

MINUTES/RECORD OF THE INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT 'GOTOMEETING' HELD ON TUESDAY 12th January 2021 at 1.00pm

Councillors Present:

Cllrs Paul Canning, Nicholas Crossan, Terry Crossan, Albert Doherty, Rena Donaghey, Martin Farren, Martin Mc Dermott, Bernard Mc Guinness and Jack Murray.

Officials Present:

John McLaughlin, Chief Executive Officer, Aideen Doherty, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate, Una Cresswell, A/Senior Staff Officer ,Housing & Corporate Services, Seamus Hopkins, Area Manager, Roads and Transportation, Killian Smith , Executive Planner , Ciaran Martin , Senior Economic Development Officer, Economic Development , Information Systems and Emergency Services, Mathew Byrne, Waste Regulation Officer and Fiona Doherty, Development Officer, Community and Enterprise.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Albert Doherty welcomed everybody to the meeting and wished a Happy New Year to all

21.01 Consideration of the minutes of the Inishowen Municipal District "GoToMeeting" held on 8th December 2020

On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey and seconded by Cllr Bernard McGuinness, the minutes of the Inishowen Municipal District Meeting held on 8th December 2020 were agreed.

21.02 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION SYSTEMS & EMERGENCY SERVICES

The report was taken as read by Ciaran Martin, Senior Economic Development Officer, Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services.

21.02.01 Donegal Place Brand initiative

Ciaran Martin advised that work on the new Donegal Place Brand initiative is ongoing. He advised that workshops with members across each Municipal District had taken place and that branding and website design are currently under development.

21.02.02 Buy Donegal Initiative

Ciaran Martin advised that the Buy Donegal initiative continued during December with an extensive social media, web, and press and radio campaign to create awareness and entice consumers to go out and Buy Donegal. He added that two hundred and fifty businesses had signed up to the campaign and most of them experienced an increase in on line business before Christmas.

21.02.03 Caravan & Camping Study

Cllr Albert Doherty welcomed the report on the Caravan & Camping Study being undertaken by the Economic Development Unit and welcomed the fact that a company had been appointed to complete the evaluation. He added that consultations were ongoing and that stakeholder engagement was planned.

21.02.04 Concierge Service

Cllr Albert Doherty referred to a query to the Concierge Service from a Hong Kong resident and sought clarification on a PPS number being required for this service. He added that it was taking over three months for this. Ciaran Martin advised that he was aware of this issue up but this it is out of the Council's hands.

21.02.05 TIDE Atlantic Network for Developing Historical Maritime Tourism

Cllr Albert Doherty sought clarification on who were the Inishowen representatives in the Donegal Stakeholders Group relating to the TIDE - Atlantic Network for Developing Historical Maritime Tourism

21.02.06 National Broadband Project & WiFi4EU

Cllr Albert Doherty said that there had been no response from David McCourt, National Broadband Ireland Chairman to queries raised. Ciaran Martin said he would follow up on the matter. Clarification was sought on where WiFi4EU hot spots are located in Inishowen. Cllr Jack Murray asked if Swan Park was listed. It was noted that a pole was installed at Malin Head. Ciaran Martin advised that a list of seventy five locations were approved at MD level eighteen months ago. He said that he would forward an updated list onto the members.

21.02.07 Brexit Stimulus Package

Cllr Martin Farren referred to the 8-10 Million Brexit Package and reiterated his comments made at the last Inishowen Municipal District meeting.. He said it was important that the Inishowen Municipal District gets a fair share of the funds and that members should be involved in how the funds are distributed as he believed the impact of Brexit would be catastrophic for the border areas. Ciaran Martin advised that all funding would be sought as far as possible in this regard.

21.02.08 Water Tender

An update was requested on the Water tenders following on from the last meeting.

21.02.09 Greencastle Maritime Museum

Cllr Martin Farren proposed and Cllr Bernard McGuinness seconded that Greencastle Maritime Museum should be given more status. A suggestion was made that a commemoration regarding the Spanish Armada could be considered at the museum.

21.02.10 Mobile Phone Black spots

In response to a query regarding mobile phone black spots, Ciaran Martin advised that he would ask Darragh McDonagh to follow up on this and report back to the members on this issue.

21.03 PLANNING

The Planning Report was taken as read by Killian Smith, Executive Planner.

21.03.01 Planning Enforcement Case

Cllr Rena Donaghey and Cllr Terry Crossan referred to an ongoing complex enforcement issue. Some discussion took place on the matter by the members.

21.03.02 Planning Workshop 18th January 2021

Cllr Albert Doherty raised the question on whether two hours was enough time in a workshop planned for 18th January 2021, to consider the Northern & Western Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy which was required to be adopted at the next plenary meeting of the council. He asked whether more time was required. Some discussion took place on infrastructure and matters regarding zoning of different areas and percentages for towns and villages, rural areas and large towns such as Letterkenny. Cllr Paul Canning illustrated how in some areas, particularly Letterkenny that there will be issues as land is not available. Killian agreed to refer these matters with a view to organising a workshop with Paul Christie, for the members

21.03.03 Planning Clinic

Killian Smith advised that planning clinic dates had not been set. There had been a high volume of applications before Christmas which has impacted on the planning service, he added. He added that as soon as dates are confirmed, he will advise the members accordingly.

21.04 ENVIRONMENT

Mathew Byrne, Waste Regulation Officer presented the Environment report to the members. He wished everybody a Happy New Year and advised that all essential services were being adequately covered by the Environment Service.

21.04.01 Men's Shed Competition

Mathew Byrne advised that the Rosses's Men's Shed were winners of the National Upcycling Challenge 2020.

21.04.02 National Food waste Campaigns

The National Food Waste Campaign was highlighted by Mathew Byrne..

21.04.03 Open Water Swimming

The benefit of open water swimming and guidance provided in the Environment Report was noted.

21.04.04 Quad Bikes

The dangers of the use of quad bikes were mentioned by Mathew Byrne as highlighted in the Environment Report. It was noted that damage to dunes can be significant on beaches which is unacceptable.

21.04.05 Access to Beaches

It was noted that vehicular access to some beaches and car parks as listed in the report and was restricted but are available to those who live within a five kilometre radius.

21.04.06 National Coastal Change Management Strategy Steering Group.

It was noted that a National Coastal Change Management Strategy Steering Group had met for the first time in September 2020 as detailed in the Environment Report.

21.04.07 Coastal Flooding and Erosion Risk Management

Five sites have been included in the Binbane Coastal Erosion Risk Management Report as detailed in the Environment Report. Cllr Albert Doherty asked why Lagg beach was not included. Cllr Albert Doherty proposed and Cllr Martin McDermott seconded, that a meeting should be organised with the relevant personnel to discuss and put in place a strategy to address coastal erosion. Cllr Bernard Guinness said that coastal erosion has been talked about for twenty five years and that not much has been carried out to address it in his opinion.

It was agreed that Michael McGarvey, Director of Service, Environment Service should be asked to attend the next meeting

21.04.08 Blue Flag Beach Lisfannon

Cllr Rena Donaghey stated that it was now four years since Lisfannon lost its Blue Flag status and that every effort should be made to have the Blue Flag status restored. She said that there were only twelve weeks left to apply for it.

21.04.09 Swan Park

Cllr Rena Donaghey said that the works carried out by the Roads Services at Swan Park was much appreciated bringing it to a good standard for the Christmas holiday period. Cllr Nicholas Crossan and Cllr Jack Murray agreed and said that it was a credit to the council for getting the excellent works completed.

21.04.10 Tidy Towns

It was noted that Tidy Towns Competition are to recommence. This was welcomed by all the members.

21.04.10 Dog Fouling

The issue of Dog Fouling was raised and it was suggested that an awareness campaign should be delivered by the Council.

21.04.11 Westbrook Pumping Station

Cllr Rena Donaghey reiterated her request to keep the proposed upgrade of Westbrook Pumping Station on the Agenda.

21.04.12 Illegal Dumping

Illegal dumping was raised again by Cllr Terry Crossan who asked if there was a general increase in dumping due to the current pandemic. Mathew Byrne advised that illegal dumping of waste went up by twenty five per cent in recent times and that the Environment Service was working in conjunction with the Environment services in Northern Ireland to address issues particularly in border areas. He added that the black spots for illegal dumping were being monitored and dealt with.

21.05 COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE

The report was taken as read by Fiona Doherty, Development Officer

21.05.01 Pride of Place Awards 2020

The members thanked Fiona Doherty for organising a presentation of a trophy to Spraoi agus Sport Carndonagh in compliance with the Health Pandemic guidelines. The trophy was in recognition of Spraoi agus Sport Carndonagh winning the 8th Pride of Place Award in category 7 entitled 'Community Wellbeing Initiative' in November 2020.

21.05.02 An Grianán of Aileach Fort

Fiona Doherty advised that a copy of the completed Conservation and Management Plan for An Grianán of Aileach Fort, commissioned by the Office of Public works would be circulated to all members soon. She said that the plan sets out an implementation strategy for the conservation and protection of the monument.

Cllr Jack Murray welcomed the plan stating that it was promised by the OPW a number of years ago. He referred to the large number of tourists visiting the fort and he expressed his desire to develop and enhance the visitor experience at the site. He referred to possible interventions such as interpretation heritage panels, maps and the development of an APP and QR code telling the story of the heritage site and history of the surrounding area. He also referred to Tully Hogue Fort in Co. Tyrone which he said had a historical link with An Grianán of Aileach.

Fiona Doherty stated that the plan contained a list of actions which the OPW indicated will guide the way forward for servicing the tourism potential of the site. This would be achieved collaboratively with the OPW and other partners and official agencies such as Donegal County Council and Fáilte Ireland.

Cllr Jack Murray suggested that maybe a zoom meeting with all stakeholders could be arranged to discuss the plan.

21.05.03 Town and Village Renewal scheme

Fiona Doherty updated the Members on the recent announcement by the Department of Rural and Community Development regarding the 2020 Town and Village Renewal Scheme. She stated that four out of ten applications put forward by Donegal County Council obtained funding and added that the applications submitted for Bunrana and Moville were unsuccessful on this occasion.

Cllr Martin Farren said it was unfortunate that the Town and Village Renewal application was unsuccessful for Moville as this would have been positive for the town. He acknowledged the work on the applications and requested that alternative funding is explored for the Moville proposal.

20.05.04 Malin Head Visitor Management Plan

Cllr Martin McDermott acknowledged the meeting that took place on 14th December, 2020 with the Inishowen members and the steering committee relating to the Malin Head Visitor Management Plan. Cllr McDermott sought a date for the next follow up meeting regarding the project.

21.05.05 Development Fund Initiative

Fiona Doherty advised that the 2021 Development Fund Initiative was advertised and the deadline for submission of applications was Friday 29th January. She sought a date to hold a workshop meeting to consider the allocation of the funding. The Members decided that they would decide on a date to hold a workshop meeting to consider the Development Fund applications at the February MD Meeting.

A discussion took place regarding the Development Fund Initiative in general. Cllr Paul Canning stated that the Development Fund Initiative should be more strategic and the guidelines and policy should be reviewed at Strategic Policy Group level.

21.05.06 Merville Play park

Cllr Martin Farren requested the repair of the broken Zip line equipment at Merville playpark is expedited.

21.05.07 Culdaff Play park

Cllr Bernard McGuinness expressed his disappointment regarding the slow progress on the remedial works at Culdaff playground. He stated that Culdaff beach is the oldest beach in Donegal and attracts a high volume of visitors. He added that the CES workers are available to assist with the necessary work.

21.05.08 Activity Wall at Barrack Hill, Carndonagh

Cllr Albert Doherty acknowledged that the technical team were exploring a solution to the insurance issues associated with the closure of the Activity Wall at Barrack Hill town Park. He requested that a solution to the matter was expedited by the relevant staff and sought an update for the next meeting.

21.05.09 Signage at Barrack Hill

Cllr Albert Doherty reiterated his request for the replacement of damaged signage at Barrack Hill.

21.05.10 Carndonagh Riverside Walk

Cllr Albert Doherty stated that he looked forward to the visit of Darryl O' Connor, Outdoor Recreation Officer to carry out a strategic assessment on walks in Carndonagh including the Riverside walk damaged in the flooding that took place in August 2017.

21.05.11 Mill River Walk, Buncrana

Cllr Rena Donaghey referred to the great potential for developing and progressing a river walk from Mill River to Green Bridge. She pointed out that currently people are walking through the GAA pitch to get through and this presented insurance issues etc. She said that there were also issues regarding dog fouling. She added that this walk was on the Buncrana and Environs Development Plan in 2014 and that it was important that it should be on the 2021 to 2027 plan. She said that the GAA would be willing to

meet with officials with a view to progressing the walkway. Cllr Jack Murray suggested that funding should be sought for the walkway and its full potential should be considered. Cllr Nicholas Crossan said that he was also in favour of extending the walk and bringing it up to its maximum potential.

Fiona Doherty indicated that she would discuss this matter with the Walks and Trails Recreation Officer and Killian Smith said that hopefully the walk could be considered as part of the new plan

21.05.12 Rural Development Investment Programme - 2020 Clár Funding for Portaleen Viewing point, Glengad.

At the request of Councillor Martin McDermott, Fiona Doherty agreed to ensure that the works associated with the Portaleen Viewing Point at Glengad is progressed and completed for the summer season.

21.05.13 Ard Cill Bride

Cllr Albert Doherty asked when the works at Ard Cill Bride would be carried out. It was noted that a quotation has been received to change the floodlights to energy efficient LED light as requested by the residents.

21.06.01 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

Aideen Doherty, Area Manager, Housing and Corporate Services presented the Housing report to the members and updated them on matters.

21.06.02 Amendment to Standing Orders

On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey and seconded by Cllr Martin Dermott it was agreed to amend Standing Orders for Inishowen MD to cover Standing Orders for remote meetings as detailed in draft revised standing orders in the Municipal District Report.

21.06.04 Cllr. Eddie Fullerton 30th Anniversary Commemoration

Clr Albert Doherty proposed and Clr Jack Murray seconded that the council consider commemorating the 30th anniversary of the death of Clr Eddie Fullerton. Clr Doherty suggested a lecture but said he was happy to consider any suggestions. Aideen Doherty advised that she would pass this suggestion on to Eileen Burgess, Divisional Manager Cultural Services for consideration.

21.06.05 Review to Renew of National Development Plan (NDP)

The Area Manager advised members that information was sent out to all members regarding the NDP. She advised that the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Michael McGrath TD, has invited submissions to Review to Renew the public consultation on Ireland's National Development Plan (the NDP). The closing dates for submissions are 29th January 2021 she added.

21.06.06 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Inishowen Municipal District Meeting would take place on 9th February 2021 at 1.00pm

21.07.01 ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

The Roads and Transportation report circulated by Seamus Hopkins, Area Manager, Roads and Transportation was taken as read. Seamus Hopkins advised the members of works completed to date.

21.07.02 Roads Workshop

It was agreed that a Road’s Workshop would take place on 29th January 2021 at 10.00am

21.07.03 The Ródán, Carndonagh

Some discussion took place on restoration the Ródán walkway, Carndonagh to its original condition. It was noted that there are ongoing issues regarding an adjacent, alleged unauthorised road entrance and construction works in the area that had compromised the use of the walkway. It was noted that concerns regarding potential safety issues had also been brought to the members’ attention with particular emphasis on pedestrian safety on the Circular road where the road entrance exists.

Cllr Bernard McGuinness proposed and Cllr Martin McDermott seconded that they agree in principle to the restoration of the walkway and subsequent takeover by the Community Development division of Donegal County Council subject to consideration and resolution of all relevant legal issues. Cllr Albert Doherty was also in favour of this. Cllr Terry Crossan asked the question if all members were required to agree to this proposal.

Seamus Hopkins, Area Manager for Roads provided an update in relation to the Circular Road, He advised that temporary signage, in line with Dept. of Transport guidelines, and with a 25km/hr advisory speed limit, had been erected in the area to advise drivers and pedestrians alike of heavy plant using the works access. It was noted the road had a 60Km speed limit and that the bridge on the road was a protected structure. He added that unfortunately, absolute safety it not guaranteed on any road but he would endeavour to keep the situation under review. He said that he would continue to respond to any concerns raised by the members and local residents.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Certified: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____

Area Manager

Date: _____