

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL**

Oifig Riarthóir na  
gCruinnithe  
Aras an Chontae  
LEIFEAR  
22 Bealtaine, 2018

**FOGRA CRUINNITHE**

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall ar siúl Dé Luain 28 Bealtaine, 2018, ag **11.00 r.n.**  
**in Áras an Chontae, Leifear**

**DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE**

**A Chara**

Iarrtar ort a bheith i láthair ag an chruinniú seo den Chomhairle. Ta Clár an chruinnithe leis seo.

Beidh Clár Orduithe an Phríomh-Fheidhmeannaigh le feiceáil ag an gcruinniú.

Mise, le meas

**Seosamh O’Piobla**  
**Riarthóir Cruinnithe**

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**DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

Office of Meetings Administrator  
County House  
Lifford  
22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018, at **11.00am in the**  
**County House, Lifford.**

**TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Dear Councillor**

You are summoned to attend this meeting of the Council. The Agenda is attached.

The Register of Chief Executive’s Orders will be available for inspection at the meeting.

**Yours sincerely**

**Joe Peoples**  
**Meetings Administrator**

## AGENDA

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

### **2. Disposal of Land – Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000**

Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 – to dispose of land at Trimragh, Letterkenny to Dolores Doherty Sherlock, of the Estate of John Doherty.

### **3. Corporate**

- a) To afford the Freedom of the County to Patsy Dan Rodgers in recognition of his lifelong commitment to the preservation and promotion of all aspects of Island life, and to honour the many years of service given to his beloved Tory Island.
- b) Proposal to enter into arrangements for the twinning of Letterkenny with Rudolstadt, German Bundesland of Thuringia, Germany in accordance with the provisions of Section 75 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

### **4. Community and Enterprise**

- a) To note the Donegal County Council Joint Policing Committee Report for 2017.
- b) To agree proposed Members Development Fund policy amendments.

### **5. Roads and Transportation**

- a) To make the Donegal County Council (Letterkenny Car Parks) Bye-Laws 2018 in accordance with Section 101 (7) of the Road Traffic Act, 1961, as amended.
- b) To note Donegal Co. Council Piers and Harbours Section proposal to erect identification signage with associated safety information as appropriate at all of the piers and harbours throughout the county.

### **6. Finance**

To approve the actual gross expenditure figure of €146,115,096 on Table 3, Page 3 when compared to the Revised Budget of €147,395,613 (Adopted Budget as amended by net increases in funding received for 2017) for all divisions in accordance with

Subsection 7 of Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

**7. Information Services**

To consider and approve the adoption of the Donegal County Council Annual Report, 2017 in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

**8. Planning & Economic Development**

- a) To agree dates for workshops to discuss implementation issues arising from the County Development Plan 2018-2024.
- b) To note the County Donegal Development Plan, 2018-2024: Environmental Statement. (To be circulated)

**9. Endorsement of Minutes**

- a) To note minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.
- b) To note minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.
- c) Endorsement of the Minutes of the County Donegal Heritage Forum held on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.
- d) Endorsement of the Minutes of the County Donegal Heritage Forum held on the 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.
- e) Endorsement of the Minutes of the County Donegal Heritage Forum held on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2018.

**10. Attendance at Conference, Seminar or Event**

Authorisation of representation at a seminar, meeting or event under Section 142 (5) of Local Government Act, 2001, S.I. No. 668 of 2006, Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006, S.I. No. 37 of 2010, Guidelines given by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the Local Government Act, 2001 (Section 142) Regulations 2010, and the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations, 2014.

**Conferences**

Donegal Diaspora International Conference in the Solis Lough Eske, Donegal Town on the 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

## MOTIONS

### DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

#### **Community & Enterprise**

##### 11. Cllr Noel Jordan

“That Donegal County Council call on the Department of the Marine to ensure that the introduction of any new system of penalty points for fishing offences will respect the individual rights of fishermen and does not unfairly impact on their livelihoods and the livelihoods of fishing crews; allows for natural justice to occur; and that any such regime will allow for recourse to the justice system”.

### STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

#### **Corporate**

##### 12. Cllr Liam Doherty

“I’m asking this Council to call on the Government to open the Maternity Theatre at Letterkenny University Hospital.”

#### **Environment**

##### 13. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

“That Donegal County Council initiate a county- wide scheme to support communities carrying out litter clean ups 12 months of the year, on their respective roads or streets, with a best kept area awards scheme similar to best kept estates and or tidiest towns”

### GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

#### **Corporate**

##### 14. Cllr Michéal C Mac Giolla Easbuig

"Tá alltacht agus uafás ar Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall go ndearna Fórsaí Cosanta Iosrael sléacht as éadan ar mhuintir na Palaistíne i nGaza, agus go bhfuil breis agus 60 Palaistíneach marbh agus na mílte eile gortaithe. Iarrann muid ar an rialtas ambasadóir Iosrael chun na hÉireann a ruaigeadh láithreach bonn amach as an tír mar gheall ar an slad seo ar dhaoine neamharmtha. Molann muid an cinneadh a rinne Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath ar na mallaibh nuair a vótáil siad chun tacú leis an ghluaiseacht ar son Baghcat, Dífheistiú agus Smachtbhannaí. Athdhearbhaíonn muid ár dtacaíocht arís le muintir na Palaistíne agus geallann muid go gcuirfidh an Chomhairle polasaí Baghcat, Dífheistiú agus

Smachtbhannaí i gcoinne Iosrael i bhfeidhm go dtí go mbeidh saoirse ag muintir na Palaistíne. Le seoladh chuig gach Údarás Áitiúil eile".

"Donegal County Council deplores the slaughter of more than 60 Palestinians and the wounding of thousands of others in Gaza by the Israeli Defence Forces. We call on the government to immediately expel the Israeli ambassador in protest at this massacre of unarmed civilians. We applaud the recent decision of Dublin City Council to support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement. We reaffirm our solidarity with the Palestinian people and commit the council to implementing a policy of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel until there is freedom for the Palestinian people. To be circulated to all Local Authorities."

15. Cllr Marie T Gallagher

"That this Council sends its condolences and solidarity to those women affected by the cervical smear scandal, and calls on the Government to reform the HSE and enact mandatory disclosure without delay."

## INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### *Community & Enterprise*

16. Cllr Albert Doherty

"That Donegal County Council ensure delivery, provision and activation of Campervan and Motorhome services at identified county pilot locations to commence prior to June public holiday weekend 2018 or at an earlier date."

### *Corporate*

17. Cllr Jack Murray

"That this Council recognises the huge amount of young people who are not registered to vote and endeavours to make contact with every school in the county on an annual basis, in order to collate the names of all Leaving Cert Students who are eligible to be added to the electoral register, and commits to ensuring they can vote."

18. Cllr Martin McDermott

"To call on this Council to contact Universities and the HSE to help progress findings from a recent report on the high level of cancer clusters in Donegal".

## LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Roads & Transportation

19. Cllr John O' Donnell

“Calling on this Council to employ more full time road maintenance operatives.”

20. Cllr Liam Blaney

“That this Council requests Transport Infrastructure Ireland to hold another public consultation on the N56/N13 Letterkenny to Manorcunningham shortlisted route corridors and the N14 Manorcunningham to Lifford/Strabane/A5 Link shortlisted route corridors”.

### Corporate

21. Cllr Adrian Glackin

“That Donegal County Council supports the campaign led by the Donegal branch of Diabetes Ireland for a Diabetes Centre of Excellence to be based in Donegal, reflecting the numbers of adults and children living with diabetes types 1 and 2 in the county”.

### Planning

22. Cllr Ian McGarvey

“Will this Council undertake forward planning for our towns & villages of services in relation to the various services and in view of projected population growth in Donegal?”.

23. Cathaoirleach's Business

24. Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

## QUESTIONS

### DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

#### Housing

25. Cllr Gerry Crawford

“What is the longest and the average waiting time in each MD area for occupational therapy reports?”

26. Cllr Gerry Crawford

“What is the longest time a family or individual has been waiting to be offered a house in each MD?”

27. Cllr Gerry Crawford

“How many families have applied to be transferred from one local authority house to another in each MD and how does this break down in requests (a) granted, (b) granted and transferred and (c) refused?”

**Corporate**

28. Cllr Frank McBrearty

“How much was the legal costs to the Council on the 3 files sent to SIPO by the CEO and in my role as Mayor of County Donegal 2012/2013?”

**Water & Environment**

29. Cllr Liam Doherty

“What chemicals are used in the treatment of our mains water supply?”

**Planning**

30. Cllr Frank McBrearty

“Has the Council been contacted or received any correspondences from Government concerning the investigation into allegations of planning irregularities in the County especially that a report on this has been sitting on the Ministers desk for over a year?”

**Finance**

31. Cllr Patrick McGowan

“Can I have a breakdown of rates collected in 2015, 2016 and 2017 with details included in relation to the following:-

- (a) The number paid on time.
- (b) The number who have availed of the small business grant scheme since its inception.
- (c) Plans going forward to support medium sized businesses in the County?

**Roads**

32. Cllr Patrick McGowan

“In light of the recent announcement of funding can the Council identify the areas in CFRAMS concerning flooding in the Finn Valley and highlight exactly what proposals there area to:-

- (a) Address the very serious issues of flooding over the last few years.

- (b) The costs to businesses.
- (c) The effect on flood insurance and
- (d) Provide clarity as to which relevant body is responsible for flooding and drainage.

## GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### *Community & Enterprise*

33. Cllr Marie T Gallagher

“Has any correspondence been received on motion passed to establish a task force for the Donegal Gaeltacht region?”

34. Cllr Marie T Gallagher

“What progress has been made on the Burtonport to Letterkenny railway initiative?”

## INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### *Roads and Transportation*

35. Cllr Albert Doherty

“Will Donegal County Council pursue Minister Ring and the Department for Rural and Community Development requesting an updated response to my motion adopted by Council in May 2017 seeking et al an extension of District Electoral Areas in the county to be included in CLAR, and thus be eligible to benefit from CLAR related funding schemes initiated by the Minister and his government department?”

### *Corporate*

36. Cllr Paul Canning

"What is the Council's policy on unsupervised dogs within confinement causing a noise disturbance?"

### *Water & Environment*

37. Cllr Jack Murray

“Does the Council have any land which is currently designated by the EPA as toxic or filled with waste and, if so, does it have any plans to address the matter?”

38. Cllr Paul Canning

"How many Stand -Alone Treatment Systems within housing estates have Irish Water taken over since their beginnings, and have they changed their policy on Stand Alone Treatment Systems recently?"



### **Community & Enterprise**

39. **Cllr Jack Murray**

“Can this Council seek a meeting with the OPW in order to progress Grianan of Aileach as a countywide tourist attraction in Donegal?”

40. **Cllr Albert Doherty**

“How many applications submitted in time to Donegal County Council were NOT forwarded to the Department for both Measures 1 and 2 under the CLAR 2018 programme? What Council evaluation system of applications was used? Who were the unsuccessful applicants? What were the principal failure/deemed ineligible findings identified by the Council that will assist community groups and schools with future applications?”

## **LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

### **Environment**

41. **Cllr Adrian Glackin**

"Could I please be furnished with the levels of fluoride currently present in the water systems of Donegal, and what are the current guidelines to safe levels of fluoride per unit of water "?"

### **Roads and Transportation**

42. **Cllr Ian Mc Garvey**

“Can I have an update in relation to the various road projects in the county which were linked to the development of the A5?”

43. **Cllr Ian McGarvey**

"What is the update on the A5?"

**44. Motions from Other Councils/Bodies**

#### **CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council are asking the Minister for Agriculture to consider payment of €200/hd for suckler cows”.

#### **KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**

“Kerry County Council calls on the Minister for Health, Deputy Simon Harris to request the HSE to review the decision to restrict the use of Versatis pain relief patches to patients in chronic pain outside those experiencing post herpetic neuralgia, and to revert to the Pre December status while this review is being undertaken”.

### LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Leitrim County Council write to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to protect against the Department’s dictatorial actions, per the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other agencies, in designating large areas of our County as SACs, NHAs, etc. The scientific basis for such designations has not been explained to the people of County Leitrim and neighbouring counties and such designations are proving to be detrimental and limiting for the incomes and the livelihoods of people in such areas. I request that this motion be forwarded to other Local Authorities seeking their support.”

### SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Sligo County Council hereby calls on the Gaelic Athletic Association to ensure any matches broadcast on channels requiring subscription fees are also made available on free to air television in order to allow access for everyone in the country to view matches. This should be done in order to reflect that the GAA is a unique part of Irish culture which belongs to the Irish people and has been built by their efforts along with significant State investment from taxpayers money.”

**MINUTES OF MAY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL, HELD  
IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 28<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2018**

**C/139/18**     MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs G Mc Monagle (Cathaoirleach), L Blaney, E Bonner, C Brogan, J Campbell, P Canning, T Conaghan, G Crawford, N. Crossan, A Doherty, L Doherty, R Donaghey, M. T. Gallagher, A Glackin, N Jordan, J Kavanagh, N Kennedy, M C Mac Giolla Easbuig, F Mc Brearty, 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, J Ryan.

**C/140/18**     OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, Joe Peoples, Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services / Meetings Administrator, John McLaughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation, Liam Ward, Director of Community & Planning Services, Michael Mc Garvey, A/Director of Water & Environment, Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Emergency Services and Information Systems, Richard Gibson, A/ Head of Finance, Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, Anne Marie Conlon, Communications Officer, Sean O'Daimhin, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

**C/141/18**     APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Terence Slowey who was unable to attend the meeting.

**C/142/18**     CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH,  
2018

On the proposal of Cllr McGarvey seconded by, Cllr Crossan the minutes of the meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 were adopted.

**C/143/18**     DISPOSAL OF LAND AT TRIMRAGH, LETTERKENNY TO  
DOLORES DOHERTY SHERLOCK, OF THE ESTATE OF  
JOHN DOHERTY

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation the above.

On the proposal of Cllr McGarvey, seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was resolved to dispose of land at Trimragh, Letterkenny to Dolores Doherty Sherlock, of the estate of John Doherty in

accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

C/144/18 TO AFFORD A CIVIC RECEPTION TO PATSY DAN RODGERS, TORY ISLAND

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr McGarvey it was resolved to afford a Civic Reception to Patsy Dan Rodgers in recognition of his lifelong commitment to the preservation and promotion of all aspects of Island life, and to honour the many years of service given to his beloved Tory Island.

C/145/18 TWINNING OF LETTERKENNY WITH RUDOLSTADT, GERMAN BUNDESLAND OF THURINGIA, GERMANY

Cllr Mc Gowan said that more information was required in relation to the proposal. Cllr Mc Brearty concurred with this assessment and said that other parts of Donegal needed to have access to similar opportunities.

On the proposal of Cllr Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr McBride it was resolved to enter into arrangements for the twinning of Letterkenny with Rudolstadt in the German Bundesland of Thuringia, Germany in accordance with the provisions of Section 75 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Cllr Kavanagh thanked members for their support and said that twinning would benefit the county as a whole.

C/146/18 TO NOTE THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2017.

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

Cllr Albert Doherty said the report was incomplete as it did not include feedback from the various sub-committees within the Joint Policing Committee. For the report to be effective, he said, there needed to be input from and action by the Oireachtas Members.

Cllr Mc Brearty contended that JPCs were effectively redundant as they could not deal with cases on the ground. He asked that a full report be provided at the next meeting of Council.

C/147/18 TO AGREE PROPOSED MEMBERS DEVELOPMENT FUND POLICY AMENDMENTS.

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that a number of issues needed to be revisited and asked that a workshop be held to discuss same.

Cllr Gallagher advised that the amendments had been considered by the Community, Social and Cultural SPC and the CPG and were minor in nature.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community & Planning said that Cllr Gallagher had effectively outlined the process which had been drafted and considered by the SPC. The second page of the report, he added, outlined these changes, but if members decided to defer the matter and discuss further in a workshop then that could be facilitated.

Cllr Bonner said that he was in agreement with Cllr Gallagher that further delay would impact on hedge and grass cutting. There was a far greater need, he said, to discuss DFI funding and the implications going forward.

The Cathaoirleach said that it was essential that the workshop was held as soon as possible so as to allow residents and community groups avail of funding for hedge cutting etc.

Cllr Mc Brearty proposed, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan that further consideration be given to the matter, and that a workshop be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2018 at 12 noon in the County House, Lifford to address the issues raised by members.

C/148/18 DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL (LETTERKENNY CAR PARKS) BYE-LAWS 2018

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Kavanagh it was resolved that Donegal County Council make the Donegal County Council (Letterkenny Carparks) Bye-Laws 2018 in accordance with Section 101 (7) of the Road Traffic Act, 1961, as amended.

C/149/18 DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL PIERS AND HARBOURS  
SECTION PROPOSAL TO ERECT SIGNAGE

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr McDermott it was resolved to erect identification signage with associated safety information as appropriate at all of the piers and harbours throughout the county. Cllr Gallagher asked that the signage be erected in a manner that was in keeping with the scenic nature of the locations concerned.

C/150/18 REPORT ON THE OUTTURN OF INCOME AND  
EXPENDITURE IN THE LOCAL FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED  
31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2017.

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

Mr Garry Martin, Director Economic Development, Emergency Services and Information Systems outlined the main aspects of the report.

Cllr Brogan said that there was a needed for a comprehensive breakdown of what the Economic Development Fund entailed and that further innovation was needed in areas such as housing maintenance.

The Chief Executive said that he would be updating members later in the meeting with regard to the development function of the Council and the establishment of a new directorate which would assist Donegal in availing of the opportunities available under the National Planning Framework and the new National Development Plan. It was proposed to progress same, he said by:

- Setting up a Designated Activity Company (DAC) to avail of all upcoming opportunities.
- Initiate a mechanism to look at the Council's land bank and how this can be best used in a strategic manner.
- Look at the requirement to borrow in terms of specific strategic interventions.
- Targeting investment in Housing particularly issues such as the "Serviced Sites Initiative".
- Investing in Digital Hubs and Micro Innovation Centres.

Cllr Campbell said that members needed to be fully consulted and properly informed of all such proposals.

Cllr Brogan proposed, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan that incentives be provided for those looking to renovate Council Houses. He said that housing loans should be promoted in lieu of re-housing and asked that a comprehensive list of Council assets be provide at MD level.

Cllr Gallagher welcomed the proposal to set up a DAC and said it was imperative that there was a focus on youth retention.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was resolved that the actual gross expenditure figure of €146, 115,096 as set out in Table 3, Page 3, when compared to the Revised Budget of €147,395,613 (Adopted Budget as amended by net increases in funding received for 2017) for all divisions in accordance with Subsection 7 of Section 104 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended be approved.

C/151/18 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT, 2017  
On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was resolved to adopt the Donegal County Council Annual Report, 2017 in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/152/18 TO AGREE DATES FOR WORKSHOPS TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES ARISING FROM THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018-2024  
On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Canning it as resolved to hold a workshop to discuss implementation issues arising from the County Development Plan 2018-2024 on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2018 at 2.00p.m. in the County House, Lifford.

C/153/18 TO NOTE THE COUNTY DONEGAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018-2024 ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT  
Members considered the report circulated prior to the meeting and noted the County Donegal Development Plan, 2018-2014 Environmental Statement.

- C/154/18     TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2018.  
On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Gallagher the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 were noted.
- C/155/18     TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018  
On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Canning the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 were noted.
- C/156/18     ENDORSEMENT OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY DONEGAL HERITAGE FORUM HELD ON THE 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2017  
On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr McBride the members endorsed the minutes of the meeting of the County Donegal Heritage Forum held on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.
- C/157/18     ENDORSEMENT OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY DONEGAL HERITAGE FORUM HELD ON THE 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2017  
On the proposal of Cllr McBride seconded by Cllr Canning the members endorsed the minutes of the meeting of the County Donegal Heritage Forum held on the 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.
- C/158/18     ENDORSEMENT OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY DONEGAL HERITAGE FORUM HELD ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY, 2018  
On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr Mc Garvey the members endorsed the Minutes of the meeting of the County Donegal Heritage Forum held on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2018.
- C/159/18     ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/EVENTS  
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 2006-2018 as amended and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was resolved to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the following conferences, 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**

Donegal Diaspora International Conference in the Solis Lough Eske, Donegal Town on the 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

C/160/18 **MOTION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS – BREXIT AND THE BACKSTOP MOTION**

A request to have the following motion discussed as urgent business in accordance with Standing Order No 28 was submitted to the Meetings Administrator:-

“That this Council supports paragraph 49 of the agreed Joint Report of December 2017 which is an approach that will ensure there is no hardening of the border in Ireland and wants to see the ‘backstop’ option as defined in paragraph 49 included in the legally binding Withdrawal Agreement and calls on the Chief Executive to lobby for retaining the ‘backstop’ in the Withdrawal Agreement unless and until something better emerges. In addition, this Council wants the full EU rights of citizens protected as proposed in the current draft Withdrawal Agreement.

That this Council therefore,

Endorses Paragraph 49 of the agreed December 2017 Joint Report (between the EU and the British Government) as the only option which currently ensures no hardening of the border in Ireland.

Adopts Paragraph 49 as this Councils default position when proactively engaging with Government partners to press for the ‘backstop’ option as defined in Paragraph 49 to be retained in the final Withdrawal Agreement.

Seeks assurances from all partners to the withdrawal process that they are working to ensure protection of full EU rights for citizens and this protection will be formalised by inclusion in the final Withdrawal Agreement”.

It was unanimously agreed to consider same prior to the close of business.

C/161/18 THE INTRODUCTION OF ANY NEW SYSTEM OF PENALTY POINTS FOR FISHING OFFENCES

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr O’Fearraigh the following Motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council call on the Department of the Marine to ensure that the introduction of any new system of penalty points for fishing offences will respect the individual rights of fishermen and does not unfairly impact on their livelihoods and the livelihoods of fishing crews; allows for natural justice to occur; and that any such regime will allow for recourse to the justice system”.

Cllr Jordan received a response from the Director of Community & Planning in relation to the above.

He said that the Sinn Fein grouping was not opposed to the penalty points system which was in accordance with European Regulations. The issue, he contended, was that it needed to be fair and equitable going forward and the designated timeframes amended so as to accommodate fishermen whose job by nature involved extended periods at sea. It was imperative, he added, that the Statutory Instrument under which the penalty points were imposed was rescinded

Cllr O’ Fearraigh concurred with this assessment and said that the necessary changes needed to be made in consultation with the fishermen and their representative organisations.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Jordan thanked members for their support.

C/162/18 MATERNITY THEATRE AT LETTERKENNY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

On the proposal of Cllr Liam Doherty, seconded by Cllr Gallagher the following Motion was adopted:-

“I’m asking this Council to call on the Government to open the Maternity Theatre at Letterkenny University Hospital.”

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

He said it was a disgrace that the purpose built Maternity Theatre Unit in Letterkenny University Hospital had been lying idle for the past 18 years. This, he contended, was down to the incompetence of successive governments over the years.

He alluded to the fact that one of the standard operating theatres in the hospital had to be kept free on a continuing basis to deal with emergency childbirths whilst the maternity theatre lay unused. Ongoing representation on the matter at national level, had, he advised, been to no avail.

The opening of the theatre, he advised would go same way to addressing current waiting lists but was ultimately dependent on the provision of dedicated staffing.

He thus called on members to support the motion and asked the Government and the HSE to commission the facility immediately.

Cllr Gallagher supporting the motion said that ministerial intervention was needed urgently and that the facility needed to be opened without any more unnecessary delays.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Doherty said it was imperative that the necessary funding and resources were made available to the hospital to allow the theatre become fully operational.

C/163/18 INITIATE A COUNTY WIDE SCHEME TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES CARRYING OUT LITTER CLEAN UPS 12 MONTHS OF THE YEAR

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by Cllr O'Domhnaill the following Motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council initiate a county- wide scheme to support communities carrying out litter clean ups 12 months of the year, on their respective roads or streets, with a best kept area awards scheme similar to best kept estates and or tidiest towns”

Cllr McGowan received a response from the Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above. He said that it was imperative that there was ongoing engagement with those communities striving to carry out clean ups, and that a pilot programme be put in place to progress same. He suggested that this could be initiated in the Stranorlar Municipal District.

Cllr O' Domhnaill supporting the motion said the initiative was timely as the tourist season was getting under way. He acknowledged the excellent work carried out by volunteers county-wide. He outlined the need to draw up specific policy considerations backed up by the relevant information.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment, noted that assistance and support had been provided to over 350 local community groups in 2017. The Council, he added, welcomed contact from any group whether town or rural based. Service improvements, it was noted, could be considered by the Water & Environment SPC and as part of the annual budget process.

Cllr Mc Gowan, said that in his opinion there was no need to go back to the SPC to review the policy as it was clearly now a matter of sitting down and working out a detailed plan.

Mr Mc Garvey said that he would be happy to work with the Stranorlar Municipal District in relation to same.

C/164/18

CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPEL THE ISRAELI  
AMBASSADOR IN PROTEST AT THE SLAUGHTER OF  
MORE THAN 60 PALESTINIANS AND THE WOUNDING OF  
THOUSANDS OF OTHERS IN GAZA BY THE ISRAELI  
DEFENCE FORCES

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig said that he wished to amend his motion as follows:-

"Tá alltacht agus uafás ar Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall go ndearna Fórsaí Cosanta Iosrael sléacht as éadan ar mhuintir na Palaistíne i nGaza, agus go bhfuil breis agus 60 Palaistíneach marbh agus na mílte eile gortaithe. Iarrann muid ar an rialtas ambasadóir Iosrael chun na hÉireann a ruaigeadh láithreach bonn amach as an tír mar gheall ar an slad seo ar dhaoine neamharmtha.

Molann muid an cinneadh a rinne Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath ar na mallaibh nuair a vótáil siad chun tacú leis an ghluaiseacht ar son Baghcat, Dífheistiú agus Smachtbhannaí. Athdhearbhaíonn muid ár dtacaíocht arís le muintir na Palaistíne agus geallann muid go gcuirfidh an Chomhairle polasaí Baghcat, Dífheistiú agus Smachtbhannaí i gcoinne Iosrael i bhfeidhm go dtí go mbeidh saoirse ag muintir na Palaistíne. Chun tacú le fiosrúchán idirnáisiúnta a reáchtáil maidir leis na maruithe. Le seoladh chuig gach Údarás Áitiúil eile".

"Donegal County Council deplores the slaughter of more than 60 Palestinians and the wounding of thousands of others in Gaza by the Israeli Defence Forces. We call on the government to immediately expel the Israeli ambassador in protest at this massacre of unarmed civilians. We applaud the recent decision of Dublin City Council to support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement. We reaffirm our solidarity with the Palestinian people and commit the council to implementing a policy of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel until there is freedom for the Palestinian people. Support the holding of an international enquiry into the killings". To be circulated to all Local Authorities."

This was seconded by Cllr Campbell and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Mc Giolla Easbuig expressed grave concern in relation to the loss of life in Gaza and called on the Government to expel the Israeli Ambassador to Ireland. He asked also that it be circulated to all Local Authorities for their consideration.

Cllr Campbell supporting the motion said that it was a symbolic gesture and that it was essential that worldwide attention remained focused on the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

A number of members proceeded to outline their support for the motion.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig concluding said that it was imperative that Donegal County Council now sat down and looked at all the products it used. The aim going forward, he said, should be to not use products/materials sourced in Israel.

C/165/18 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

It was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting until 2pm.

C/166/18 RESIGNATION CLLR JOHN RYAN

On resumption Cllr Ryan informed members that he was resigning as a member of Donegal County Council effective as and from the 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2018.

It was a decision, he said, that had not been taken lightly but was necessary because of his own work commitments. He thanked members and officials who had helped him over the past 9 years and acknowledged the many friendships he had made over that period of time.

Cllr Mc Guinness thanked him for his help and support, noting that he had been an excellent Councillor and had served the people of Inishowen with pride and distinction. He wished him well on a personal level and hoped that he would have continued success in his business life.

Members from the various groupings paid tribute to Cllr Ryan acknowledging his strong work ethic and determination to serve his constituents to the best of his ability.

The Chief Executive acknowledged the excellent contribution made by Cllr Ryan over the years and his particular expertise which was valuable at budget time.

C/167/18 THAT THE COUNCIL SEND CONDOLENCES AND SOLIDARITY TO THOSE WOMEN AFFECTED BY THE CERVICAL SMEAR SCANDAL

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Kennedy the following Motion was adopted:-

“That this Council sends its condolences and solidarity to those women affected by the cervical smear scandal, and calls on the Government to reform the HSE and enact mandatory disclosure without delay.”

Cllr Gallagher received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above. She said

that she wanted to acknowledge the 17 women who had died unaware that the matter had been brought into the public forum.

She paid tribute to Vicky Phelan and Emma Mhic Mhathúna whose strength and bravery had helped to bring the matter to the attention of the nation.

The HSE, she contended, belonged to the people of Ireland and questioned why it had not been disbanded at this stage in light of the recent revelations. Mandatory disclosure was, she added, essential at this stage.

She called on the Council to send condolences to those affected by the tragedy and recognise the bravery of those women who had helped bring the matter out into the public eye.

Cllr Kennedy said that people had put their trust in the healthcare system and relied on medical experts for the best healthcare possible. The misleading information provided, she added, meant that it was too late for some women and was nothing short of incompetence and deceit.

Cllr Mc Guinness informed the meeting that the Donegal County Council Members who sat on the HSE West had only last week unanimously supported a call for the HSE in its present form to be abolished.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that lessons had not been learned from the Blood Transfusion Tribunal and that there was a need now for a full independent public enquiry.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/168/18 THAT DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL ENSURE DELIVERY, PROVISION AND ACTIVATION OF CAMPERVAN AND MOTORHOME SERVICES PRIOR TO THE JUNE PUBLIC HOLIDAY WEEKEND 2018

On the proposal of Cllr Doherty, seconded by Cllr Gallagher the following Motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council ensure delivery, provision and activation of Campervan and Motorhome services at identified

county pilot locations to commence prior to June public holiday weekend 2018 or at an earlier date.”

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Community & Planning in relation to the above.

Cllr Doherty advised that the unit in Carndonagh had been destroyed back in November 2017 and that the promised replacement had not materialised. He acknowledged the fact that a replacement was now imminent as alluded to in the reply and that similar facilities were available at a number of designated locations. With the impending tourist season and plans for the Irish Open underway it was imperative, he added, that the facilities were operational.

Cllr Gallagher noted that the unit in Maghery had been a huge success and encouraged the roll out of similar facilities in other designated locations. Development such as these, she contended, was of particular benefit to communities which were not located directly on the Wild Atlantic Way route.

Cllr Blaney noted however that the roll out of same would result in the Council being in competition with a number of the private service providers.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community & Planning took on board the issues raised by Cllr Doherty regarding the site in Carndonagh. He confirmed that the approach taken by the Council had been one of ongoing collaboration with the private service providers in what was potentially a growth area for all concerned.

Cllr Doherty concluding said that there was an ongoing onus on the Council particularly in terms of tourism marketing and promotion to highlight the services available. Issues such as directional signage and promotional opportunities he contended needed to be vigorously followed up. He cited again the necessity of having the Carndonagh Unit up and running for the Bank Holiday weekend.

Cllr Crossan enquired as to what the situation was in relation to the selling of tokens by Inishowen Development Partnership.



C/169/18 REGISTER OF ELECTORS

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Glackin the following Motion was adopted:-

“That this Council recognises the huge amount of young people who are not registered to vote and endeavours to make contact with every school in the county on an annual basis, in order to collate the names of all Leaving Cert Students who are eligible to be added to the electoral register, and commits to ensuring they can vote.”

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

He said that it had been astounding how many young people who had not been registered to vote in the last referendum.

The current system, he contended, was archaic and needed a complete overhaul. It was estimated, he added, that around 4312 young people who had been eligible to vote in Donegal had not been registered. He asked for further clarification as to the options available to the Council to reach out to students and young people alike.

Cllr Glackin supporting the motion said that more and more young people were becoming politically aware and wished to engage in the democratic process. Every effort, he said, needed to be made to accommodate this.

A number of members alluded to the fact that there had been issues with the register over the course of the referendum and that these needed to be rectified.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services advised that the current system was prone to error. It would be possible, he added, to bring members concerns to the attention of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and ask for a review. There was need, he acknowledged, to make the system more user friendly and to take advantage of modern technologies. There was also a need, he added, to improve how the register is updated and maintained.

Cllr Murray said that an overhaul was badly needed and noted that

there was often general confusion when people tried to check the register online.

Cllr Murray asked that the relevant registration forms be supplied to secondary schools on an annual basis.

C/170/18 HIGH LEVEL OF CANCER CLUSTERS IN DONEGAL

On the proposal of Cllr McDermott, seconded by Cllr Brogan the following Motion was adopted:-

“To call on this Council to contact Universities and the HSE to help progress findings from a recent report on the high level of cancer clusters in Donegal”.

Cllr Mc Dermott said that a recent study had highlighted the fact that there was a significant pattern of cancer clusters in Donegal. He alluded to the Cloontagh area in particular and noted that in one locality 12 residents out of a cluster of 14 houses had developed cancer. The number of Donegal people travelling to Dublin to avail of cancer care services was, he contended, staggering.

Radon gas it was acknowledged had a part to play and he thus called on the Council to actively promote the fact that radon testing services were available from various registered radon measurement services.

Cllr Brogan called for the report on the research findings to be forwarded to the relevant third level institutions so that an analysis could be carried out. This, he advised, was a serious issue which affected many households in Donegal.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that the report on the research findings could be forwarded to the HSE as the responsible public service agency and Third Level Institutions such as the L.Y.I.T and the University of Ulster.

Cllr Mc Dermott said that he was happy for the matter to proceed in this way.

C/171/18 TO EMPLOY MORE FULL TIME ROAD MAINTENANCE OPERATIVES.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Donnell, seconded by Cllr Blaney the following Motion was adopted:-

“Calling on this Council to employ more full time road maintenance operatives.”

Cllr O'Donnell received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

He contended that additional resources were required as many of the roads in the county were now in need of repair with patching and repair work lagging behind as additional capacity was being used to progress LIS Schemes. Increased capacity, he said, was needed particularly over the summer months.

Cllr Blaney supporting the motion noted that seasonal staff were traditionally employed over the summer season, but that the fallout from recent severe weather events clearly showed that extra capacity was needed in winter also. Short term contracts, he added, were not beneficial to all concerned and every effort must now be made to look at creating full time positions. Each year, he added, budgets were agreed and the need for additional workers identified as a priority going forward.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation said that members and the executive were not far apart in their thinking and that the ideal scenario would be to employ extra workers within a balanced budget framework. The agreed plan of work for 2017, he advised, had largely been followed but the issue as always was the availability of funding.

Cllr O' Donnell asked that members be given a designated point of contact in areas where Irish Water are carrying out works, particularly along the roads network.

C/172/18

THAT THE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IRELAND  
HOLD ANOTHER PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE  
N56/N13 LETTERKENNY TO MANORCUNNINGHAM  
SHORTLISTED ROUTE CORRIDERS AND THE N14  
MANORCUNNINGHAM TO LIFFORD/STRABANE/A5 LINK

On the proposal of Cllr Blaney, seconded by Cllr Brogan the following Motion was adopted:-

“That this Council requests Transport Infrastructure Ireland to hold another public consultation on the N56/N13 Letterkenny to Manorcunningham shortlisted route corridors and the N14 Manorcunningham to Lifford/Strabane/A5 Link shortlisted route corridors”.

Cllr Blaney received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above. He noted that Transport Infrastructure Ireland had in the interim confirmed that there would be additional public consultation on the routes in question. He welcomed this development and the fact that many people who had missed the initial consultation would now have an opportunity to follow up and raise queries with regard to their land and property.

Cllr Brogan supporting the motion noted that Damian Mc Dermott and his team in the NRDO had been most accommodating to members and the various groups who had raised queries in relation to the progression of the schemes. It was essential, he said, that as many people as possible engaged in the process. He asked for further clarification in relation to the route selection process and the timeframes involved.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation confirmed that there would be another 3 consultations in relation to the proposed routes for the three road projects included in the Ten-T programme. This, he confirmed, would allow the public an opportunity to make submissions in relation to the proposed routes and assist in the selection of the preferred route. The target, he said, was to have one single route adopted by year end.

Cllr Blaney outlined the need to have representatives available at these public information meetings to deal with any queries that arose.

C/173/18

THAT DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE  
CAMPAIGN LED BY THE DONEGAL BRANCH OF  
DIABETES IRELAND FOR A DIABETES CENTRE OF  
EXCELLENCE TO BE BASED IN DONEGAL

On the proposal of Cllr Glackin, seconded by Cllr Doherty the following Motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council supports the campaign led by the Donegal branch of Diabetes Ireland for a Diabetes Centre of Excellence to be based in Donegal, reflecting the numbers of adults and children living with diabetes types 1 and 2 in the county”.

Cllr Glackin received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

He said that there were shortfalls in the way a number of illnesses in the North West were being treated and alluded in particular to the treatment of diabetes patients. The cost of developing a Diabetes Centre of Excellence in Donegal was estimated, he said, to be in the region of €1.5 million and would provide specialist paediatric diabetes care together with additional services aimed at improving the overall standard of care.

Cllr Doherty outlined his support for the motion noting that there was no Diabetes Centre of Excellence above the Limerick-Dublin line. He alluded to the fact that the waiting time for many appointments was now 24 months which was clearly an indication that diabetes patients in the North West were being treated as second class citizens.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Glackin thanked members for their support. It was further agreed that a copy of the motion be brought to the attention of the following:-

- Catherine Zappone, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.
- Simon Harris, Minister for Health.
- Senator James Reilly.
- Saolta Health Care Group.

C/174/18

FORWARD PLANNING FOR OUT TOWNS & VILLAGES

On the proposal of Cllr McGarvey, seconded by Cllr Brogan the following Motion was adopted:-

“Will this Council undertake forward planning for our towns & villages of services in relation to the various services and in view of projected population growth in Donegal?”.

Cllr McGarvey received a response from the Director of Community & Planning in relation to the above. He said it was important that a progressive approach was taken going forward. He outlined the need to maintain and develop services so as to prevent rural decline and ensure the equitable distribution of development county-wide. He outlined the need for ongoing collaboration and co-operation with the Oireachtas members so as to progress the various issues and keep the infrastructure needs of the county under review. This, he advised, was essential so as to ensure that Donegal was not neglected nationally and that a collective approach was taken to the matter.

Cllr Brogan concurred with this assessment and said that he was hopeful that many of the issues raised by Cllr Mc Garvey could be addressed under the new County Development Plan. Meetings with the Oireachtas members were, he confirmed, a key element in this process and suggested that arrangements be put in place to meet early in September.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community & Planning said that he was firmly of the opinion that the the new County Development Plan had the provision and scope to address the motion as presented by Cllr Mc Garvey.

Concluding the debate Cllr Mc Garvey said it was imperative that all areas of the county were treated in an equitable and fair manner

C/175/18 CATHAOIRLEACH’S BUSINESS

*Votes of Sympathy*

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Cllr Martin Mc Dermott on the death of his mother, Mary Mc Dermott.

- Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan on the death of his mother, Josephine Mc Gowan.
- Roisin Dorrian, Housing & Corporate, Letterkenny PSC on the death of her father, Gerry Mc Laughlin.
- Denis Mc Geady, Leabharlann, Ghaoth Dobhair on the death of his father, Patsy Mc Geady.
- Liam Ward, Director Community & Planning on the death of his father, Francie Ward.
- Siobhan Mc Daid, HR on the death of her mother, Bertha Mc Closkey.

*Motion – Community Employment Schemes.*

Members were informed that Dublin City Council had noted the following motion agreed at March 2018 Council Meeting:-

“That this Council call on the Government to review the way Community Employment Schemes are being negatively affected by changes introduced over the last few years”.

*Events Attended.*

The Cathaoirleach updated members in relation to a number of events that he had attended namely:-

- Opening of the Car Park and Visitor Centre at Fanad Lighthouse.
- Opening of the new Outdoor Gym in the Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Park.
- Official opening of the Tadgh Culbert Car Park in Letterkenny.
- Visit to the Queen Victoria Cruise Ship on its stopover in Killybegs.
- Launch of the 2018 Donegal Rally in An Grianan Theatre.
- Darkness into Light Event in Letterkenny.
- North West 10k which was a resounding success for both Letterkenny and the county as a whole.

### *Congratulations*

Congratulations were extended to the following:-

- Donegal Under 20s Gaelic Football Team on beating Cavan and reaching the quarter finals of the Ulster Championships.
- Brenda Collins, Dunree, Buncrana on winning the All Ireland Girl 3- 43kgs All Ireland Boxing Title.
- Leah Gallen, Raphoe on winning the All Ireland Girl 5 - 66kgs Boxing Title.

Best wishes were extended to Joe Dunleavy on his selection for the Ireland Under 20 squad taking part in the upcoming World Rugby U-20 Championships in France .

### *Draft Seven Strategic Local Area Plans*

Tribute was paid to all Planning Staff involved in the preparation of the Draft Seven Strategic Local Area Plans and the Letterkenny Town Plan.

### *Ten-T Consultation*

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the fact that there were to be three more days of public consultation on proposed major infrastructure projects on the N13, N14 and N15. He acknowledged the input of all roads staff involved in the process.

### *Works at Bluebanks – Kilmacrennan*

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the commencement of road works at the above location.

### *Upcoming Events*

Members were reminded that the Relay for Life Event was taking place over the Bank Holiday weekend with all encouraged to support and participate in same.

### *Gorse Fires.*

The Cathaoirleach called on the public to be vigilant over the coming months and asked that information be provided as to how



they could help prevent wild fires particularly during periods of dry weather.

*Invitation to the Mayor of St Charles Missouri.*

On the proposal of Cllr Albert Doherty, seconded by Cllr Donaghey it was resolved to extend an invitation to the Mayor of St Charles, Missouri to visit Donegal and the Inishowen peninsula in light of the Inishowen Municipal District's involvement in the Sister Cities initiative.

*Civic Reception for John Gorman*

On the proposal of Cllr Crawford, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to hold a civic reception to honour John Gorman who campaigned successfully for state recognition of all who taken part in the "Siege of Jadotville".

C/176/18 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda and addendum circulated during the meeting in relation to the above. An update was provided in relation to the following:-

**1. Community Development & Planning Services**

- A. Preparation of a Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan
- B. Preparation of Letterkenny Area Plan
- C. Publication of Seven Strategic Towns Local Area Plan, 2018  
– 2024, Proposed Material Alterations
- D. Launch of PEACE IV Programme
- E. Atlantic On Bike Project
- F. 2018 Town and Village Renewal Scheme
- G. Hericoast Project
- H. Fáilte chun na Gaeltachta
- I. Age Friendly Car Parking Spaces
- J. Pan Celtic Festival

## **2. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services**

### A. Housing Capital Update

- *Social Housing Developments*
- *House Acquisition Programme*
- *Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition*

### B. New Tenancy Support and Sustainment Service

### C. Library Services

- *Babbling babies*
- *Increase in use of Library online resources*

### D. Cultural Services

- *Cruinniú na nÓg*
- *Bealtaine*

## **3. Water & Environment**

### A. Litter and Waste Enforcement

- *Big Donegal Clean Up 2018*
- *The Clean Coasts Roadshow*
- *WEEE Ireland – ‘Small Things Matter’ Campaign*

### B. Environmental Awareness

- *Clean & Green Awards 2017*
- *Bathing Water Monitoring*
- *Farm Effluent*
- *North West Forum*
- *The Local Authority Scientific Advisory Team (LAWSAT)*
- *Beach Lifeguard Assessments*
- *Beach Preparatory Works*

## **4. Roads & Transportation**

### A. Letterkenny Southern Relief Road

### B. R263 Fintra Bridge

- C. Meenamullagan Bridge
- D. TII Public Lighting LED Upgrade Programme
- E. Dredging
  - *Generally*
  - *Buncrana*
  - *Greencastle*
- F. Fishery Harbour & Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2018
- G. Community Involvement Scheme
- H. Non-national Projects
- I. Major Projects Planning and Design
  - *TEN-T Route Improvement Project*
  - *N56 Construction Projects 2018*
  - *N56 Project Design 2018*
- J. Pavement and Minor Works
- K. Bridges
- L. Safety
- M. Tadhg Culbert Car Park Opening

## **5 Update on the establishment of a Directorate with a specific focus on Economic Development.**

Members were informed that further information would be circulated regarding the setting up of a Designated Activity Company.

### *Issues Raised*

Cllr Mc Gowan referring to the TEN- T route selection process and the Ballybofey/ Stranorlar Bypass said he had grave concerns that there was no linkage from the Bypass into the centre of the town. He said that he could only support a route access that benefitted business and local communities. He outlined the urgent need for an economic and social plan for Ballybofey and Stranorlar.

Members welcomed the fact that ferry services were operating at full capacity over the summer months.

Cllr Donaghey proposed, seconded by Cllr A Doherty that the Council consider buying its own dredger. Members were informed that an application for an 8 year dredging licence had been made to the EPA and the outcome was awaited.

Members were in agreement that the membership of any proposed Designated Activity Company should include representation from all Municipal Districts. It was suggested that this representation should include the Municipal District Chairs.

The Chief Executive outlined the need to get the company set up as soon as possible so as to avail of funding opportunities. It could, he added, be set up initially with representation from the Executive. Cllr Brogan proposed that the company be established with representation from the members to be agreed in due course.

In relation to Cllr Mc Gowan's concerns regarding route selection for the various roads projects, he said that it would be difficult to adopt a position at this stage as the route in question had not yet been finalised and there were no proposals before council at this stage to move on any of the three projects. He was, he said, satisfied that the staff in the NRDO were doing all possible to facilitate locals and community groups alike and that after the current round of consultations there would be a better understanding of what the options were. There was general acknowledgement that the projects in question represented a significant opportunity to provide infrastructure in the county. It was a matter now of working through the process, he said, and both the Director of Roads & Transportation and himself were, he confirmed, willing to work with members to achieve this goal.

C/177/18 MOTION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS – BREXIT AND THE BACKSTOP MOTION

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council supports paragraph 49 of the agreed Joint Report of December 2017 which is an approach that will ensure there is no hardening of the border in Ireland and wants to see the ‘backstop’ option as defined in paragraph 49 included in the legally binding Withdrawal Agreement and calls on the Chief Executive to lobby for retaining the ‘backstop’ in the Withdrawal Agreement unless and until something better emerges. In addition, this Council wants the full EU rights of citizens protected as proposed in the current draft Withdrawal Agreement.

That this Council therefore,

Endorses Paragraph 49 of the agreed December 2017 Joint Report (between the EU and the British Government) as the only option which currently ensures no hardening of the border in Ireland.

Adopts Paragraph 49 as this Councils default position when proactively engaging with Government partners to press for the 'backstop' option as defined in Paragraph 49 to be retained in the final Withdrawal Agreement.

Seeks assurances from all partners to the withdrawal process that they are working to ensure protection of full EU rights for citizens and this protection will be formalised by inclusion in the final Withdrawal Agreement”.

Cllr Gallagher at this juncture paid tribute to the Cathaoirleach and acknowledged the excellent work carried out during his term in office.

**The following questions were noted.**

C/178/18 WHAT IS THE LONGEST AND AVERAGE WAITING TIME IN EACH MD FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY REPORTS?  
Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

“What is the longest and the average waiting time in each MD area for occupational therapy reports?”

Cllr Crawford received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/179/18 WHAT IS THE LONGEST TIME A FAMILY OR INDIVIDUAL HAS BEEN WAITING TO BE OFFERED A HOUSE IN EACH MD?

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

“What is the longest time a family or individual has been waiting to be offered a house in each MD?”

Cllr Crawford received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/180/18 HOW MANY FAMILIES HAVE APPLIED TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM ONE LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSE TO ANOTHER IN EACH MD

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

“How many families have applied to be transferred from one local authority house to another in each MD and how does this break down in requests (a) granted, (b) granted and transferred and (c) refused?”

Cllr Crawford received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/181/18 HOW MUCH WAS THE LEGAL COSTS TO THE COUNCIL ON THE 3 FILES SENT TO SIPO BY THE CEO

Cllr McBrearty submitted the following question:-

“How much was the legal costs to the Council on the 3 files sent to SIPO by the CEO and in my role as Mayor of County Donegal 2012/2013?”

Cllr McBrearty received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/182/18 WHAT CHEMICALS ARE USED IN THE TREATMENT OF OUR MAINS WATER SUPPLY

Cllr Doherty submitted the following question:-

“What chemicals are used in the treatment of our mains water supply?”

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Water & Environment in relation the above.

C/183/18 PLANNING IRREGULARITIES IN THE COUNTY

Cllr McBrearty submitted the following question:-

“Has the Council been contacted or received any correspondences from Government concerning the investigation into allegations of planning irregularities in the County especially that a report on this has been sitting on the Ministers desk for over a year?”

Cllr McBrearty received a response from the Director of Community & Planning in relation to the above.

C/184/18 BREAKDOWN OF RATES COLLECTED FOR 2015, 2016 AND 2017

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

“Can I have a breakdown of rates collected in 2015, 2016 and 2017 with details included in relation to the following:-

- (d) The number paid on time.
- (e) The number who have availed of the small business grant scheme since its inception.
- (f) Plans going forward to support medium sized businesses in the County?

Cllr McGowan received a response from the a/Head of Finance in relation to the above.

C/185/18 CAN THE COUNCIL IDENTIFY THE AREAS IN CFRAMS CONCERNING FLOODING IN THE FINN VALLEY

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

“In light of the recent announcement of funding can the Council identify the areas in CFRAMS concerning flooding in the Finn Valley and highlight exactly what proposals there area to:-

- a. Address the very serious issues of flooding over the last few years.
- b. The costs to businesses.
- c. The effect on flood insurance and
- d. Provide clarity as to which relevant body is responsible for flooding and drainage.

Cllr McGowan received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

C/186/18 TASK FORCE FOR THE DONEGAL GAELTACHT REGION

Cllr Gallagher submitted the following question:-

“Has any correspondence been received on motion passed to establish a task force for the Donegal Gaeltacht region?”

Cllr Gallagher received a response from the Director of Community & Planning in relation to the above.

C/187/18 PROGRESS ON THE BURTONPORT TO LETTERKENNY RAILWAY INITIATIVE

Cllr Gallagher submitted the following question:-

“What progress has been made on the Burtonport to Letterkenny railway initiative?”

Cllr Gallagher received a response from the Director of Community & Planning in relation to the above.

C/188/18 SEEK AN EXTENSION OF DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS IN THE COUNTY TO BE INCLUDED IN CLAR

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

“Will Donegal County Council pursue Minister Ring and the Department for Rural and Community Development requesting an updated response to my motion adopted by Council in May 2017 seeking et al an extension of District Electoral Areas in the county to be included in CLAR, and thus be eligible to benefit from CLAR related funding schemes initiated by the Minister and his government department?”

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

C/189/18 UNSUPERVISED DOGS WITHIN CONFINEMENT CAUSING A NOISE DISTURBANCE

Cllr Canning submitted the following question:-

"What is the Council's policy on unsupervised dogs within confinement causing a noise disturbance?"

Cllr Canning received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/190/18 LAND CURRENTLY DESIGNATED BY THE EPA AS TOXIC OR FILLED WITH WASTE

Cllr Murray submitted the following question:-

“Does the Council have any land which is currently designated by the EPA as toxic or filled with waste and, if so, does it have any plans to address the matter?”



Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above.

C/191/18 STAND ALONE TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Cllr Canning submitted the following question:-

“How many Stand -Alone Treatment Systems within housing estates have Irish Water taken over since their beginnings, and have they changed their policy on Stand Alone Treatment Systems recently?”

Cllr Canning received a response from the Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above.

C/192/18 GRIANAN OF AILEACH

Cllr Murray submitted the following question:-

“Can this Council seek a meeting with the OPW in order to progress Grianan of Aileach as a countywide tourist attraction in Donegal?”

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Community & Planning in relation to the above.

C/193/18 CLAR 2018 PROGRAMME

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

“How many applications submitted in time to Donegal County Council were NOT forwarded to the Department for both Measures 1 and 2 under the CLAR 2018 programme? What Council evaluation system of applications was used? Who were the unsuccessful applicants? What were the principal failure/deemed ineligible findings identified by the Council that will assist community groups and schools with future applications?”

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Community & Planning in relation to the above.

C/194/18 FLUORIDE CURRENTLY PRESENT IN THE WATER SYSTEM

Cllr Glackin submitted the following question:-

"Could I please be furnished with the levels of fluoride currently present in the water systems of Donegal, and what are the current guidelines to safe levels of fluoride per unit of water "?

Cllr Glackin received a response from the Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above.

C/195/18 VARIOUS ROAD PROJECTS LINKED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE A5

Cllr McGarvey submitted the following question:-

“Can I have an update in relation to the various road projects in the county which were linked to the development of the A5?”

Cllr McGarvey received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

C/196/18 WHAT IS THE UPDATE ON THE A5

Cllr McGarvey submitted the following question:-

"What is the update on the A5?"

Cllr McGarvey received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

C/197/18 MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

Members noted the following motions from other Councils.

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council are asking the Minister for Agriculture to consider payment of €200/hd for suckler cows”.

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“Kerry County Council calls on the Minister for Health, Deputy Simon Harris to request the HSE to review the decision to restrict the use of Versatis pain relief patches to patients in chronic pain outside those experiencing post herpetic neuralgia, and to revert to the Pre December status while this review is being undertaken”.

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Leitrim County Council write to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to protect against the

Department's dictatorial actions, per the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other agencies, in designating large areas of our County as SACs, NHAs, etc. The scientific basis for such designations has not been explained to the people of County Leitrim and neighbouring counties and such designations are proving to be detrimental and limiting for the incomes and the livelihoods of people in such areas. I request that this motion be forwarded to other Local Authorities seeking their support."

#### LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

"That an interim payment of €50,000 be made to the women and families affected by the cervical cancer misdiagnosis."

It was agreed that the above Notice of Motion be forwarded to the Minister for Health and to all Local Authorities.

#### SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

"That Sligo County Council hereby calls on the Gaelic Athletic Association to ensure any matches broadcast on channels requiring subscription fees are also made available on free to air television in order to allow access for everyone in the country to view matches. This should be done in order to reflect that the GAA is a unique part of Irish culture which belongs to the Irish people and has been built by their efforts along with significant State investment from taxpayer's money."