

**MINUTES OF THE INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE,  
CARNDONAGH ON TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2020 AT 1.00pm**

**Councillors Present:**

Councillors Paul Canning, Nicholas Crossan, Terry Crossan, Albert Doherty, Rena Donaghey, Martin Farren , Martin McDermott, Bernard McGuinness and Jack Murray.

**Officials Present:**

John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation, Aideen Doherty, Area Manager Housing & Corporate, Seamus Hopkins, Area Manager , Roads and Transportation, Rosin Kelly, Executive Planner , Mathew Byrne, Waste Protection Officer, Una Cresswell, A/Senior Staff Officer, Eamonn Mahon, Executive Roads Engineer, Jimmy McLaughlin , Executive Roads Engineer, Fiona Doherty, Development Officer, Community and Enterprise and Ciaran Martin, Senior Economic Development Officer, Economic Development , Information Systems and Emergency Services.

**20.09 Adjournment of Meeting**

On the proposal of Cllr Paul Canning and seconded by Cllr Rena Donaghey, it was agreed that the meeting would be adjourned and would recommence at 2.30pm.

**20.10. Consideration of the minutes of the Inishowen Municipal District meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

On the proposal of Cllr Martin Farren and seconded by Cllr Rena Donaghey, the minutes of the Inishowen Municipal District meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were agreed.

**20.10.01 Correction of Minutes**

It was noted that minute 20.07.08 was incorrect with regard to the numbers of houses proposed for Buncrana.

**20.11. General Election 2020**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Martin McDermott stated that he wished to congratulate the Donegal TDs, Charlie McConalogue, Pearse Doherty Pdraig Maclochlainn , Joe McHugh and Thomas Pringle who were elected and looked forward to working with them in the future.

**20.12 ENVIRONMENT**

Mathew Byrne, Waste Protection Officer presented the Environment report to the members.

**20.12.01 Tidy Towns Workshops**

Mathew Byrne advised that a workshop has been organised for Tidy Towns Committees on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 in Carndonagh PSC to assist them, as discussed at the last Inishowen Municipal District meeting in February.

#### **20.12.02 Anti Dumping Legislation**

Mathew Byrne outlined in his report how at a sitting at a recent Court hearing for non-payment of a litter fine, the District Court judge was critical of the manner in which the recycling was carried out and said he could not understand why people did not use the recycling centres properly. The Judge said he could not understand why members of the public did not use the facilities in accordance with the direction provided. The Judge imposed a fine and also awarded costs to the Council. Mathew said that this was a very positive response from the court and that hopefully this would deter the public from committing litter offences in the future.

#### **20.12.03 Brown Bin Roll Out in Buncrana**

Mathew Byrne referred to the new pilot scheme that will raise awareness among Irish householders as to what food and organic waste should be disposed of in the brown food waste bin. He advised that a brown bin rollout was taking place in Buncrana. Residents in Buncrana who have a collection service with Logan Waste can expect to see a new sticker on the General Waste Bin in the coming weeks. The sticker will help to remind householders that organic or food waste should not be disposed of in the general bin, but should be put in the food waste brown bin.

#### **20.12.04 Green Schools Programme**

Mathew Byrne referred to the Green Schools Programme where approximately one hundred schools are due to renew their Green Flags on a range of themes, with the latest theme being Global Citizenship Marine Environment.

#### **20.12.05 Clean Coast Road Show**

Mathew Byrne referred to the Clean Coast Road Show taking place in Annagry Community Hall.

#### **20.12.06 Buncrana Leisure centre**

Mathew Byrne updated the members regarding Buncrana Leisure Centre and stated that the next stage of tendering will take place in quarter two of this year. He added that it is hoped that the tendering process will conclude at the latter part of 2020. Cllr Rena Donaghey welcomed the news and added that Buncrana Leisure Centre was a major topic with the public in Inishowen in the run up to the recent general election.

#### **20.12.07 Westbrook Pumping Station**

In a response to a query from Cllr Rena Donaghey at the last meeting, Aideen Doherty advised that a response on the status of the proposed upgrade to the pump house at Westbrook had been received.

#### **20.12.08 Use of Pesticides in Parks and Footways**

Cllr Albert Doherty said that the use of pesticides throughout the county should be reviewed in line with environmental concerns as mentioned at the previous municipal district meeting. He asked how the council were engaging with various groups with regard to their environmental plans and biodiversity options and possibilities. Mathew Byrne advised that within the Biodiversity Plan there were thirty

actions and that cross departmental meetings are being proposed to take place to discuss all relevant issues.

#### **20.12.09 Knotweed**

Cllr Albert Doherty sought an update on measures to control knotweed.

#### **20.12.10 Dog Fouling**

Cllr Martin Farren stated that he believed that having only two dog wardens in the county was inadequate

#### **20.12.10 Merville Public Conveniences**

Cllr Martin Farren requested that an update on the repairs required at Merville Public Conveniences be provided. Mathew Byrne advised that the public conveniences at Merville had been upgraded. Cllr Farren said they required further works before the busy summer period commenced.

#### **20.12.11 Staffing Matters**

Cllr Rena Donaghey referred to her request at the last meeting that a replacement for a member of staff who left the Buncrana outdoor team, is put in place as soon as possible as there was increased pressure on the litter warden in the area to carry out his duties. Mathew Byrne confirmed that a new staff member is due to start the post on Thursday.

#### **20.12.12 Blue Flag Status- Kinnegoe Bay**

Cllr Bernard McGuinness requested that acquiring Blue Flag beach status for Kinnegoe Bay be considered and he said that this has been sought for the past ten years. He also requested that porta-loos be provided at the beach.

#### **20.12.13 Pick Up Vehicle in Buncrana**

Cllr Rena Donaghey asked when the pick up vehicle that was in Buncrana was due to come back. Mathew Byrne advised that it was back in Buncrana.

#### **20.12.14 Roads and Transportation**

Seamus Hopkins, Area Manager, Roads advised the members the Roadwork's Programme would be brought before the members in March and that he was currently working on it. He advised that if the members had any queries to contact him directly. He added that a workshop will take place prior to the March Municipal District meeting.

#### **20.13.01 Gardener at Barrack Hill**

Cllr Albert Doherty referred to his request at the last meeting to employ a gardener on a five day per week basis at Barrack Hill. . He added that other community groups such as Eco Carn and the Carn Tidy Towns Committee in Carndonagh were seeking assistance from a Donegal County Council gardener. He said that he had been advised that interviews were taking place for general operatives but sought clarification on why was this when a full time gardener was clearly required. After some discussion the

consensus of the members was that a full time gardener should be operating out of Carndonagh Public Service Centre to service towns and villages in North Inishowen. Cllr Albert Doherty proposed and Cllr Martin Farren seconded that this should be progressed

Seamus Hopkins, Roads and Transportation Senior Executive Engineer, advised that following on from a review it was agreed that vacancies for gardeners should be advertised as general operatives as there were difficulties in trying to find gardeners to do specialised work in parks and open spaces. It was decided he added to create a panel and then see who would be willing to work in parks and open spaces with the necessary skills. He also added that resource requirements for parks and open spaces were being reviewed county wide and that a workshop may be held to discuss the matter. The members expressed concerns that they were not being informed and asked to be kept updated on whether a full time gardener is going to be recruited. John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation agreed that the matter would be looked into and that advice would be sought from the Human Resources Department.

#### **20.13.02 Parks and Open Spaces**

Cllr Rena Donaghey referred to her previous request that Parks and Open Spaces become a separate department and not part of from the Roads Service and requested an update on this.

#### **20.13.03 Biodiversity Plan for Carndonagh**

Seamus Hopkins advised that the Bio Diversity plan is progressing well for Carndonagh possibly for Barrack Hill and that this was a green flag opportunity.

#### **20.13.04 National Primary Roads**

Following on from the previous Inishowen Municipal District Meeting regarding taking over the Muff to Moville Road, the Bridgend to Bunrana and the Quigley's Point to Carndonagh as National Primary Roads by TII (Traffic Infrastructure Ireland) It was reiterated that at a request to meet with the new Minister for Transport be progressed when the new government is in place. John McLaughlin, Director of Service for Roads and Transportation stated that a report had already been submitted to the Department as outlined at the last Inishowen Municipal District meeting.

#### **20.13.05 Signage and Safety Measures at Galdonagh**

In response to a query from Cllr Canning regarding the possible installation signage and safety measures at Galdonagh, Seamus Hopkins advised that he will make contact with the NRDO.

#### **20.13.06 Ramps**

Cllr Paul Canning sought clarification on county wide policy on ramps as requested at the last meeting. Cllr Bernard McGuinness suggested that ramps as traffic calming measures should be placed at entrances to towns and villages to reduce speed and prevent accidents happening. Cllr McGuinness stated that there ramps in many areas in Letterkenny but not enough in Inishowen

#### **20.13.07 Quigley's Point Junction at Carn Brae**

Cllr Terry Crossan asked that the junction at Quigley's Point Junction at Carn Brae be looked at as he believed it was a very dangerous junction. He asked that traffic calming measures could be considered there. Seamus Hopkins advised that realignment of the road may be necessary.

#### **20.13.08 White lines Quigley's point to Whitecastle School**

Cllr Terry Crossan referred previous requests to renew the white lines on the road between Quigley's point and Whitecastle School.

#### **20.13.09 Barrier at Footbridge, Merville**

Cllr Martin Farren requested that the barrier at the footbridge in Merville be replaced.

#### **20.13.10 Storm Damage at Killourt and Ballyhillion, Malin Head**

Cllr Albert Doherty referred to storm damage at Killourt and Ballyhillion, Malin Head where there was significant damage to signage and access to beaches. It was acknowledged that the council response to storm damage was excellent but that safety for council employees was paramount in working under dangerous conditions. Seamus Hopkins advised that safety comes first and a risk assessment is carried out prior to the deployment of staff to these situations.

#### **20.13.11 Junction at Ballyloskey Old Girls School**

Cllr Albert Doherty referred to the Junction at Ballyloskey Old Girls School and asked that it be looked at and possibly widened to enhance vision lines.

#### **20.13.12 Crossing Points**

Cllr Albert Doherty requested that crossing points be considered for areas on the Ballyloskey Road and also in the Carndonagh town area. He said such crossings would be useful particularly for people with mobility issues.

#### **20.13.13 Traffic Lights in Merville**

Cllr Martin Farren sought clarification on the type of traffic lights being installed in Merville and whether they were smart or standard traffic lights. It was suggested that there had been lack of consultation with the public. Seamus Hopkins advised that he had spoken to local people and businesses in the town and that pedestrian safety consideration was paramount.

#### **20.13.14 Bridge at Brochan House, Carndonagh**

Cllr Bernard reiterated his previous requests to consider proposals for widening the road at the bridge at the Brochan House, Carndonagh. Seamus Hopkins advised that he would follow up on this matter.

#### **20.13.15 Cyclists**

Cllr Bernard McGuinness said that provision for the increased number of cyclists due to the popularity of Malin Head as a tourist destination, should be considered. He added that cyclists from all over Ireland were coming to Inishowen and that the council needs to adapt the roads accordingly.

#### **20.13.16 Traffic Monitoring**

Cllr Bernard McGuinness suggested that traffic counters be used to determine the level of traffic on significant Inishowen roads as Inishowen is in such close proximity to a city. Seamus Hopkins advised that counters are in place and that the software is in place to gather statistics

#### **20.13.17 Lights at Walkers Lane, Buncrana**

Cllr Nicholas Crossan stated that he welcomed the lights at Walkers Lane

#### **20.13.18**

Cllr Nicholas Crossan stated that he welcomed the works completed on the footpath in Buncrana Lower Main Street.

#### **20.13.19 Westbrook**

Cllr Nicholas Crossan requested that the Road Design team look at Westbrook and particularly consider footpath provision in their plans.

#### **20.13.20 Railway Road at Farren's Garage**

Cllr Jack Murray reiterated his suggestion in previous meetings that the installation of an island at Railway Road would be very beneficial as many school children and pedestrians cross the road there. Seamus Hopkins advised that he has raised the matter with Road Design and will follow up on it.

#### **20.13.21 Wild Deer**

Cllr Martin Mc Dermott requested an update on his request regarding proposed signs to warn drivers of the dangers in Ballyliffen, Culdaff and Malin

#### **20.13.22 Malin Head Road to Malin Town**

Cllr McDermott requested an update on the restoration of the Malin Head to Malin Town Road after works being carried out by Irish Water.

#### **20.13.23 Roads Workshop**

It was agreed that a Roads Workshop would take place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 at 3.00pm

#### **20.14 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES**

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

#### **20.14.01 Proposed Development at Crana Crescent, Buncrana**

Cllr Nicholas Crossan expressed his dissatisfaction and frustration with only eleven houses being proposed for Crana Crescent, Buncrana instead of nineteen that was previously agreed. He sought clarification on why the numbers had been reduced in Buncrana where there was so much demand for social housing and not enough supply. A discussion ensued. Cllr Rena Donaghey stated that she was of the opinion that Crana Crescent was a mature estate and that there would not be enough room for additional car parking and traffic in general. She also expressed concerns about emergency services access and safe passing in the area. It was argued that the Department for Housing seem to aim for the maximum number of houses that can be built in an area without considering the current residents in the area.

Cllr Nicholas Crossan continued to articulate his concerns and demanded to know who decided to reduce the number of houses proposed to eleven instead nineteen. Aideen Doherty, Area Manager advised that she took the members concerns on board but added that the plan for the project has not been signed off on yet and all options would be considered with the Housing Construction team and discussed with members before final sign off to the department.

#### **20.14.02 Dunshenny House, Carndonagh**

Cllr Albert Doherty sought clarification on why the five units at Dunshenny House Carndonagh remain unoccupied. Cllr Rena Doherty concurred with Cllr Doherty and stated that it was a disgrace that the units were not being utilised. Aideen Doherty agreed to follow up with the HSE.

#### **20.14.03 Vacant Houses**

Cllr Albert Doherty requested information on the number of Local Authority houses currently being refurbished and the number of houses due to be refurbished in the future. He said that the turnaround times were too long and that delays should be avoided

#### **20.14.04 Proposed Social Housing Unit**

Cllr Albert Doherty requested information on proposed new social housing units including turnkeys to be provided at the next Inishowen Municipal District Meeting. He added that it was important that all efforts were made to provide social housing and reduce the numbers on the housing list. Aideen Doherty advised that the council were considering all options and that an update will be provided to members.

#### **20.14.05 SI Houses**

Cllr Martin McDermott requested details on the number of SI houses being built per year in the Housing Report at each Municipal District Meeting. Aideen Doherty advised that there are a number of applications being progress at this time and members will be updated.

#### **20.14.06 Mica**

It was noted that a public meeting was taking place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February by the Mica Action Group. The consensus of the members was that they should be briefed before this meeting on the current update on Mica.

#### **20.14.07 Rural Housing**

Cllr Bernard McGuinness stated that small towns and villager were excluded from the expression of interest that was publicised for turnkey development and he believes that this was a disgrace and needs to be reviewed.

#### **20.14.08 Workshops March 2020**

It was agreed that the following workshops would take place

##### **3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**

3.00pm Roads Workshop

4.00pm C& E DFI Workshop

##### **10<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

10.00am Greenways Workshop

11.00am Roads Workshop

12.00pm Housing Workshop

4.00 pm Workshop – Irish Natura and Hill Farmers Association

#### **20.15. COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE**

Fiona Doherty Development Officer, Community and Enterprise presented the report to the Members.

##### **20.15.01 Development Fund Initiative**

Fiona Doherty requested a workshop meeting with the members to consider and allocate the 2020 Development Fund. The Members agreed to hold a workshop meeting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 4pm.

##### **20.15.02. Buncrana School Campus**

Cllr Nicholas Crossan referred to his request that the Council write to the Department of Education and skills requesting an update on the status of the Buncrana School Campus. It was noted that any correspondence has to go through the Department of Education and that the council is not in a position to respond. It was requested that a letter be written to the Education Training Board and Department of Education requesting them to attend the March meeting of Inishowen Municipal District. Cllr Jack Murray suggested that the relevant parties should be brought around the table to progress the Buncrana School Campus Project.

### **20.15.03. Play Parks**

In response to a question from Cllr Bernard McGuinness, Fiona Doherty stated that the Executive Engineer responsible for play parks was working on a solution to replenishing the sand at Culdaff playpark and this would be completed depending on the weather conditions.

### **20.15.04 Malin Head Access & Amenity Improvement Project**

Cllr Martin McDermott welcomed the progress at Malin Head and acknowledged the action taken by Failte Ireland and Donegal County Council regarding the public clarification notice on the walks and trails. He asked that the next stage of the project is progressed.

Fiona Doherty clarified a question from Cllr Albert Doherty in relation to an item in the report regarding the composition of the steering committee meeting which is being held on 17th February, 2020.

## **20.16 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION SYSTEMS & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Ciaran Martin, Economic Development Officer presented a comprehensive e report to the members.

### **20.16.01 Introduction**

Ciaran Martin outlined how the new Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Directorate is set up and its functions. He advised that a member of staff from each section of the directorate will attend Inishowen Municipal District meetings in rotation. He outlined how a five year Economic Development Strategy for Donegal County Council is being developed that will provide a framework to guide the work of the Council enabling the council to realise the ambitions set out the recently adopted Corporate Plan. The strategy will set key targets and performance indicators that will assist in monitoring and evaluating effectiveness.

### **20.16.02 Concierge Services**

Ciaran Martin referred to the Concierge Service that being launched on 4<sup>th</sup> March. This service is to enable members of the public to navigate council services and supports and will be the dedicated first point of contact for potential business start-ups or business expansion opportunities.

### **20.16.03 Miscellaneous Services**

Other areas of the directorates' work were noted as detailed in the report such as tourism, marketing and research and development.

### **20.16.04 Emergency Services**

The members raised queries on some Emergency Services matters listed below which Ciaran agreed to take back to relevant personnel.

- Water Tenders
- Fire Certificates
- Fire Services Charges/

The members welcomed Ciaran to the meeting and thanked him for his report. They wished him well in the new directorate.

**20.17 PLANNING**

The Planning Report was taken as read by Roisin Kelly, Executive Planner

**20.17.01 ICLRD – Study Workshops**

Rosin Kelly advised that the International Centre for Local and Regional Development has been commissioned by Donegal County Council to carry out an independent study of the geospatial, economic and social development potential of Buncrana as a town located within the wider North West City Region. A series of workshop for sectoral focus groups between 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> February- are being held at the IDP Offices at St Mary’s Road, Buncrana for local stakeholders so that their views can inform the study.

**20.17.03 Additional Planning Staff for Inishowen**

Cllr Paul Canning enquired as to when the new planning staff would attend Inishowen MD Meetings

**20.17.03 Donegal County Council Lands**

Cllr Paul Canning suggested that students could be employed to work on a project to identify Donegal County Council owned lands that may be suitable for social housing.

**20.17.04 Buncrana Local Area Plans**

Cllr Nicholas Crossan requested an update on the draft Buncrana Area Plan. Rosin Kelly advised that once the strategic study is completed, the draft plan will move on.

**Date of next meeting**

It was agreed the date of the next meeting is Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2.00pm

**Certified:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Area Manager

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_