

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riathóir na gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
Leifear
19 Samhain, 2024

FÓGRA CRUINNITHE

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara,

Beidh Cruinniú de Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ar siúl **Dé Luain, 25 Samhain 2024 ag 11.00 r.n in Áras an Chontae, Leifear.** Ta clár an chruinnithe leis seo. Seolfar nasc leictreonach chuig an chruinniú i gcomhfhreagras eile.

Beidh Clár Orduithe an Phríomh-Fheidhmeannaigh le feiceáil ag an chruinniú

Mise, le meas



Pádraig Ó Laifearaigh
Riathóir Cruinnithe

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford
19th November, 2024

NOTICE OF MEETING

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor,

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on **Monday 25th November, 2024 at 11.00am in the County House, Lifford.** The agenda for the meeting is attached. An online link to join the meeting will issue separately.

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

Yours sincerely



Patsy Lafferty
Meetings Administrator

AGENDA

1. **Confirmation of Minutes**
 - a) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 16th of September, 2024.
 - b) Confirmation of the Minutes of the September Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 30th of September, 2024.
 - c) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Adjourned Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 7th of October, 2024.
 - d) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 7th of October, 2024.

2. **Disposal of Land – Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000(as amended)**
 - a) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – to dispose of land at Cratlagh, Milford Co Donegal by way of exchange to Michael Mc Gee.
 - b) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – to dispose of land at the rear of 1A Binnion Avenue, Letterkenny, Co Donegal to Mr Hugh Logue.
 - c) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – to dispose of land at the 2 Binnion Avenue, Letterkenny, Co Donegal to Jennifer and Michael Heaney.
 - d) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – to dispose of land at Leenan Pier to Atlantic Crab Ltd.

3. **Taking of decision pursuant to the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Part XI), and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001**
 - a) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to the demolition and rebuilding of Nas Mór Apartment Block C, Carnamuggagh, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.
 - b) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to the construction of a single-storey rural SI dwelling including wastewater treatment and all associated site development works at Trentaghmuckla, St Johnston, Co Donegal.
 - c) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to the construction of a single-storey rural SI dwelling including wastewater treatment and all associated site development works at Dunaff, Clonmany, Co Donegal.

- d) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to the construction of a single-storey rural SI dwelling including wastewater treatment and all associated site development works at Kinnea, Clonmany, Co Donegal.
- e) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to the construction of a single-storey rural SI dwelling including wastewater treatment and all associated site development works at Knockbrack, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.

4. **Corporate**

- a) Consideration of the Donegal County Council Corporate Plan 2024-2029.
- b) To fill casual vacancy on ICBAN arising from the resignation of Cllr Michael Mc Mahon.
- c) Election of Members to the Donegal Tourism Associate Members Committee.
- d) To approve Schedule of Council Meetings for 2025.
- e) To approve the holding of a Special Budget Workshop on Monday 2nd December, 2024 at 11am in the Council Chamber, Lifford.
- f) Glenveagh National Park – Public Consultation on new Visitor Plan – Proposed Workshop at 12 noon on Monday 9th December, 2024.

5. **Planning**

- a) Development Contribution Scheme Review. To agree date for Plenary Workshop on the 12th December, 2024.
- b) To note update report on the Revised National Planning Framework. (Report to follow)

6. **Endorsement of Minutes**

- a) To note minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on the 23rd September, 2024.
- b) To note minutes of the Special Corporate Policy Group meeting held on the 4th October, 2024.

7. **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 (as amended).

Other

- Attendance of the Leas-Cathaoirleach at the Long Service Awards for Fire Service Personnel in the Knightsbrook Hotel, Dublin Road, Trim, Co Meath on the 14th November, 2024.
- Attendance of the Cathaoirleach at the Chambers Ireland Local Government Awards in the Crowne Plaza, Santry on the 21st November.

- Attendance of the A5/N2 Cross Border Committee members at a meeting with a representative from the Department for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland to take place in Garvaghey, Co Tyrone on Monday 16th December 2024.
- To select nominees and approve attendance at the “Ongoing Conversations “ Programme” series of events scheduled to take place in 2025.

Travel Abroad

- Attendance of the Cathaoirleach of the Inishowen Municipal District on an exchange visit to the city of St. Charles, Missouri and to attend the Missouri River Irish Festival in St Charles in May 2025.
- Attendance of the EU Cerv Project representative at the Youth & Democracy: Empowering Europe’s Next Generation Seminar in Rabat, Malta from the 9th to the 12th December, 2024.

MOTIONS

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

8. Cllr Fionán Bradley

"That this Council write to the leaders of every political party and independent grouping running candidates in the forthcoming General Election urging them to include within their programme for government to fully commit, within the lifetime of the next Dáil to the restoration or creation of Town Councils in every town in this State with a population over 5,000 people". Also to agree to send this motion to every other Council in the State.

Housing

9. Cllr Joy Beard

It has been scientifically proven that mould and damp can cause asthma, coughing and other respiratory problems. In some cases, particularly for infants, young children and older people, mould and damp can be fatal. Due to the presence of defective concrete blocks in thousands of homes in Donegal, the existence of these threats to health is on the increase.

“This motion calls on Donegal County Council - as a matter of urgency - to inspect each and every one of its social housing units, looking for signs of mould and damp. And where remedial action is required, to immediately eradicate these potentially deadly spores, eliminate water ingress and ensure that the Council's properties are fit for human habitation”.

10. Cllr Albert Doherty

Turnkey Acquisitions,

"That DCC share an analysis of the application, performance and housing number projected and delivered in the 2018 Turnkey model, and,

That the Council share the current performance analysis of the 2022-26 turnkey acquisitions projection to date including submissions received, municipal locations, need and costing issues, with particular focus on the interests to deliver housing received from AHBs and issues emerging apparently delaying delivery of social housing by AHBs in Donegal".

Environment

11. **Cllr Jack Murray**

"That this Council reaffirms its commitment to providing top class leisure centre amenities for all citizens in Donegal, commits that all interactions with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media will state this as a priority and, further, this council strongly calls for the immediate, and additional, funding for the one outstanding, unsuccessful, application to the Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund".

LETTERKENNY/MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Environment

12. **Cllr Michael Mc Bride**

"That Donegal County Council write to the incoming Housing Minister asking for a grant to be considered for rainwater harvesting that would lower demand on current domestic supplies and could be used for flushing toilets, washing cars, power washing and any other use of treated water supplies around dwellings, farms and industrial settings".

Water & Environment

13. **Cllr Declan Meehan**

"That this Council will write urgently to the Board of Directors of Uisce Éireann to outline the dissatisfaction of elected members with the local representative desk support and communication from Uisce Éireann, and to ask for a full review of the service with a commitment to improving communication with elected representatives".

Defective Concrete Blocks

14. **Cllr Tomás Seán Devine**

"On behalf of senior citizens who have DCB homes that the Donegal County Council submit a letter to the Attorney General questioning the legality of the issue of transferability in the DCB Scheme. Article 43 of the constitution states the State accordingly guarantees to pass no law attempting to abolish the right of private ownership or the general right to transfer bequeath and inherit property under the present scheme, the right to transfer property is limited, restricting and places a burden on the homeowner to designate one heir".

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

15. **Cllr Denis Mc Gee**

There are a number of social homes that are in a state of disrepair, due to the defective blocks issue.

"I ask the Council to expedite an application for emergency funding, in order to do whatever is necessary to address this issue. It is imperative that something be done in the interim with these homes, particularly those that are not waterproof. The Council have a duty of care to the residents of these homes, and it has to be seen to act proactively and compassionately with regards to these cases.

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

16. **Cllr Jimmy Brogan**

"That Donegal County Council, in light of the recent ruling by the International Court of Justice on the illegality of Israeli settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territories, calls on the Irish Government to enact the Occupied Territories Bill, to cut Irish trade ties with Israeli goods and services produced in these illegal settlements".

LIFFORD/STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Community Development

17. **Cllr Frank Mc Brearty**

"Requesting that the new incoming Government establish within its first 100 days an Independent Statutory Judicial Public Inquiry with an open terms of reference into the explosion in Creeslough, Co Donegal that killed 10 people on the 7th Oct 2023, and I am calling on all the elected members of Donegal County Council to support my motion for this much needed Public Inquiry"

Economic Development

18. **Cllr Martin Scanlon**

"That this Council use existing signage infrastructure to promote tourism and amenities in local areas throughout the county".

19. Cathaoirleach's Business.

20. Chief Executive's Management Report.

QUESTIONS

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Environment

21. **Cllr Fionán Bradley**

How many leisure centres in the county are currently waiting on, applying for or are actively seeking funding to renovate, rebuild, restore or expand

their facilities? If there is more than one such leisure centre does the Council have a priority list for any such funding for those leisure centres? If there is a priority list (in the event that there is more than 1 such centre) what is the rationale behind it?

Roads & Transportation

22. Cllr Fionán Bradley

To ask the Executive are horses and their riders entitled to use Greenways? If not, are there specific equine trails in the county which they can use? If there are, what are the locations of ?

Housing

23. Cllr Albert Doherty

Dissolution of 33rd Dáil Fri Nov 8th 2024.

(Remediation of Social housing affected by Defective Concrete Blocks)

What official correspondence, meetings, engagements were made by DCC with the Department of Housing in relation to enabling the Council to proceed with the remediation scheme of the significant number of Social Homes up to and including Fri Nov 8th 2024. What were the responses, commitments received by DCC up to and including Nov 8th that may enable the early and necessary remediation of DCB affected social homes in Donegal?

Defective Concrete Blocks

24. Cllr Joy Beard

On 10 July 2024, I tabled a motion calling on the Executive of the Council to engage with suppliers of modular homes to help resolve the housing crisis.

On 18 September 2024, I put forward a motion requesting that the Emergency Plan be amended to provide a place of safety for defective blocks homeowners during storms.

Both motions were approved by the Council with no objections.

Please explain why, as far as I can see, nothing has been done to implement or progress the issues raised in these motions?

Planning

25. Cllr Albert Doherty

RZLT 2025

How many submissions and appeals were received by DCC from landowners requesting lands to be excluded and citing the negative impact RZLT would have on future farming viability in Donegal?

What is the current revenue position 08/11/24 on the imposition RZLT on lands actively being farmed in the country?

What communication and decision role will local authorities including DCC be required/obliged to play re RZLT and the publication of the final designated RZLT land /farmlands in Donegal?

Environment

26. **Cllr Jack Murray**

Has the Council been provided with the scoring of applications to the Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund?

27. **Cllr Jack Murray**

Can the Council executive explain how it prioritised applications to the Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund and advise why elected members were not advised of this prioritisation?

LETTERKENNY/MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads & Transportation

28. **Cllr Michael Mc Bride**

Can Donegal County Council give me an update on the Japanese Knotweed Programme and who is currently responsible for its rollout?

Housing

29. **Cllr Tomás Seán Devine**

Can I get a figure of all the new council houses getting built, how many are actually fully wheelchair friendly to live in with a downstairs wet room & bedroom and how many are 4 bedroom?

Cultural Services

30. **Cllr Declan Meehan**

Can we be provided with the visitor figures for every public library in the county, as well as the current levels of staffing resources allocated to each library?

Corporate

31. **Cllr Declan Meehan**

Can we be provided with full details of all current HR vacancies across all sections of Donegal County Council?

LIFFORD/STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

32. **Cllr Frank Mc Brearty**

How much money has been paid out by DCC in legal fees to Michael J. Staines & Co Solicitors and VP McMullin Solicitors concerning all the cases involving Cllr Frank McBrearty Jnr in the Civil High Court and Criminal Courts to date and who within the Council instructed the services of these two legal firms in these cases?

33. **Cllr Frank Mc Brearty**

Names of all Council Staff and County Cllr's that are represented by Michael J. Staines & Co Solicitors and VP McMullin Solicitor's in the Civil and Criminal Court cases against Cllr Frank McBrearty Jnr.

34. **Motions from other Councils/Bodies**

ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL

It was agreed that the Council write to the Minister and Department of Transport to review the system, and to have notice of bus allocation at least 4 weeks prior to the commencement of the school year.

The existing system, characterized by inadequacies and flaws, has resulted in significant stress and concern for parents and students, leaving crucial matters like school bus placements and ticket allocations uncertain well beyond the commencement of the school year. It is imperative that a comprehensive overhaul of the entire system is undertaken to guarantee that allocations are finalised a minimum of four weeks prior to students returning to school.

ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL

That Roscommon County Council write to the Department seeking funding for a Roadside Tree Survey to identify dead, dangerous and infected trees, and that Roscommon be put forward as a pilot for a national scheme.

WATERFORD CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

That Waterford City & County Council supports United Against Gender Apartheid and their campaign to have the crime of 'gender apartheid' incorporated into Article 2 of the draft Crimes Against Humanity Convention.

**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON
25TH NOVEMBER, 2024 IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD**

C/371/24

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs N Kennedy, Cathaoirleach, J Beard, L Blaney, M Boyle, F Bradley, C Brogan, J Brogan, P Canning, D Coyle, T Crossan, TS Devine, A Doherty, G Doherty, A Farren, M Farren, D. M Kelly, F Mc Brearty, M McBride, M. Mc Clafferty, M McDermott, P McGarvey, D McGee, P McGowan, M Mc Mahon, G McMonagle, D Meehan, J Murray, M Naughton, D Nic Mheanman, JS Ó Fearraigh, M Scanlon.

Online: Cllrs B Carr, J Kavanagh, M MacGiolla Easbuig, A Molloy.

C/372/24

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

John G McLaughlin, Chief Executive, Patsy Lafferty, Director of Housing, Corporate & Culture/Meetings Administrator, Bryan Cannon, Director of Roads & Transportation, Richard Gibson, Director of Finance, Michael McGarvey, Director of Water & Environment, Liam Ward, Director of Community Development & Planning Services, Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, Anne Marie Conlon, Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development, Frances Friel, Communications Officer, William Colvin, Clerical Officer, Róise Ní Laifeartaigh, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Dónall MacGiolla Choill, Tacaíocht do Sheirbhísí Aistriúcháin, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/373/24

VOTE OF SYMPATHY – FORMER COUNCILLOR SÉAMUS ROGERS.

Cllr Martin Farren on behalf of the Labour Party paid tribute to the late Séamus Rogers who had been a member of Donegal Council for 39 years and who had served the people of this county with great compassion and dignity. He had, he advised, a remarkable political career and in that time had contested 11 Dail elections, 12 County Council elections, 3 Údarás and 2 EU elections. He extended sympathy to his wife Theresa and daughter Rosemary and extended family circle.

Members of the various political groupings paid tribute acknowledging that Mr Rogers had an exemplary record as a public representative. He was, they noted a proud Rosses man who had fought hard for the people of his own area. They acknowledged his involvement with the GAA and the RNLI with his home club of Naomh Mhuire close to his heart.

On the proposal of Cllr M Farren, seconded by Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig it was resolved to adjourn the meeting for 39 minutes as a mark of respect and an acknowledgement of his 39 years of public service.

C/374/24

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

It was unanimously agreed in accordance with Standing Order No 28 to suspend Standing Order No 8 and deal with Motions 16 and 17 at this juncture.

C/375/24

**ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT STATUTORY JUDICIAL
PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE EXPLOSION IN CREESLOUGH**

On the proposal of Cllr McBrearty, seconded by Cllr Devine it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"Requesting that the new incoming Government establish within its first 100 days an Independent Statutory Judicial Public Inquiry with an open terms of reference into the explosion in Creeslough, Co Donegal that killed 10 people on the 7th Oct 2023, and I am calling on all the elected members of Donegal County Council to support my motion for this much needed Public Inquiry."

He received a response from the Director of Community Development & Planning Services in relation to the above.

Cllr Mc Brearty welcomed a number of family members who had lost loved ones in the tragedy and two of those who had survived the explosion. He referred in his address to the following quote from Martin Luther King.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

It had been he noted two years, one month and 18 days since the explosion. He paid tribute to all who had been affected by the tragedy and remembered those who had perished on that terrible day. He proceeded to read out the names of those who had perished.

Jessica Gallagher, Robert Garwe, Shauna Flanagan Garwe, Leona Harper, Hugh Kelly, Martina Martin, Martin Mc Gill, James Monaghan, Catherine O' Donnell and James O' Flaherty.

An independent public enquiry was needed, he said, so that the families could get a full and true account of what happened.

Members, he advised had a mandate to represent and all needed to put their personal and personal differences aside to help the families concerned find the truth.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that as someone who had first-hand experience of being involved in a Tribunal of Enquiry, he was convinced that this was the only way that the families concerned would get justice.

It was imperative, he added, that answers were provided so that it could be established why the tragedy happened, and who was to blame. Many questions, he said, had to be answered and these could only be delivered through an enquiry as outlined. The Government, he stated, had a moral obligation to establish an independent tribunal with the appropriate terms of reference and a guarantee that there would be full legal aid.

It was incorrect, he said, that an inquiry could not be established whilst there were ongoing legal investigations. The Morris Tribunal, it was noted, had set the legal precedent in this regard as there had been a number of ongoing investigations at the time and none had interfered with the work of the tribunal. He called on all the candidates in the forthcoming election to include the establishment of an inquiry as a priority item in their campaigns.

He would, he advised, continue to submit the motion on a six monthly basis until such time as the Government set up the enquiry as referenced in the motion.

Cllr Devine said that he wholeheartedly supported the sentiments expressed by Cllr Mc Brearty and that he hoped and prayed that the tribunal would be established sooner rather than later.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Representatives from each of the political groupings outlined their support and advised that every effort would be made to support the people of Creeslough. It was acknowledged that this was an emotive issue and that no one would be found wanting in helping the families get the truth.

Tribute was paid to all who had assisted in any way with the events in Creeslough.

It was noted that the Garda Commissioner had indicated that a public enquiry would not impact on any ongoing investigation.

It would take a long time, they advised, for the people of Creeslough to get over the tragedy and it was suggested that the HSE should provide additional assistance.

There was acknowledgement also that the setting up of an independent public inquiry was something that needed to be embedded in any negotiations for the formation of the incoming Government.

Members were in agreement that an inquiry should be set up as quickly as possible.

Cllr Mc Brearty said he would not be making any comments until a public inquiry was established investigating all aspects of the tragedy. This, he said, would assist the families in getting justice for their loved ones and that it was not about getting compensation but rather the love and respect of all concerned for those that they had lost.

He would he said continue to submit this motion on a regular basis until a statutory judicial public inquiry was granted. He acknowledged the support of all the political groupings and their support for the people of Creeslough.

OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BILL

On the proposal of Cllr J Brogan, seconded by Cllr Meehan it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That Donegal County Council, in light of the recent ruling by the International Court of Justice on the illegality of Israeli settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territories, calls on the Irish Government to enact the Occupied Territories Bill, to cut Irish trade ties with Israeli goods and services produced in these illegal settlements".

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

Cllr J Brogan welcomed Senator Frances Black and Senator Eileen Flynn and members of the public to the meeting.

He said that the Occupied Territories Bill had been introduced 6 years ago by Senator Black and had been supported by Trocaire, other Aid Organisations, Human Rights Organisations Trade Unions, and politicians all over the country. This was more relevant than ever given the recent genocide in Gaza, events in the West Bank and the continuation of the biggest land grab in recent history. Homes were being destroyed and families displaced, he said, with over 750,000 Israeli settlers moving into the West Bank. The Israeli Government he stated controlled a significant portion of the land and major infrastructure as well as water and natural resources. This has been increasingly condemned as illegal, he said, and it was imperative that trade ties were cut in respect of goods produced in these illegal settlements. Despite ongoing condemnation Israeli settlements continue to expand on Palestinian land. This, he advised has become one of the key drivers of poverty in the area and has resulted in numerous human rights violations against Palestinians thus obstructing their right to self-determination under international law. This, he contended, was a war crime and a message needed to go to the Irish Government that the Occupied Territories Bill should be passed as soon as possible. He cited also the need to stop the US war machine refuelling at Shannon Airport.

Cllr Meehan seconding the motion paid tribute to Senator Black who had worked tirelessly to move the bill forward in what had been an uphill struggle. The legal basis for the bill had not changed since 2028, he noted, and there was now additional clarity from the International Court of Justice

He alluded to the fact that the situation in Palestine had been deteriorating since the 1930s and had deteriorated significantly over the past ten years with a massive impact on the Palestinian people with over 45,000 killed to date. Effectively, he said, that people were living in an open prison in Gaza and the West Bank. Israeli settlers, he added, were given a free rein to remove Palestinians and illegally occupy their lands. This it was acknowledged had been confirmed by the International Court of Justice.

He said that the issuing of arrest warrants for two senior politicians in Israel was to be welcomed but that there were many more that could be served at this point in time. Ireland, he advised had limited capacity as to what it could do but in the interest of humanity and the Palestinian people it had to do whatever possible within its remit. The bill, he said, was an important piece of legislation and it was imperative that it was passed without delay. It was hoped, he said, that it would have an impact on European trade with Israel. This country, he added, needed as an independent sovereign nation to take a stand with the people of Palestine.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Brogan said that this was a land grab supported by the EU and the USA and that this country could not sit idly by. He thanked Senator Black for travelling to Donegal and said it was imperative that the new government signed this into law.

Members supporting the motion noted that the support from Ireland had not gone unnoticed and that our influence whilst small was important. The need for a one state solution was highlighted.

Cllr Devine said that the Council should not send representatives to countries which supported this genocide.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Murray it was resolved that the motion as adopted be conveyed to the Bani Zaid Municipality in the West Bank which is twinned with Donegal.

Senator Black addressed the meeting and thanked members for their support. She said that the bill had been first introduced in 2018 and that it had been a lengthy process to get it this far. When the new government is formed, she said that there would be only two more stages to go through with some amendments yet to be worked through with the Department of Foreign Affairs. She was she said most appreciative of the support and grateful for the interest shown at grassroots level with the motion now passed by 12 local authorities.

She said that the adoption of the motion would be conveyed to the Palestinian Ambassador and passed on to the people of Palestine.

C/377/24

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

On the proposal of Cllr McBride, seconded by Cllr A Doherty, the minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 16th of September, 2024 were adopted.

C/378/24

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

On the proposal of Cllr Scanlon, seconded by Cllr Meehan, the minutes of the September Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 30th September, 2024 were adopted.

C/379/24 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 7th OCTOBER, 2024.**
On the proposal of Cllr A Farren, seconded by Cllr Coyle, the minutes of the Adjourned Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 7th October, 2024 were adopted.

C/380/24 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 7TH OCTOBER, 2024**
On the proposal of Cllr Meehan, seconded by Cllr McMonagle, the minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 7th October, 2024 were adopted.

C/381/24 **DISPOSAL OF LAND AT CRATLAGH, MILFORD BY WAY OF EXCHANGE TO MICHAEL MCGEE**
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Meehan, seconded by Cllr Scanlon, it was resolved to disposal of land at Cratlagh, Milford by way of exchange to Michael McGee 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/382/24 **DISPOSAL OF LAND AT THE REAR OF 1A BINNION AVE, LETTERKENNY TO MR HUGH LOGUE**
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was resolved to disposal of land at the rear of 1A Binnion Ave, Letterkenny to Mr Hugh Logue 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/383/24 **DISPOSAL OF LAND AT THE 2 BINNION AVE, LETTERKENNY TO JENNIFER AND MICHAEL HEANEY**
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was resolved to disposal of land at 2 Binnion Ave, Letterkenny to Jennifer and Michael Heaney 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/384/24

DISPOSAL OF LAND AT LEENAN PIER TO ATLANTIC CRAB LTD

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

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr Crossan, it was resolved to disposal of land at Leenan Pier to Atlantic Crab Ltd 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/385/24

TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE DEMOLITION AND REBUILDING OF NAS MOR APARTMENT BLOCK C, CARNAMUGGAGH, LETTERKENNY

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

On the proposal of Cllr Devine, seconded by Cllr Brogan, the carrying out of works with regard to the demolition and rebuilding of Nas Mor Apartment Block C, Carnamuggagh, Letterkenny was approved, in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Mr Patsy Lafferty responding to a query from Cllr Murray, advised that this project was different to the houses in Bucrana that he had referenced. This project was different, he said, in that it was being fully repurposed and there was contact with the Department in relation to the funding of same.

Cllr Devine said that this development was in his own estate and said that he was concerned that it would be left as a building site for a prolonged period of time. There were also water issues which he contended needed to be sorted before any other building works took place.

The Director of Service noted the comments and said that the building was being repurposed to create a larger number of smaller units and that there would be no increase in the number of people living there.

Cllr C Brogan cited the necessity of having a local workshop to look at the water issues and problems arising from same.

C/386/24

TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE-STOREY RURAL SI DWELLING INCLUDING WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND ALL ASSOCIATED SITE DEVELOPMENT WORKS AT TRENTAGHMUCKLA, ST JOHNSTON, CO. DONEGAL

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

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr Devine, the carrying

out of works with regard to the construction of a single storey rural SI dwelling including wastewater treatment and all associated site development works at Trentaghmuckla, St. Johnston was approved, in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

C/387/24

TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE STOREY RURAL SI DWELLING INCLUDING WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND ALL ASSOCIATED SITE DEVELOPMENT WORKS AT DUNAFF, CLONMANY

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

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr Crossan, the carrying out of works with regard to the construction of a single storey rural SI dwelling including wastewater treatment and all associated site development works at Dunaff, Clonmany was approved, in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

C/388/24

TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE STOREY RURAL SI DWELLING INCLUDING WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND ALL ASSOCIATED SITE DEVELOPMENT WORKS AT KINNEA, CLONMANY

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

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr Crossan, the carrying out of works with regard to the construction of a single storey rural SI dwelling including wastewater treatment and all associated site development works at Kinnea, Clonmany was approved, in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Cllr Mc Dermott welcomed the fact that there were a number of SI's for approval and said that it augured well for rural Ireland. He cited the need to progress the SI Programme and thus help local communities survive.

C/389/24

TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE STOREY RURAL SI DWELLING INCLUDING WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND ALL ASSOCIATED SITE DEVELOPMENT WORKS AT KNOCKBRACK, LETTERKENNY

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

On the proposal of Cllr C Brogan, seconded by Cllr McMonagle, the carrying out of works with regard to the construction of a single storey rural SI dwelling including wastewater treatment and all associated site development works at Knockbrack, Letterkenny was approved, in

accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended).

C/390/24 **TO CONSIDER THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2024-2029**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr C Brogan, the Donegal Corporate Plan 2024-2029 was adopted.

Cllr Brogan welcomed the recent workshop and noted that there had been a considerable level of engagement which had been beneficial in the preparation of the plan.

C/391/24 **TO FULL CASUAL VACANCY ON ICBAN ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR MICHAEL MCMAHON**

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

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr Crossan it was resolved that Cllr DakotaNic Mheanman fill the casual vacancy on ICBAN.

C/392/24 **ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE DONEGAL TOURISM ASSOCIATE MEMBERS COMMITTEE**

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

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr Brogan it was resolved to appoint the following to the Donegal Tourism Associate Members Committee:

- Cllr Michéal Naughton - Donegal Municipal District
- Cllr Brian Carr – Glenties Municipal District
- Cllr Martin Mc Dermott - Inishowen Municipal District (2024-2025)
- Cllr Ali Farren - Inishowen Municipal District (2025-2026)
- Cllr Albert Doherty - Inishowen Municipal District (2026-2027)
- Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly – Letterkenny/Milford Municipal District
- Cllr Martin Harley Lifford/Stranorlar Municipal District

Cllr Brogan said it was imperative that Donegal Tourism came to each Municipal District a couple of times each year so that members could be updated in relation to the various tourism initiatives and have an opportunity to input into these developments.

C/393/24 **TO APPROVE SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2025**

It was unanimously agreed to approve the Schedule of Meetings for 2025.

Cllr Mc Gowan queried the situation in relation to the continuation of online meetings for the Lifford/Stranorlar MD and was informed that this was an issue which would be discussed further with the Lifford/Stranorlar members in January 2025.

Cllr Mc Bride said that there were issues with the clashing of meetings and asked that this be looked into.

Cllr J Brogan enquired about induction training for new members and was informed that this could be facilitated.

C/394/24 **TO APPROVE THE HOLDING OF A SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP ON MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER, 2024 AT 11AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, LIFFORD**

On the proposal of Cllr Devine, seconded by Cllr Scanlon it was resolved to hold a Special Budget Workshop on Monday 2nd December, 2024 at 11am in the Council Chamber Lifford.

C/395/24 **GLENVEAGH NATIONAL PARK – PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON NEW VISITOR PLAN – PROPOSED WORKSHOP AT 12 NOON ON MONDAY 9TH DECEMBER, 2024.**

On the proposal of Cllr McBride, seconded by Cllr C Brogan it was resolved to hold a workshop on the new Visitor Plan for Glenveagh National Park on Monday 9th December, 2024.

C/396/24 **DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME REVIEW. TO AGREE DATE FOR PLENARY WORKSHOP ON THE 12TH DECEMBER, 2024.**

On the proposal of Cllr Devine, seconded by Cllr Scanlon it was resolved to hold a Plenary Workshop to discuss the Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2025 on Thursday 12th December, 2024.

C/397/24 **TO NOTE UPDATE REPORT ON THE REVISED NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK (REPORT TO FOLLOW)**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. Cllr A Doherty said that debate was needed in relation to the fact that the region was being demoted. He asked if any additional material had been submitted in light of the response to the November submission. He queried what could be done to bolster the submission as it was vital that the Northwest had an imprint on the Revised national Planning Framework.

Cllr C Brogan said that consideration now needed to be given to augmenting the proposals given that the National Planning Framework had been helpful to Donegal in the past.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning confirmed that the revision document published in November had been issued following the submission of a number of proposals from different bodies and that to date there had not been a call for any further submissions.

The Planning and Economic Development Directorates, he advised, were examining the document and a more detailed report would be provided giving an overall analysis. It would, he noted, have to go back to get Cabinet approval and then to the Oireachtas. It was intended, he added, to use the timeline involved to undertake further engagement and to lobby on this and a number of other issues so that the overall context for the Northwest region is clear.

C/398/24

TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON THE 23RD SEPTEMBER, 2024

On the proposal of Cllr J Brogan, seconded by Cllr Blaney the Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 23rd September, 2024 was noted.

C/399/24

TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON THE 4TH OCTOBER, 2024

On the proposal of Cllr Blaney seconded by Cllr McMonagle the Minutes of the Special Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 4th October, 2024 were noted.

Cllr Meehan queried that status of his request on the streaming of DCB Committee meetings.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said there had been good discussion at CPG but that the decision was that the status quo remained and that the streaming of Council Meetings would only apply to Plenary Council meetings.

Cllr Meehan said this was disappointing as the motion had been unanimously agreed and that streaming of the DCB meetings would have provided additional transparency given that there was limited space in the public gallery. Cllr Beard concurred with this assessment.

The Cathaoirleach said that committee meetings could generally be attended and accessed online and that minutes were available on issues discussed.

ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE, SEMINAR OR EVENT

Having noted 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 (as amended).

On the proposal of Cllr Blaney, seconded by Cllr Farren the attendance of the

- Leas-Cathaoirleach at the Long Service Awards for Fire Service Personnel in the Knightsbrook Hotel, Dublin Road, Trim, Co. Meath on the 14th November, 2024 was approved.
- Attendance of the Leas- Cathaoirleach at the Asia Matters Business Awards in the Radisson Blue Royal Hotel Dublin on the 19th November 2024.
- Attendance of the Cathaoirleach and the Municipal District Chairs at the Chambers Ireland Local Government Awards in the Crowne Plaza, Santry on the 21st November, 2024 was approved.
- Attendance of the A5/N2 Cross Border Committee members at a meeting with a representative from the Department for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland to take place in Garvaghey, Co. Tyrone on Monday 16th December, 2024 was approved.
- To select nominees and approve attendance at the “Ongoing Conversations Programme” series of events scheduled to take place in 2025 was approved.

Cllr Blaney noted that Donegal County Council had won the Local Authority of the Year at the Chambers Local Government Awards and congratulated all involved on this great achievement.

Cllr Mc Mahon asked that an update be provided in respect of the A5/N2 Cross border Committee meeting on the 16th December and that members be kept informed of all relevant updates.

Cllr C Brogan advised that the A5 was a major issue for the Northwest and welcomed the fact that the Irish Government had committed €600,000,000 and that the Shared Island Unit were advancing the project in a timely manner. The current legal challenge was unfortunate, he added, but there were indications that this would be dealt with as quickly as possible.

Cllr Mc Monagle said that the objections were weak and that there was some comfort in the fact that the judge involved had said that the process would not be prolonged. He acknowledged all who had worked to advance this necessary link.

Travel Abroad

- Attendance of the Cathaoirleach of the Inishowen MD on the exchange visit to the city of St. Charles, Missouri and to attend the Missouri River Irish Festival in St. Charles in May, 2025 was approved.

Cllr A Farren said that he felt that it would be appropriate to send more than one Councillor given that the Sister Cities initiative had been ongoing in Inishowen for the past number of years and that there had been a significant monetary contribution from the Missouri delegation towards for educational establishments in Inishowen.

Cllr A Doherty proposed, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle that the Cathaoirleach and the Leas – Cathaoirleach of the Inishowen Municipal District attend the event.

The Chief Executive said that the matter could be revisited in the New Year.

- Attendance of the EU Cerv Project representative at the Youth & Democracy: Empowering Europe's Nex Generation Seminar in Rabat, Malta from the 9th to the 12th December, 2024 was approved.

C/401/24

RESTORATION OF TOWN COUNCILS

On the proposal of Cllr Bradley, seconded by Cllr C Brogan it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That this Council write to the leaders of every political party and independent grouping running candidates in the forthcoming General Election urging them to include within their programme for government to fully commit, within the lifetime of the next Dáil to the restoration or creation of Town Councils in every town in this State with a population over 5,000 people". Also to agree to send this motion to every other Council in the State.

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

Cllr Bradley alluded to the fact that there were a total of 949 Councillors nationwide and that these represented on average 5399 constituents. He said that there were fewer elected representatives per capita in Ireland than any other country in Europe. He quoted a number of statistics from other European Countries and said that Ireland clearly lagged behind in terms of overall representation. The principle of the motion, he contended, was about subsidiarity. Referring to the Inishowen Peninsula, he noted that ten years ago there were 9 County Councillors and 9 Town Council members in Buncrana. It was fair to say, he added, that the bigger towns got the biggest chunk of the investment, and that smaller towns and villages were left behind. The thrust of the motion, he advised, was that local decisions should be taken by local people at a local level.

Cllr C Brogan concurred with the above and noted that over the last number of years the Seanad had carried out public consultation on the future of local democracy.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig asked if the motion could be amended to include other towns in rural areas with populations of under 5000. He said that the Glenties MD would again be disadvantaged if only towns over 5000 were to be considered. Towns such as Dungloe, Creslough and Dunfanaghy, he added, deserved recognition.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Bradley said that his motion referenced towns with a population over 5000 and the rationale was that this would benefit smaller towns and villages as it would free up resources at county level. He said that he had been inspired to submit the motion as a tribute to former Buncrana Town Councillor, Phillip Diggins who had inspired his own interest in politics.

He said that he did not wish to amend the motion.

Cllr J Brogan said that a different model of local democracy was needed, and that provision should be made for smaller towns to come together and form councils at local level.

It was further resolved that the motion be forwarded to all other Local Authorities for consideration.

C/402/24

THAT THE COUNCIL INSPECT EACH OF ITS SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS FOR SIGNS OF MOULD AND DAMP

On the proposal of Cllr Beard, seconded by Cllr McGee it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

It has been scientifically proven that mould and damp can cause asthma, coughing and other respiratory problems. In some cases, particularly for infants, young children and older people, mould and damp can be fatal. Due to the presence of defective concrete blocks in thousands of homes in Donegal, the existence of these threats to health is on the increase.

“This motion calls on Donegal County Council - as a matter of urgency - to inspect each and every one of its social housing units, looking for signs of mould and damp. And where remedial action is required, to immediately eradicate these potentially deadly spores, eliminate water ingress and ensure that the Council's properties are fit for human habitation”.

She received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services in relation to the above.

Cllr Beard highlighted the urgency of the situation and advised of the need to think outside the box. The fact that a remediation scheme had not been put in place after two years was not good enough, she said.

She drew attention members attention to a brown mouldy jacket taken out of a defective concrete block house and the fact that this represented what many families lived with on a day to day basis.

Cllr Mc Gee supporting the motion said that government had let the people of Donegal down. It was different up here, he said, and Donegal geographically was isolated. He said that members needed to stand together and put their political differences aside to help their own people.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that in relation to social housing the procedure was that tenants were asked to contact the Council where problems existed and that there was an established maintenance system in place. Maintenance staff, he stated, would go out to the affected houses and this allowed for the identification and resolution of issues. In some instances, he said, it was not possible to remedy the issue as full remedial works were required. In such cases, he said, the solution was to relocate the tenant if possible. Where tenants highlighted concerns, the issues would be followed up by maintenance staff, he added.

He referenced the fact that a number of months ago a delegation had met with Department officials and a follow-up meeting had been agreed by year end. This it was confirmed would take place on the 5th December and strong emphasis would be put on the urgency of putting in place a remediation scheme for social housing.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/403/24

TURNKEY ACQUISITIONS

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr McMonagle it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

Turnkey Acquisitions,

"That DCC share an analysis of the application, performance and housing number projected and delivered in the 2018 Turnkey model, and,

That the Council share the current performance analysis of the 2022-26 turnkey acquisitions projection to date including submissions received, municipal locations, need and costing issues, with particular focus on the interests to deliver housing received from AHBs and issues emerging apparently delaying delivery of social housing by AHBs in Donegal".

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

Cllr A Doherty said that he had submitted the motion out of exasperation and disappointment at the progress in providing social housing through the Turnkey process. He asked for an overview of what had been delivered under the 2018 Turnkey model, what had been delivered and

He asked for an update in relation progress on turnkey developments over the past two years and analysis of the progress made and the hiccups encountered in the period 2022-2026.

He alluded in particular to the Turnkey project in Carndonagh which was to deliver 58 houses. Enquiries in relation to same in 2022 had, he advised, elicited a response that there were technical issues hindering development. In 2023, he said that rumours abounded that an Approved Housing Body was coming on board to deliver accommodation. Members, he said, had been informed in August 2024 that the offer to the developer had been rescinded.

He queried if there had been any engagement with the AHBs and the Department regarding the provision of social housing in Carndonagh and what efforts had been made to progress same since the 2nd August.

There had been, he advised, considerable engagement with the Department over the past three years and an indication from the Department in September 2024 that a scheme was imminent.

He confirmed that an Approved Housing Body was anxious to explore the provision of housing in Carndonagh and asked that this be actively explored.

Cllr Mc Monagle noted that there were similar problems in Letterkenny and that immediate action was needed. He welcomed the fact that an update was to be provided in relation to. the Turnkey Acquisition Programme.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that it was hoped to bring the update on the Turnkey Programme to the next Special Plenary Housing Meeting.

C/404/24

PROVISION OF TOP CLASS LEISURE CENTRE AMENITIES FOR ALL CITIZENS IN DONEGAL

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Beard it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That this Council reaffirms its commitment to providing top class leisure centre amenities for all citizens in Donegal, commits that all interactions with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media will state this as a priority and, further, this council strongly calls for the immediate, and additional, funding for the one outstanding, unsuccessful, application to the Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund".

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

Cllr Murray said that the Inishowen members had supported various projects county-wide and that there was now an urgent need for a leisure

facility in Buncrana. He acknowledged the work carried out by the Water and Environment Directorate in making an application for Buncrana Leisure Centre under the Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund. It was disappointing, he added, that this had not been successful and had come as a shock to the people of Inishowen who now had to travel to Templemore to avail of such facilities.

The people of Inishowen, he confirmed, were now waiting ten years for a leisure centre, yet Edenderry in Co Offaly received funding to replace their centre damaged in a fire in January 2024. A recent public meeting, he said had highlighted the necessity of getting the facility up and running and there had been cross-party support for the project.

It was disappointing, he said, that Minister Mc Conalogue had laid the blame at the Council's doorstep. It was acknowledged that the scoring mechanism for the application had not yet been provided. He asked that the Minister be informed of the frustration that existed within the community who were anxious that proper leisure facilities be put in place.

Cllr Beard supporting the motion said that such a facility was very important in terms of mental health and general well-being and encouraged all members to lobby at the highest level for its provision.

Buncrana, she said, was the second largest town in Donegal and Inishowen was at the epicentre of a humanitarian crisis in terms of the defective concrete blocks issue. This facility, she contended, was badly needed and queried who was responsible for the refusal.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment alluded to his response and said that he wanted to reaffirm the Council's commitment to the project and said that the application was still live. Constructive engagement, he said, would be maintained with the Department going forward. He was, he said, confident that funding would be approved given that the project was included on the reserve list. He said that contact had been made with another potential agency in Northern Ireland regarding an application under Peaceplus. All available options would, he advised, be pursued.

Cllr Murray concluding said that he was glad that the Council was not to blame for the failure of the application and cited the need to explore all available funding options.

C/405/24

RAINWATER HARVESTING

On the proposal of Cllr McBride, seconded by Cllr Meehan it was resolved to adopt the following Motion:-

"That Donegal County Council write to the incoming Housing Minister asking for a grant to be considered for rainwater harvesting that would lower demand on current domestic supplies and could be used for flushing

toilets, washing cars, power washing and any other use of treated water supplies around dwellings, farms and industrial settings”.

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

Cllr Mc Bride said that he would like to see an initiative similar to the Croi Conaithe Grant Scheme put in place to encourage rainwater harvesting. Water, he noted, was a valuable commodity and the issue was how to sustain the water supply and cater for future development without wasting the resources that we have.

Rainwater harvesting, he contended, would assist in removing the potential for flash flooding and was ideally suited to industrial and domestic settings.

Cllr Meehan supporting the motion said rainwater harvesting made common sense and that whilst there were various types of grants it made sense to concentrate specifically on the harvesting of rainwater given that we live in one of the wettest countries in Europe, Recent calls for water rationing in November were ludicrous, he said, and reflected the dependence on outdated water infrastructure.

The promotion of this initiative, he contended, would benefit all concerned and assist Uisce Éireann with their operating costs.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment said that he had outlined in his reply the range of existing options available. Responding to Cllr Meehan’s comments on Lough Colmcille, he said that water levels had been significantly reduced over the recent dry period. Generally, he said, that water levels were replenished over the winter months. He was, he said, happy to explore the suggestions in the motion further and write to the Minister as requested.

Cllr Mc Bride thanked the Director of Service and Cllr Meehan for their comments and asked that the motion be circulated to all Local Authorities.

C/406/24

DISSATISFACTION OF ELECTED MEMBERS WITH THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE DESK SUPPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM UISCE ÉIREANN

On the proposal of Cllr Meehan, seconded by Cllr Mc Bride it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That this Council will write urgently to the Board of Directors of Uisce Éireann to outline the dissatisfaction of elected members with the local representative desk support and communication from Uisce Éireann, and to ask for a full review of the service with a commitment to improving communication with elected representatives".

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

Cllr Meehan said that there had been meetings with Uisce Éireann in September at MD level and that responses to the queries raised were still outstanding. There was also a problem, he advised, in terms of receiving written responses to issues raised as far back as June 2024.

There was, he advised, growing dissatisfaction with this multi-million euro agency responsible for a critical piece of infrastructure which impacted on people's day to day lives and was essential for any future development work that the Council might undertake.

Accountability, he contended, was lacking and the various communication channels used elicited either no response or a delayed one. Current communication channels, he added, were not fit for purpose, and there seemed to be no means of getting information in instances where water is cut off early or late in the evening.

Cllr Mc Bride said that previously clinics had been held on the day of plenary meetings. This initiative, he said, should be revived and Uisce Éireann in situ for the full day.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment said that he would pass on the issues that had been highlighted to Uisce Éireann. He encouraged members to use the local support channels to record the various issues that arose.

Concluding Cllr Meehan said that it was imperative that channels were found which would address the current communication issues.

C/407/24

DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCKS.

On the proposal of Cllr Devine, seconded by Cllr A Farren it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"On behalf of senior citizens who have DCB homes that the Donegal County Council submit a letter to the Attorney General questioning the legality of the issue of transferability in the DCB Scheme. Article 43 of the constitution states the State accordingly guarantees to pass no law attempting to abolish the right of private ownership or the general right to transfer bequeath and inherit property under the present scheme, the right to transfer property is limited, restricting and places a burden on the homeowner to designate one heir".

He received a response from the Director of Water & Environment In relation to the above.

Cllr Devine said that this was a significant issue for senior citizens living defective concrete block affected homes and one which warranted clarification.

Cllr Farren seconding the motion said that issues arose when parents wanted to leave their property to a number of their children and that this was problem with the current scheme in terms of grant access. This was, he noted, an issue for many families and in general terms should be one of the easy fixes.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment clarified the fact that more than one person could be listed as owner for the purposes of the scheme. What was not provided for, he said, was where the homeowner wanted to pass the property on.

He informed members that where an applicant to the Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme passes away the person who inherits can continue on the scheme as referenced in Section 13 of the Regulations. There was, he added, no provision for any other person during the lifetime of the current owners. It was acknowledged that if the homeowner was not a current applicant and passed away then the person who inherits the property could make an application.

Dwellings with more than one owner, he added, could apply as joint owners. He said that he would be happy to write as requested given that the scheme does not currently provide for the applicant to pass on the property during the lifetime of the applicants.

Cllr Canning queried what would happen if a current applicant inherited the original family home which was also included on the scheme.

The Director of Service said that it was his belief that you can be a current applicant and inherit a property and process both.

Cllr Mc Dermott clarified same and said that in such cases the issue of principle residence did not come into play. He confirmed that persons not on the scheme or in possession of a recommendation from the Housing Agency who inherited a property could not avail of the grant as they were not the principle private owner.

It was agreed that the matter would be put on the agenda for the next Defective Concrete Block Committee Meeting.

C/408/24

EXPEDITION OF THE APPLICATION FOR EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR SOCIAL HOMES THAT ARE IN DISREPAIR DUE TO THE DEFECTIVE BLOCKS ISSUE

On the proposal of Cllr McGee, seconded by Cllr Beard it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

There are a number of social homes that are in a state of disrepair, due to the defective blocks issue.

"I ask the Council to expedite an application for emergency funding, in order to do whatever is necessary to address this issue. It is imperative that something be done in the interim with these homes, particularly those that are not waterproof. The Council have a duty of care to the residents of these homes, and it has to be seen to act proactively and compassionately with regards to these cases.

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

Cllr Mc Gee said that the key issue here was that the Government was not giving enough to money to Donegal County Council in the first instance. He said that he had submitted a motion several months ago looking for the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage to come to Donegal and was informed at the time that he already had plans to do so. This, he said, had clearly not materialised. He called for an urgent application to be made to Government to help people living in defective concrete blocks houses over the winter months.

Cllr Devine concurred and said the problem was that there was no alternative accommodation and that tenants were being offered other DCB properties. He said that people living in such conditions should not have to pay rent as it was only a matter of time before a tragedy happened.

It had been discussed, he added, at a recent DCB Committee meeting that the Council should remediate their own housing stock and send the bill to the Government. Number of affected houses were expected to double in the Letterkenny/Milford area, and something needed to be done as soon as possible.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that his department had been carrying out preventative works to keep people in their homes and that this had been done on a case to case basis, as full remediation was not possible until there was a funded scheme in place for social housing. Indications had been, he said, that a scheme was imminent, and this could be clarified at the next meeting with the Department on the 5th December.

Cllr Mc Gee said it was clear that the Government did not want to help Donegal. Cllr Devine asked if there was any indication that an announcement was imminent and was advised that there was no specific detail available at this point in time.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment said that the notice for the meeting had only been received last Friday evening and that the usual arrangements would be put in place for a delegation.

Cllr Beard queried how much longer this had to go on and said that the Government was failing people in both social and private homes The issue was ongoing for 14 years now she said, with more and more people living in extremely dangerous conditions.

C/409/24

USE EXISTING SIGNAGE INFRASTRUCTURE TO PROMOTE TOURISM AND AMENITIES IN LOCAL AREAS IN THE COUNTY

On the proposal of Cllr Scanlon, seconded by Cllr Mc Clafferty it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That this Council use existing signage infrastructure to promote tourism and amenities in local areas throughout the county".

He received a response from the Director of Economic Development Information Systems & Emergency Services in relation to the above.

Cllr Scanlon said that the repurposing of signage that was no longer relevant was something that should be seriously considered going forward. Many of these, he added, could be repurposed at very little cost and could be used to highlight additional amenities in an area. He cited the example of Fintown where old signage on the Glenfin Road could be used promote the historical aspect of the area.

Cllr Mc Clafferty said that the recycling of old signage would save money in the long run. He alluded also to the fact that lack of hedge cutting was an ongoing problem in the Falcarragh area particularly on side roads and was giving rise to safety issues.

Concern was raised as to who was actually responsible where overgrown hedgerows were the cause of an accident.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, Director of Roads & Transportation said that his response outlined the requirements regarding road signage and the special category of tourism signage that allows tourists to be guided to amenities in a local area. He said there was a recommendation that Roads Authorities should prepare plans for tourist signing along the road network, rather than dealing with individual requests, in consultation with the Department of Transport, Fáilte Ireland and other relevant authorities and interests. It was noted that there was also a requirement to consult with neighbouring Roads Authorities in relation to cross boundary attractions.

He said that as with all other directional signs, tourist signs are an aid to safe and efficient navigation and are intended to complement, but not

replace, pre-planning of the journey and the use of maps and satellite navigation systems.

There was acknowledgement also that the T.I.I had plans to commence a further review of their plans for tourism signage along the national road network in Donegal next year.

Mr Cannon advised that a range of capital signage was at the end of life stage and said that he would speak to colleagues within the roads, tourism and planning section regarding same.

Concluding Cllr Scanlon welcomed the response and said that anything that would promote tourism and the local area would be widely welcomed.

C/410/24

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

US Trade Mission

The Cathaoirleach updated members in relation to the joint US Trade Mission with Derry City and Strabane District Council which had taken place on from the which had taken place from the 11th to the 15th November 2024. She acknowledged the good working relationship that existed between both local authorities and the Mayor of Derry, Cllr Lillain Senoi Barr and the Chief Executive of Derry City & Strabane District Council, Mr John Kelpie.

She proceeded to given an overview of the trip and the meetings which had taken place with the various agencies in Philadelphia and Boston. A video highlighting the benefits of promoting and investing in the Northwest City Region was shown to members.

Chambers Local Government Awards

Cllr Kennedy said that this was the first time that Donegal had won Local Authority of the Year and that this was a great achievement. It reflected, she said, the work that Councillors do, and the work carried out by staff on a day to day basis. She noted that the Council has also won the "Supporting Sustainable Communities Award for the Burtonport & Arranmore – Harbour to Island Regeneration and the "Health & Wellbeing Award" for Model Beach Accessibility to improve Health and Wellbeing – A Strategic Approach project.

It was noted that the following projects from Donegal had also been shortlisted:

- Climate Change
Donegal County Council – Energy Retrofit Programme
- Festival of the Year
Donegal County Council – Sound! Soundtrack Film Festival

- Heritage & Built Environment
Donegal County Council – The Wonder of Weave – A Showcase of Irish & Scottish Tweed
- Promoting Economic Development
Donegal County Council – Food Coast Donegal

Events Attended

The Cathaoirleach informed members that she had attended the following events:

Launch Donegal Tourism Autumn Campaign in Castlegrove House on the 3rd October.

- Road Safety Roadshow in the Aura Leisure Centre on the 8th October 2024.
- Donegal Town 550th Long Table Dining Event on the 10th October 2024.
- Donegal Diamond Launch in Donegal Town on the 11th October 2024.
- Attendance at the Dúiche Workshop “Capitalising on Culture, Competing the Difference” in Leuven, Belgium from the 14th to the 18th October, 2024.
- Launch of Wainfest in Donegal Castle on the 19th September 2024.
- Photocall for the new Renault Trucks on the 25th October 2024.
- Sports Bursary Awards in the Council Chamber on the 25th October 2024.
- Pride of Place Awards in Monaghan on the 2nd November 2024.
- Allingham Arts Festival launch in Ballyshannon on the 6th November 2024.
- Arts Exhibition Launch in the Regional Culture Centre on the 9th November 2024.
- US Trade Mission from the 11th to the 15th November 2024.
- Age Friendly Meeting with visit to the Trusk Road site on the 19th November, 2024.
- Chambers Ireland Local Government Awards on the 21st November in Santry, Dublin.
- T.I.I delegation to Dublin on the 22nd November 2024.

C/411/24

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above and noted the update in relation to the following.

Community Development & Planning Services

- Community Development
- AGE Friendly Awards
- Riverine
- Local Enhancement Programme 2025
- Older Person’s Council – Annual General Meeting.....
- Urban & Rural Regeneration Division

- Rural Regeneration and Development Fund-Fourth Call for Cat 2 Applications
- *Capital Projects Delivery Unit and Taking in Charge of Housing Estates Division*
- *Major Projects*
- *Taking in Charge of Private Housing Estates*
- *Refugee Response Division*

Water & Environment

- Climate Action
- Community Climate Action Fund
- Buncrana Leisure Centre
- Environment
- Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI) Cinema Campaign
- Household HAZ Waste Project
- #Love Donegal Day
- ADI Monster SUP Project
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Irish Farm Film Producers Group (IFFPG) Farm plastic Recycling Days)
- Flood Relief Scheme Updates
- Defective Concrete Blocks – Update

Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services

- Social Housing Delivery
- Social Housing Delivery Programme
- Land Acquisition
- Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition
- Best Kept Council Housing Schemes 2024 Competition
- Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme
- Housing Grants
- Library Service
- Biodiversity Office
- Culture Division
- Heritage Office

Economic Development, I.S. & Emergency Services 45

- Information Systems Division Update 45
- Fire Service

Roads & Transportation

- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
- National Roads Office Update
- Piers & Harbours Programme
- Roads Areas Update

Local Authority of the Year Award

The Chief Executive said it was imperative that this accolade was used for the benefit of the county and said that it boded well for the type of work and projects that the Council had undertaken. He thanked the Director of Community Development, Mr Liam Ward and the Head of Economic Development, Ms Anne Marie Conlon for their assistance in delivering the final presentation which secured the award. It was, he added, recognition of the work that the Council did and would be used over the next 12 months to promote and encourage various initiatives.

Cllr C Brogan congratulated the Cathaoirleach and the Senior Management team on the award.

Rural Regeneration & Development Fund

The Chief Executive informed members that it was now intended to submit a second application under the fourth call for Category 2 applications under the RRDF and that this would be in respect of An Clochán Liath.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig welcomed this development. He expressed concern that signage in a number of towns was not in keeping with the planning regulations. He asked that reports from the Islands Committee and Coiste na Gaeilge be included on the agenda for plenary meetings.

Gaeltacht signage, he said, was also an issue and he said that he was very concerned that the Gaeltacht Lar was being left behind.

Cllr J Brogan was informed that detail from the recent T.I.I delegation meeting would be circulated at MD level.

The following questions were submitted

C/412/24

FUNDING FOR LEISURE CENTRES IN THE COUNTY

Cllr Bradley submitted the following question:-

How many leisure centres in the county are currently waiting on, applying for or are actively seeking funding to renovate, rebuild, restore or expand their facilities? If there is more than one such leisure centre does the Council have a priority list for any such funding for those leisure centres? If there is a priority list (in the event that there is more than 1 such centre) what is the rationale behind it?

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

C/413/24

ARE HORSES AND THEIR RIDERS ENTITLED TO USE THE GREENWAYS

Cllr Bradley submitted the following question:-

To ask the Executive are horses and their riders entitled to use Greenways? If not, are there specific equine trails in the county which they can use? If there are, what are the locations of ?

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

C/414/24

DISSOLUTION OF 33RD DAIL FRI NOV 8TH 2024 – REMEDIATION OF SOCIAL HOUSING AFFECTED BY DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCKS

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

*Dissolution of 33rd Dáil Fri Nov 8th 2024.
(Remediation of Social housing affected by Defective Concrete Blocks)
What official correspondence, meetings, engagements were made by DCC with the Department of Housing in relation to enabling the Council to proceed with the remediation scheme of the significant number of Social Homes up to and including Fri Nov 8th 2024. What were the responses, commitments received by DCC up to and including Nov 8th that may enable the early and necessary remediation of DCB affected social homes in Donegal?*

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

C/415/24

MODULAR HOMES TO HELP SOLVE THE HOUSING CRISIS

Cllr Beard submitted the following question:-

On 10 July 2024, I tabled a motion calling on the Executive of the Council to engage with suppliers of modular homes to help resolve the housing crisis.

On 18 September 2024, I put forward a motion requesting that the Emergency Plan be amended to provide a place of safety for defective blocks homeowners during storms.

Both motions were approved by the Council with no objections.

Please explain why, as far as I can see, nothing has been done to implement or progress the issues raised in these motions?

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

C/416/24

RZLT 2025

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

RZLT 2025

How many submissions and appeals were received by DCC from landowners requesting lands to be excluded and citing the negative impact RZLT would have on future farming viability in Donegal?

What is the current revenue position 08/11/24 on the imposition RZLT on lands actively being farmed in the country?

What communication and decision role will local authorities including DCC be required/obliged to play re RZLT and the publication of the final designated RZLT land /farmlands in Donegal?

He received a response from the Director of Community Development & Planning Services in relation to the above.

C/417/24 **SCORING OF APPLICATIONS TO THE LARGE SCALE SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE FUND**

Cllr Murray submitted the following question:-

Has the Council been provided with the scoring of applications to the Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund?

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

C/418/24 **HOW DID THE COUNCIL PRIORITISE APPLICATIONS TO THE LARGE SCALE SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE FUND**

Cllr Murray submitted the following question:-

Can the Council executive explain how it prioritised applications to the Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund and advise why elected members were not advised of this prioritisation?

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

C/419/24 **UPDATE ON THE JAPANESE KNOTWEED PROGRAMME**

Cllr McBride submitted the following question:-

Can Donegal County Council give me an update on the Japanese Knotweed Programme and who is currently responsible for its rollout? He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

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

C/420/24 **A FIGURE OF ALL NEW COUNCIL HOUSES GETTING BUILT**

Cllr Devine submitted the following question:-

Can I get a figure of all the new council houses getting built, how many are actually fully wheelchair friendly to live in with a downstairs wet room & bedroom and how many are 4 bedroom?

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

C/421/24 **LIST OF VISITOR FIGURES AND STAFFING IN EACH LIBRARY**

Cllr Meehan submitted the following question:-

Can we be provided with the visitor figures for every public library in the county, as well as the current levels of staffing resources allocated to each library?

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

C/422/24 **FULL DETAILS OF ALL CURRENT HR VACANCIES IN DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

Cllr Meehan submitted the following question:-

Can we be provided with full details of all current HR vacancies across all sections of Donegal County Council?

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

C/423/24 **HOW MUCH MONEY HAS BEEN PAID OUT BY DCC IN LEGAL FEES INVOLVING CLLR FRANK MCBREARTY JNR**

Cllr McBrearty submitted the following question:-

How much money has been paid out by DCC in legal fees to Michael J. Staines & Co Solicitors and VP McMullin Solicitors concerning all the cases involving Cllr Frank Mc Brearty Jnr in the Civil High Court and Criminal Courts to date and who within the Council instructed the services of these two legal firms in these cases?

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

C/424/24 **NAMES OF ALL COUNCIL STAFF AND COUNCILLORS THAT ARE REPRESENTED BY MICHAEL J STAINES & CO SOLICITORS AND VP MCMULLIN SOLICITORS IN THE CIVIL AND CRIMINAL COURT CASES AGAINSE CLLR FRANK MCBREARTY JNR.**

Cllr Mc Brearty submitted the following question:-

Names of all Council Staff and County Cllr's that are represented by Michael J. Staines & Co Solicitors and VP McMullin Solicitor's in the Civil and Criminal Court cases against Cllr Frank McBrearty Jnr.

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

C/425/24 **MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS/BODIES**

Members noted the motions from other councils.

ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL

It was agreed that the Council write to the Minister and Department of Transport to review the system, and to have notice of bus allocation at least 4 weeks prior to the commencement of the school year.

The existing system, characterized by inadequacies and flaws, has resulted in significant stress and concern for parents and students, leaving crucial matters like school bus placements and ticket allocations uncertain well beyond the commencement of the school year. It is imperative that a comprehensive overhaul of the entire system is undertaken to guarantee that allocations are finalised a minimum of four weeks prior to students returning to school.

ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL

That Roscommon County Council write to the Department seeking funding for a Roadside Tree Survey to identify dead, dangerous and infected trees, and that Roscommon be put forward as a pilot for a national scheme.

WATERFORD CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

That Waterford City & County Council supports United Against Gender Apartheid and their campaign to have the crime of 'gender apartheid' incorporated into Article 2 of the draft Crimes Against Humanity Convention.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach: _____

Dated: _____