made to Community Groups at the last Environment Strategic Policy Committee on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.
- Members were advised that the Balor Arts Centre in Ballybofey has signed up to a new innovative scheme that will see it providing community toilet facilities in the Twin Towns under the Council's Community Toilet Scheme.
- Paul Gallagher advised that the recruitment process is underway in relation to the post of Litter Warden. Members expressed their frustration that the post remains vacant and highlighted issues in relation to littering in the Stranorlar Municipal District, including littering near schools.
- Cllr. G Doherty requested to be kept updated in relation to the location of Bring Banks in Castlefinn.
- Members wished to commend Community Groups and the various initiatives progressed by the Environment Section.

## 219 Members Motions

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**219.01 The following Motion was submitted by Cllr. F McBrearty:**

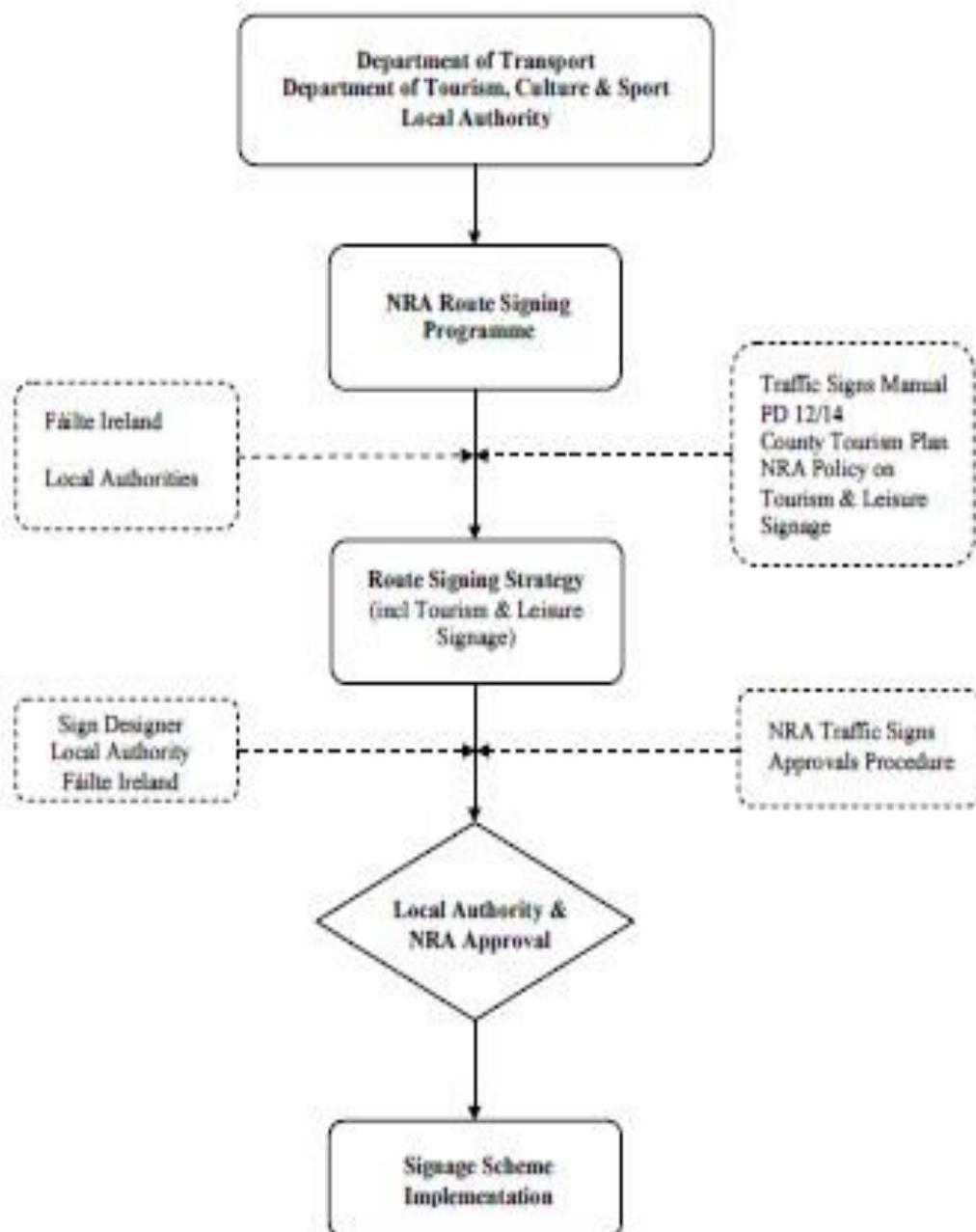
**Motion: I am calling on the Council to address the problems with the lack of signs in the towns and villages of the Stranorlar MD and that the following upgrades be made to signs in order to promote and enhance tourism, culture, heritage sites, places of interest, accommodation, place's to eat, sporting grounds, sporting facilities and in particular points of information as people travel from other parts of the Country and NI into Donegal and people coming from other parts of Donegal into the MD.**

**Reply:**

There are no current plans for a National or County Wide review of signage. In 2012 a review was completed by a Consultant on behalf of the TII on all directional signs on the National Roads. This included both directional signs and tourist signs. Stranorlar MD was consulted at that time and participated in the process, facilitated by the NRO office. Fáilte Ireland also contributed to the process.

In relation to National Roads signage must be in accordance with: TII "Policy on the provision of Tourist and Leisure Signage on National Roads". [https://www.tii.ie/tii-library/policies/Tourism\\_and\\_Leisure/Policy-on-Tourist-and-Leisure-Information-Signage.pdf](https://www.tii.ie/tii-library/policies/Tourism_and_Leisure/Policy-on-Tourist-and-Leisure-Information-Signage.pdf).

## Appendix A - Typical Development Process for Tourist and Leisure Signage Schemes



### 3.3 Tourist / Leisure Destinations.

Signage for tourist and leisure destinations may, in the first instance, be provided in accordance with the following criteria:

Table 3.1 - Criteria for the provision of tourist / leisure signage on national roads.

Road Type	Minimum number of visitors per annum <sup>(1)</sup>	Maximum distance of attraction from national road <sup>(2)</sup>
Motorway / Dual Carriageway	50,000	30 km
Other National Primary Roads	15,000	20 km
National Secondary Roads	7,000	20 km

Non National Roads and all roads within the 50kph are a matter for the Local Authority. Any possible review should be County wide and would need a joint approach from both Council services and Fáilte Ireland.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. L Doherty

## 220 Members Written Questions

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### 220.01 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. G Crawford:

**Question:** What will be done to improve the terrible conditions that tenants have to endure with the failings of the treatment plant at Hollybush Park, Porthall.

**Reply:** Hollybush Park, Porthall is a full treatment plant, with a septic tank, pumping station and percolation area. At present, the Council arranges for this to be desludged bi-annually and the pumps are checked on a weekly basis. The issue reported in week commencing 18th February 2019 that the pumps were down at Hollybush Park actually related to a blocked sewer line which has now been remedied. This Council will continue to monitor this plant as set out above.

### 220.02 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. G Crawford:

**Question:** What plans exist for the development/use of the council owned lands at Drumboy, Lifford.

**Reply:** Lands at Lifford Common, totalling circa 30 acres are currently in the ownership of the Council. Elected Members approved the disposal of 5 acres of these lands to a private company, O'Neills International, in 2017 and this disposal is currently progressing through the conveyance process. This disposal was facilitated in order to promote and support economic development in the local area. The disposed lands are located to the front of the site and have been disposed of with a number of conditions including that should the lands not be developed for the purpose of the disposal within 4 years from the date of Contracts, then the lands may revert to Council ownership.

The remaining 26 acres of land are currently zoned as an Opportunity Site in the County Development Plan 2018-2024 (CDP) which permits the lands to be considered for a "mixed use development including proposals of an economic and employment generating nature". The CDP also states that a "masterplan for the overall broad layout of land use types within the site shall be required and all other objectives and policies of this Plan shall apply". A masterplan for these lands was developed in 2005 however it will be necessary to update this masterplan in advance of any further development of these lands to ensure that proposed use(s) are in compliance with the objectives and policies of the current County Development Plan. Any new masterplan will also have to be cognisant of access (vehicular and pedestrian), infrastructural requirements as well the proposed development of 5 acres of land by O'Neills. Any new masterplan will be drafted and prepared in consultation with the Elected Members.

**220.03 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. G Crawford:**

**Question: When will construction start on the much needed social housing schemes in Raphoe and St. Johnston.**

**Reply:** J Russell Construction has been appointed as Main Contractor on the new housing scheme at St. Johnston incorporating six housing units. The project commenced on site on 25th February 2019. Site clearance and diversion of utilities is currently underway. Raphoe Housing Scheme incorporating 11 housing units is at finalization of Bill of Quantities and tender documentation in advance of a Stage 3 submission to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for approval to proceed to tender in Q2 2019.

**220.04 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. F McBrearty:**

**Question: Can I have a list of roads that Irish Water has to resurface as a result of contracts being concluded in the Stranorlar MD.**

**Reply:** In accordance with the Road Traffic Act (1961) as amended and the Local Government Act (2001) as amended local authorities (road authorities) are empowered to issue binding directions/licences to all persons or organisations that carry out road openings on a public road in their functional area. For the purposes of this document and the MapRoad Licensing (MRL) system these are called licences, that are issued with conditions, that are consistent with these guidelines and are subject to compliance by the applicant.

The following IW road opening licenses have outstanding surfacing works remaining;

1. Raphoe to Convoy Pipeline.
2. Ballindrait Regional Road.
3. Feddyglass.
4. Coneyburrow Heights.

In relation to Convoy to Raphoe, Donegal County Council Water Capital office is meeting with the contractor to have outstanding works completed as per their schedule below. The conditions of the road opening license are in accordance with the Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads (Purple Book) issued by the Department of Transport, tourism and sport and the Executive Engineer for Roads will be checking all works are in accordance with the license.

- Ch 250 – 1000m – trench reinstatement plus half lane reinstatement to existing surface (Miltown Convoy)
- Ch 1000 – 3061 – trench reinstatement plus full width double surface dressing (Convoy to Raphoe)
- Ch 3061 – 4000m – trench reinstatement plus half lane double surface dressing (Tullyvinney Rd.)
- Ch 4000 – 4250m – trench reinstatement plus half lane width reinstatement to existing surface (Raphoe at chapel)
- Ch 4250 – 4430 – trench reinstatement plus half lane reinstatement to existing surface plus half lane width double surface dressed. (Raphoe at health centre)
- Ch 4430 – 4590 - trench reinstatement plus half lane reinstatement to existing surface (Reynolds to Irish Row)
- Ch 4590 – 5090 – trench reinstatement plus full width double surface dressed (Irish Row)

**220.05 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. F McBrearty:**

**Question: Can I have a list of funding given out to private and local authority housing estates from the Stranorlar MD members fund for grass cutting.**

**Reply: Grass Cutting – Stranorlar MD**

The Members Development Fund does not cover grass cutting. However, the following Residents Associations received Grass Cutting funding from Housing & Corporate Stranorlar MD as follows:

<b>Residents Group</b>	<b>Estate maintained</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Deele View Park Residents Association	Deele View Park	Convoy	€500	€500	€0
Raphoe Tidy Towns	Meadowhill, approach to Meadowhill, Pairc Na Bealtaine, Railway Road, Parkview	Raphoe	€500	€500	€500
Finn Valley CE Project Ltd.	Liscooley Villas, Curragh Housing Estate, Burn Rock, Killygordon	Liscooley and Killygordon	€500	€500	€500
St. Eunan's Terrace Residents Association	St. Eunan's Terrace	Raphoe	€500	€500	€500
Ard McCool Residents Association	Ard McCool	Stranorlar	€500	€500	€500
Ard Baithin Residents Group	Ard Baithin	St. Johnston	€500	€500	€0
Ard McCarron Residents Group	Ard McCarron	Ballybofey	€100	€100	€100
Castlefinn Tidy Towns Association	Emmet Park, Hillhead	Castlefinn	€500	€0	€0
Lifford/Clonleigh Resource Group	Croaghan Heights	Lifford	€500	€500	€0
Beechwood Avenue Residents Group	Beechwood Avenue	Raphoe	€0	€500	€500
Railway Avenue Residents Association	Railway Avenue	Killygordon	€2,500	€500	€0

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

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**Cathaoirleach**  
**Municipal District of Lifford-Stranorlar**

**As agreed at the Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District Meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019.**