

26th September, 2017

TO ALL MEMBERS OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
--

The Adjourned September Meeting of Donegal County Council, will be held on Monday 2nd October, 2017 at 10.00am, in the County House, Lifford to consider the unfinished business listed at Items below:-

Items 4(a), 5(b), 6 - 52.

Please ensure that you bring the agenda previously distributed to the meeting.

Meetings Administrator

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED SEPTEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL
COUNTY COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 2nd
OCTOBER, 2017

C/329/17 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs Gerry Mc Monagle, Cathaoirleach, L Blaney, E Bonner, C Brogan, J Campbell, P Canning, T Conaghan, G Crawford, N Crossan, A Doherty, G Doherty, L Doherty, R Donaghey, M Farren, M T Gallagher, A Glackin, M Harley, N Jordan, J Kavanagh, N Kennedy, M C Mac Giolla Easbuig, M Mc Bride, J P Mc Daid, M McDermott, I Mc Garvey, P McGowan, B McGuinness, J Murray, M Naughton, S O'Domhnaill, J 'O' Donnell, J S O'Fearraigh, B O'Neill, J Ryan and T Slowey.

C330//17 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, John McLaughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation, Liam Ward, Director of Community, Enterprise & Planning Services, A/ Meetings Administrator , Michael Mc Garvey, Director of Water & Environment, Garry Martin, Director of Finance, Information Systems & Emergency Services, Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, Joseph McTaggart, Chief Fire Officer, Paul Christie, Senior Planner, Kevin Mc Garvey, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Dermot Bradley, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Anne Marie Conlon, Communications Officer, Sean O' Daimhin, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/331/17 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mc Brearty who was unable to attend the meeting.

C/332/17 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr Kavanagh it was resolved to adjourn the meeting until 11am as a mark of respect to Mr Joe Peoples, Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services on the death of his mother, Mrs Teresa Peoples.

C/333/17 NOMINATION OF MEMBER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF ÚDARÁS NA GAELTACHTA

The Cathaoirleach informed members that the legal advice sought in relation to the appointment of Cllr O' Fearraigh as the Donegal County Council representative on Údarás na Gaeltachta had been received and as per normal protocol the meeting would continue in committee to allow for the consideration of same.

Cllr Mc Gowan said that in the in the interest of openness and transparency the matter would be best discussed in an open forum.

Mr Liam Ward, A/Meetings Administrator said that in the past legal advice had been generally considered in committee with members returning to public session after the consideration of same.

C/334/17 CONTINUATION OF THE MEETING IN COMMITTEE
On the proposal of Cllr Mc Guinness, seconded by Cllr Farren it was resolved in accordance with Section 45 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to continue with the meeting in committee.

The Cathaoirleach asked the members of the media present to leave the chamber and a copy of the advice received from Mr Paddy Mc Mullin, Council Solicitor was circulated to members.

It was then unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting until 11.45am to allow members consider the advice received from the Council Solicitor.

C/335/17 NOMINATION OF MEMBER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF ÚDARÁS NA GAELTACHTA
On resumption the Cathaoirleach said that it was his intention to move on to the next item on the agenda.

Cllr Brogan said that it was vital that the Council as a body was clear about the decision that they had made. It was all about mutual respect, he added, and the fact that 14 people were very clear as to how they had voted. He was, he advised, firmly of the opinion that there had not been any intentional miscalculation of the votes in question.

Given that a cloud of doubt existed and the fact that there was a concerted level of acceptance that a genuine mistake had been made, he proposed, seconded by Cllr Crawford that a revote take place.

Cllr Gallagher said it would not be possible to retake a vote which had been taken at a specific moment in time, and the validity of which had been backed up by the legal advice received from the Council Solicitor. Cllr Murray concurred with this and said that the

Sinn Fein Grouping had full confidence in the process undertaken by the Meetings Administrator.

Cllr Campbell drew member's attention to Standing Orders No 25 and 26 which, he contended prevented a revote from taking place.

Cllr O' Domhnaill alluded to the fact that the Cathaoirleach had specific rights as evidenced in Standing Order No 55. However, he said, the fact that 14 members had signed a declaration that they had been present in the chamber and voted was surely evidence enough for a second vote to be taken. He alluded to Standing Order No 56 which dictated that any member present at a meeting of Council was entitled to a vote unless prohibited by a specific enactment.

The layout of the Chamber itself, he said, was not conducive to the business being conducted effectively.

He thus proposed, seconded by Cllr Canning that a vote be taken as to whether there should be a revote in relation to the Údarás nomination.

The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that a letter had been received from Cllr O' Domhnaill indicating that he had sought legal opinion on the matter.

Cllr Brogan called for this correspondence to be circulated. This was seconded by Cllr O' Donnell.

A number of members at this juncture called for the meeting to proceed as the relevant legal advice had been received and circulated.

The Cathaoirleach said that the legal advice obtained had been wide ranging and had dealt with all the issues raised by members at the previous meeting. He was, he said, satisfied that the vote taken in relation to the nomination of Cllr O' Fearraigh had been taken in a lawful manner and that nothing had happened in the interim to change this opinion.

Cllr O' Donnell said that he had been one of the 14 Councillors who had voted in favour of Cllr O' Domhnaill and had signed the declaration to that effect. He said that Cllr O' Domhnaill should be

afforded a revote and that failure to do so would cast a shadow on the entire chamber. There was, he confirmed, no dispute as to the method of the vote but rather an issue in relation to the counting of same.

The Cathaoirleach outlined his intention to proceed with the remaining business on the agenda as the legal advice, received from the Council Solicitor clearly indicated that the selection of the Údarás nominee had been carried out in a lawful manner.

C/336/17 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

A heated debate ensued and Cllr Brogan thus proposed, seconded by Cllr Mc Dermott that the meeting be adjourned for a brief recess until 12.30pm.

C/337/17 NOMINATION OF MEMBER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF ÚDARÁS NA GAELTACHTA

On resumption Cllr Brogan proposed, seconded by Cllr Canning that the Cathaoirleach in the interest of democracy deal with the proposals before him.

Responding the Cathaoirleach queried as to whether or not members were asking him to forego his previous decision by taking the resolutions in question . He again outlined his intention to proceed with Item 5(b).

Cllr Crawford asked for an explanation as to where in Standing Orders there was provision for the Cathaoirleach to overrule decisions taken by members.

Cllr O' Domhnaill said that it would be wrong not to take a second vote and asked the 14 members who had voted in his favour at the previous meeting to stand up.

Cllr O' Donnell enquired as to which three members the Cathaoirleach was disenfranchising by refusing to revisit the nomination process.

Another heated debate took place after which the Cathaoirleach again referred to the legal advice at hand which, he said, outlined clearly the fact that Údarás nomination had been conducted in a wholly legal manner.

The Cathaoirleach said that he had used his discretion as Chair to disallow motions that clearly contradicted the decision taken on the 25th September, 2017.

He asked the Director of Finance, Information Systems and Emergency services to proceed with Item 5(b)

C/338/17 FIRE AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN FOR THE FIRE AUTHORITY OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

Mr Garry Martin, Director of Finance, Information Systems and Emergency Services outlined in detail the various aspects of the plan.

C/339/17 ADJOURNMENT FOR LUNCH
It was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting for lunch until 2pm.

C/340/17 FIRE AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN FOR THE FIRE AUTHORITY OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
Cllr Murray proposed, seconded by Cllr Campbell that the Fire and Emergency Operation Plan for the Fire Authority be referred back to the Environment and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee for further consideration.

Cllr Campbell said that he was of the opinion that the plan should be subject to an appropriate period of public consultation following which the SPC could determine whether any submission necessitated an oral submission/explanation directly to the committee. He asked that all Section 85 Agreements be appended in light of the number of commitments given in the plan to increase workload (DPIs, Risk Assessments, OH&SMS, PIPs, Fire Safety Cert Backlog) and that an increase in personnel be considered.

He proceeded to outline a number of changes which he contended needed to be incorporated into the plan. (Vide Appendix 1)

Cllr Gallagher thanked the Director of Service for the comprehensive presentation and acknowledged the excellent work carried out by the Fire Service in Donegal.

She informed members that she had been approached by the Fire Fighters Association who had provided copies of two assessments carried out in relation to the services on Tory and Arranmore. Both she contended, had outlined specific deficiencies in both services. It was imperative, she added, that both reports were forwarded to the Environment & Emergency Services SPC for consideration. It was not acceptable, she said, that there was no blue light service on the Islands in question.

In response Mr Garry Martin stated that the Fire Service and the Health and Safety Office had not been aware of the reports referred to. Any suggestion, he said, that staff were at risk was a matter of great concern. If this was the case, he would, he said, ensure that the necessary action was taken to remedy same.

The Section 26 Plan, he noted, was an overarching statement of intent, highlighting overall objectives and was not intended to include every single supporting policy. The plan as presented was, he said, more detailed than that produced by many local authorities and did not need to incorporate operational detail.

He confirmed that there had been engagement with the Fire Fighters, all of whom had been given the opportunity to comment and make observations on the proposed plan.

Cllr Gallagher said she was not aware that the reports referred to earlier in respect of Tory and Arranmore had not been reviewed by the Executive

She said she had acted in good faith when asked to make the representations, many of which had already been raised by the members of the Islands Committee.

A lengthy debate ensued with members highlighting a range of issues in areas including collaboration with National Ambulance Service, accommodation issues, consideration that all stations should be on a par, fire hydrants, naming and identification of areas, CO readers, apartment blocks, fire safety at halting sites and payment of charges.

Cllr Campbell said that most of the documents he had asked to be appended had been contained in the template document issued by

the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management with same being attached to most other Section 26 plans.

Mr Garry Martin, Director of Finance, Information Systems and Emergency Services said that the plan as presented was as detailed as required, and met the necessary legislative requirements. It was not intended, he said, to be a multi-annual work programme.

With regard to fire safety certificates, he confirmed that good progress had been made in relation to the processing of same over the last six to nine months with two to three senior fire officers working on the certificates at any one time.

It was essential, he advised, that these were done correctly and that they adhered to all the relevant safety regulations. The amount of work involved, it was acknowledged, also depended on the design of the building in question. The volume and quality of the information submitted also impacted on the number of interactions that were needed to complete the process.

A more detailed breakdown would, he confirmed, be presented at budget time.

Mr Martin confirmed that there was a generous waiver scheme in operation in relation to call-out charges and said it was essential, that the message went out that if in doubt call the fire service out.

Mr Joseph Mc Taggart, Chief Fire Officer responded in detail to the extensive number of queries raised by members across a range of subject areas.

The Cathaoirleach asked members to consider the proposal from Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Campbell requesting that the plan be referred back to the Environment and Emergency Services SPC.

The Chief Executive informed members that they were being asked to adopt a plan which provided for the service into the future at a certain level based on the assumption that the organisation was in a position to resource that work to the extent that there was responsible management of the service and the recommended protection afforded. If the plan was made more extensive than the authority could afford then the service would, he said, be stretched beyond reasonable levels of safety.

The Director of Finance, Information Systems and Emergency Services responding to a number of queries said that the plan had been brought forward on the assumption that it was fully complete and ready for consideration for adoption.

The Chief Executive alluded to the fact that there had been an opportunity for each station and all fire officers to engage in the process and said that he was not aware of any issues which had not been dealt with as a result of this engagement.

The resource issue, he said, would be dealt with going forward and there would be an opportunity also to consider same at budget time. This was something, he advised, which could not be dealt with through the SPC process. He acknowledged the fact that there had always been an ability to work through the various headings with the unions on all issues and that this was something that would continue in the future.

Cllr Gallagher said it was imperative that the assessments in question were also forwarded to the SPC for consideration.

The Chief Executive again highlighted the fact that the SPC was a policy body. The assessments referred to by Cllr Gallagher would, he advised, be checked and the stations concerned looked at and if it turned out that the assessments were accurate and that there was a specific gap in resources or facilities, then the authority had an obligation to deal with same and provide the facilities needed or eliminate the risks as identified.

Cllr Ryan proposed that the plan be adopted and said it would set a dangerous precedent if the plan was referred back to the Environment and Emergency Services SPC.

Cllr O' Domhnaill said that there were a number of issues that required attention before the plan could be adopted, including the provision of an indicative timeframe for the processing of Fire Safety Certificates and a commitment to address any issues on Tory and Arranmore Islands. He called also for greater engagement with Roinn na Gaeltachta so that additional funding could be sourced for fire services on the Islands.

The Director of Finance, Information Systems and Emergency Services said that there was nothing in the plan that prohibited

further development of the service. A number of deficiencies had been identified in a number of stations and it was intended, he said, that these would be worked through during the life of the plan.

It was noted that there had been considerable progress in the processing times for fire safety certs.

The Cathaoirleach asked members to clarify whether they wanted to proceed with a show of hands or a recorded vote.

Cllr Crawford proposed, seconded by Cllr O' Domhnaill, that a recorded vote be taken.

Mr Liam Ward, A/Meetings Administrator informed members that they should now vote on the proposal from Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Campbell that the Fire and Emergency Operations Plan be referred back to the Environment and Emergency Services SPC.

Cllr Brogan said that the role of the SPC was to formulate policy and that they would be restricted ultimately as to what changes they could make to the plan.

The Cathaoirleach advised members that they should now consider the proposal to send the plan back to the SPC as proposed by Cllr Murray and seconded by Cllr Campbell.

A recorded vote was then taken by the Meetings Administrator.

This resulted in 10 voting for, 9 voting against and 10 abstentions.

Those voting for included:-

Campbell, A Doherty, G Doherty, L Doherty, Gallagher, Glackin, Kennedy, Mc Monagle, Murray and O' Fearraigh (10)

Those voting against included:-

Bonner, Conaghan, Farren, Harley, Mc Garvey, Mc Guinness, O'Neill, Ryan and Slowey (9)

The following abstained:-

Blaney, Brogan, Canning, Crawford, Crossan, Donaghey, Mc Dermott, Mc Gowan, Naughton, and O' Domhnaill (10)

It was thus resolved to send the Fire and Emergency Operations Plan back to the Environment & Emergency Services SPC for further consideration.

Cllr Crawford asked for clarity as to why his motion requesting clarification in relation to the Údarás issue had been ignored.

The Meetings Administrator said that the type of motion referred to arose under Standing Orders 39 to 45. A member seeking to make a point of order and then addressing the chair was obliged to give way until the question of order had been determined by the chair, whose ruling on the matter would be final.

The chair, he advised, was the sole judge of order in the Council and had the authority to maintain order and enforce prompt obedience to his ruling. The Cathaoirleach, he said, had the power to deal with any matter not covered by Standing Orders.

C/341/17 CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN FOR SEVEN STRATEGIC TOWNS & ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT AND NATURA IMPACT REPORT AND TO CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF PUBLICATION OF DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN FOR SEVEN STRATEGIC TOWNS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT AND NATURA IMPACT REPORT.

Members considered the reports circulated with the agenda and prior to the meeting in relation to the above.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise and Planning Services said that the Draft Seven Strategic Towns Local Area Plan 2018-2024 had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2017 and members were now being asked to put the plans in question out to public consultation. This draft plan, he added, set out the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the seven towns in the context of the Draft County Donegal Development Plan 2018- 2024 and the Border Regional Authority's Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022.

There had, he advised, to date been considerable discussion at MD and workshop level. He acknowledged the excellent work carried

out to date by the planning officials and thanked Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner and Paul Christie, Senior Executive Planner for their input. It was intended, he said, to deal with each of the seven towns on an individual basis.

An Clochán Liath (Dungloe)

Cllr Gallagher proposed, seconded by Cllr Slowey that that the Draft Local Area Plan for the town of Dungloe, the Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report be published and referred out for public consultation.

Cllr Bonner asked that the area surrounding the Randox factory be zoned for industrial development.

Cllr Albert Doherty took the chair for a brief period at this juncture.

Cllr Canning contended that there was a need for additional clarity in relation to general policy issues namely EH 1 and for those unable to get planning permission from within a framework settlement.

Mr Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner , said that this was something that needed to be addressed as part of the County Plan process and that members would have an opportunity deal with same when considering the Draft County Development Plan.

Ballybofey/Stranorlar

Cllr Mc Gowan proposed, seconded by Cllr Crawford that the Draft Local Area Plan for Ballybofey/Stranorlar , the Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report be published and referred out for public consultation as agreed by the Members of the Stranorlar MD.

These to include:-

- Zoning 'Corcam' Economic Development lands (as identified in 2005 LAP) for economic development.
- Add strategic junction symbol and amend mapping as per proposal ie. add 'Strategic National Primary Road Junction'
- Add Stranorlar to Lifford route reservation corridor

- To amend text at Section 5.5.1, second paragraph to read *“For these reasons, and given also the critical mass of the Twin Towns, the LAP identifies a number of sites for economic development purposes. Sites have been identified to the east (**Strategic Economic Development Opportunity Sites 1 and Opportunity Site 6**), south”*

- Insert new third paragraph in Section 5.5.1. *“The above-noted Strategic Economic Development Opportunity Site (identified on the Land Use Zoning Map as SEDOS 1) is located at Mullindrait to the east of Stranorlar. These lands were zoned for 'Economic Development' in the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Local Area Plan, 2005-2011 and the Council has again identified these lands as representing a Strategic Economic Development Opportunity Site in the context of the above-noted Policy ED-P-15 of the Draft County Development Plan. The lands are bisected by the proposed Ballybofey/Stranorlar Bypass Route Corridor Reservation and the lands to the east of the aforementioned route are also located immediately adjacent to the proposed N15 Lifford to Ballybofey/Stranorlar Route Corridor Reservation”.*

- Insert new fourth para in Section 5.5.1 *“The aforementioned location adjacent to a section of the N15 National Primary Road with a speed limit greater than 60kph presents a key challenge to delivering development on these lands. In these circumstances, access is subject to National Roads Policy restricting new accesses, or the intensification of existing accesses, onto national roads where such a speed limit applies. Consequently, the realisation of the potential of these lands depends on the Council securing consent from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for a strategic access onto the N15 under the exemption set out in Section 2.6 of the Ministerial Planning Guidelines Ministerial Planning Guidelines ‘Spatial Planning and National Roads’. The identification of this strategic opportunity and associated access/junction proposal in this Draft LAP is a significant step in doing so. The Council will enter into negotiations with TII in this regard”.*

- Insert new Objective BY-ED-1 *“It is an Objective of the Council to develop lands zoned Strategic Economic Development Opportunity Site 1 (SEDOS 1) for strategic economic development inclusive of identifying an agreed access solution to said lands onto the N15 in consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland”*.

- Insert new Policy BY-ED-2 *“It is a policy of the Council to facilitate economic development proposals of a strategic economic development nature inclusive of proposals related to Class 3 (office); Class 4 (light industrial); Class 5 (wholesale warehouse or repository); manufacturing, information technology, international traded services, and high-end services manufacturing on land zoned Strategic Economic Development Opportunity Site 1 (SEDOS 1). Proposals shall only be considered in the context of an agreed Masterplan for the entirety of the Opportunity Site. The Masterplan, and any subsequent development, shall dovetail with, and incorporate as necessary, the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Bypass route; and (2.) the proposed N15 Lifford to Ballybofey/Stranorlar Route Corridor Reservation. The Masterplan shall make adequate provision to ensure the protection of residential amenities of existing residential properties situated adjacent to the National Primary Road by means of the identification of adequate buffer zone(s)”*.

Mr Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner said it would be possible to review same.

Ballyshannon

Cllr O’ Neill proposed, seconded by Cllr Kennedy that the Draft Local Area Plan for the town of Ballyshannon, the Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report as agreed by the Donegal Municipal District Committee be published and referred out for public consultation.

It was generally agreed that there was a need to flag various opportunity sites within the area and have a more descriptive outline of same incorporated into the Ballyshannon Plan.

Bridgend

Cllr Canning said that he had some concerns in relation to the proposal for an alternative strategic road link between Donegal and

Derry in the Bridgend area particularly as to where this bypass would be located.

Cllr Murray said that he was of the opinion that the road was capable of supporting current traffic levels.

Cllr Mc Guinness enquired as to whether there had been any cross-border co-operation to date in relation to the project.

Mr Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner said that it would be possible to put an objective into the plan examining options for an alternative strategic road link between Donegal and Derry in the Bridgend area. It was, he said, however not practical at this stage as it could pose a barrier to route selection.

Cllr Canning proposed, seconded by Cllr Murray that that the Draft Local Area Plan for Bridgend, the Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report be published and referred out for public consultation subject to the inclusion of the following:-

- Insert Objective BE-TC-2 after Objective BE-TC-1:-
“It is an Objective of the Council to examine options for an alternative strategic road link between Donegal and Derry in the Bridgend area to enable the achievement of a quality, sustainable village centre, and the sustainable growth of the centre”

- Insert new Policy BE-TC-3:-
“It is a policy of the Council to support the examination of options for an alternative strategic road link between Donegal and Derry in the Bridgend area to enable the achievement of a quality, sustainable village centre, and the sustainable growth of the centre”.

Carndonagh

Cllr A Doherty proposed, seconded by Cllr Mc Guinness that the Draft Local Area Plan for Carndonagh, the Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report be published and referred out for public consultation subject to the inclusion of the following:-

- Section 8.1, paragraph 4 to be amended to read:
“This LAP aims to set out a spatial planning framework that capitalises on the strategic position of Carndonagh as a

service centre along the Wild Atlantic Way and the Donegal County Council Municipal District Service Centre for the Inishowen area”.

- Section 8.4.3, paragraph 2 to be amended to read:
‘In Carndonagh, the Planning Authority has identified the Pound Street, Chapel Street, Bridge Street and Malin Street areas as locations that have particular issues

- . Section 8.9.1, paragraph 1 to be amended to read:
“In the town centre (notwithstanding the damage caused to this amenity during the August, 2017 storms) and the potential”

- Section 8.8.1, paragraph 1 the second sentence to be amended to read:-
“However, the presence of the Community School on Church Road (Regional road R238)

- Map No. 5 Carndonagh to be amended to,
“Identify Chapel Street, Bridge Street and Malin Street also as 'Areas in Need of Regeneration' (in addition to already-identified Pound Steet

Cllr Mc Guinness proposed, seconded by Cllr Mc Dermott that the following amendments be made:-

- *Modest extension of the settlement boundary in the Ballyloskey area as per map reference “Ballyloskey Extension”with map n.b zoning to be “Local Environment”*

- *Modest extension of the settlement boundary on eastern edge of the town at Tullanree per map reference Tullanree Extension with map nb. zoning to be “Economic Development”*

Responding to a query from Cllr Mc Guinness in relation to the classification of the Barrack Hill area as an “Opportunity Site” and the colour differences in the maps circulated, he acknowledged that there was an associated issue regarding the flood risk but that any application or proposal would have to go through due process and a

flood risk assessment. There was, no difference, he said in the maps referred to other than a variation in the colour.

Donegal Town

Cllr Conaghan, informed the meeting that he had been contacted by a number of developers who were interested in progressing projects within the town. He said that in the interest of the economic development of the town it would be prudent at this stage to extend the town boundary out to the roundabout. The designation at the old Laghey Road, he noted, also warranted further consideration.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise and Planning Services reminded members that they were at this stage referring the plan out to public consultation and that issues such as those alluded to by Cllr Conaghan would be best dealt with through the submission process and reflected thereafter in the Chief Executive Officer's report.

Cllr Campbell noted however that there were live planning applications in relation to the developments concerned and that these would not be hindered by the present County Development Plan. He said that he could not see how this going out to public consultation now would make any material difference.

The Chief Executive alluded to the fact that moving towards the public consultation phase would not preclude in any way the aspirations of the developers concerned. There was, he added, however a need to ensure that due process was followed.

Cllr Conaghan proposed, seconded by Cllr Naughton that the Draft Local Area Plan for Donegal Town, the Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report be published and referred out for public consultation.

Killybegs

Cllr Campbell said that he wished to propose two number amendments to the plan a copy of which had been submitted to the Executive and circulated to members. (Vide Appendix 2)

Alluding to proposed amendment KB1 Cllr Kennedy said she was of the opinion that that lands to the south of the harbour should also be included as "Amenity/Open Space" and that zoning in the harbour area be amended to "Visually Vulnerable"

Thus on the proposal of Cllr Kennedy seconded by Cllr Campbell it was resolved to amend zoning in the harbour area as per KB1 and expand “Amenity/Open Space” zoning to cover the harbour plot immediately to the south of the Harbour Roundabout with the entire “Amenity/Open Space 2 area also having a “Visually Vulnerable “ overlay.

Cllr Kennedy said that she was not in agreement with the amendment as proposed in KB2 as the area in question was not visible to cruise ships and as such one off developments would have no impact on the visual impact of the area. It was imperative, she said, that this was left as “Local Environment”.

Mr Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner said that given the apparent conflict in the proposals it would be better to let the issue proceed to public consultation and have it worked through in the Chief Executive Officer’s report. It was something, he advised, which could be looked at again through the workshop and MD meeting process.

Cllr Kennedy reiterated her concerns and thus it was agreed to refer amendment KB2 back for further consideration by the Donegal Municipal District.

Cllr Campbell proposed, seconded by Cllr Kennedy that the Draft Local Area Plan for the town of Killybegs, the Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report as agreed by the Donegal Municipal District Committee be published and referred out for public consultation subject to the amendment outlined above.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Ryan the publication of the Draft Local Area Plan for Seven Strategic Towns, namely An Clochán Liath (Dungloe), Ballybofey/Stranorlar, Ballysahannon, Bridgend, Carndonagh, Donegal Town, and Killybegs, together with the associated Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report was approved in accordance with the requirements of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2017.

Mr Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner advised in relation to the Environmental and Natura Impact reports that the Planning Authority was obligated to test emerging policies in the context of strategic environmental assessment and appropriate assessment

requirements as set out in legislation. These he confirmed were more about the making of policy itself rather than having a direct effect on individual applications.

C/342/17 ENDORSEMENT OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON THE 17th JULY, 2017

Members noted the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 17th July, 2017.

C/343/17 CONFERENCES

Having noted the revised arrangements under Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, introduced by the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006 -2014 as amended and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Cllr Donaghey, seconded by, Cllr Murray, it was resolved to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the following, subject to the normal procedures:-

- i. Individual members not exceeding their annual budget for attendance at conferences.
- ii. Payment of expenses for attendance to be conditional on the member furnishing documentary evidence of attendance.
- iii. Submission of a Conference Report,

Conferences

- Connecting for Life Donegal Conference to be held Friday 6th October, 2017 at Ionad Naomh Pádraig, Dobhair, Bun Beag.n.
- Celtic Conferences – What does a hard Brexit mean for Ireland? To be held from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd October, 2017 in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork.
- Centre for Cross Border Studies Seminar on Cross-Border Functional Regions – Perspectives from Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scandinavia to be held Thursday 16th November, 2017 in the Market House Theatre, Armagh.

Training

- AILG – Training for Councillors in the Border and Western Region to be held on 19th September 2017 in Ard Rí House Hotel, Tuam, Co Galway.
- AILG Autumn Training Programme 2017

- AILG Autumn Training Seminar 2017 to be held Thursday 12th and Friday 13th October, 2017 in the Sligo Park, Pearse Road, Sligo.

Foreign Travel

- Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions – 45th CPMR General Assembly to be held from Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th October, 2017 in Helsinki.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the next scheduled AILG Training Seminar would take place in Carrick on Shannon on the 21st October.

Members were informed also that the Tip O' Neill Irish Diaspora Award weekend would take place from the 20th to the 21st October, 2017.

C/344/17 **VOTE OF SYMPATHY**

A vote of sympathy was extended to Siobhan Mc Daid, HR on the death of her father, Hughie Mc Closkey

C/345/17 **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

It was unanimously agreed to defer the remaining business on the agenda until 10am on Monday 23rd October, 2017.

Cathaoirleach

Dated