

**MINUTES OF NA GLEANNTAÍ MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING**

**HELD IN AN CHLOCHÁN LIATH PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE
ON
13TH JANUARY 2026**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr. Michael McClafferty (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh
Cllr. Micheál Choilm Mac Giolla Easbuig (Online)
Cllr. Brian Carr
Cllr. Denis McGee

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Michael Rowsome - A/Area Manager, Corporate & Housing
Brendan McFadden - SEE/Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Jim Boner, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing Capital
Lorna Ramsey, Area Planner
John McCarron, SEE, Water & Environment
Daniel Mc Crystal - Senior Eco. Dev. Officer
Anne Marie McCole - S.O., Community Development
Clíona Ní Ghallachóir - Aistriúcháin Comhuaineach

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Anthony Molloy
Michael McGarvey - Director of Water & Environment Services

BEREAVEMENTS: The Committee extended votes of sympathy to the families of the following recently bereaved;

- Michael McGarvey
- Stephen McCahill
- Patricia Slowey
- Manus Cecily Gallagher (Former Harbour Master)
- Moira Whoriskey
- Caroline McGinley

GMD 01/26

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

01.1

Confirmation of Minutes of na Gleannta Municipal District Meeting

On the proposal of Cllr. Carr, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting held on the 11th of November 2025, were confirmed.

GMD 02/26

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION SYSTEMS & EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECORATE

02.1

The Senior Economic Development Officer discussed the Reports previously circulated and provided Members with additional information in relation to upcoming events;

- Holiday World Show in both Belfast and Dublin in January 2026 to be attended by 16 tourism providers across Donegal
- Donegal Tourism Connect Seminar on 04/03/2026
- Festivals & Events Grants Scheme

Members were also updated in relation to ongoing activity in the Local Enterprise Office and the success of the recent #BuyDonegal campaign.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh expressed disappointment at the limited funding of less than €50,000 granted by Fáilte Ireland for festivals and events throughout Donegal.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the promotion of the Irish language at all tourism promotional events.

02.2 Service Land Initiative

The Senior Economic Development Officer updated Members on the completion of enabling infrastructure works for a multi-use park located at the Common lands in Lifford and consisting of two industrial use sites of circa 6 acres each. In response to a query from Cllr. McGee regarding similar proposals in respect of the Glenties Municipal District, the Senior Economic Development Officer advised that his section is constantly working with the Planning Section to identify future opportunity sites throughout the County. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig expressed opposition to the sale of sites to private companies and he also requested a report on the promotion of co-operatives as an economic model in the County.

02.3 Fire Service

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested clarification regarding responsibility for fire hydrant provision & maintenance in the County. He also stressed the importance of adequate water pressure availability during emergencies. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the Fire Service to provide adequate infrastructure on islands similar to that available on the mainland.

GMD 03/26 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

03.1 The Committee noted the Reports circulated with the Agenda in relation to the following activities;

1. Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme
2. CLÁR Scheme
3. Town & Village Renewal Scheme
4. Playgrounds
5. Walks, Paths & Trails

6. Rural Development Programme/LEADER 2023-2027
7. PEACEPLUS
8. Social Inclusion Unit

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested the Council to prioritise the installation of public toilets at An Eargail and An Mhuicís mountains. Cllr. McGee agreed with this recommendation and also requested the provision of adequate parking facilities to entice tourists into the Gaeltacht region.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested additional information on the allocation of grants for Community Development projects in the County.

Cllr. Carr (1) welcomed funding in the sum of €100,000 for the Croaghs Looped Walk (Bluestacks) (2) requested the Council to arrange a meeting between the local group and the contractor appointed to develop Leitir Mac a' Bhaird Green (3) highlighted a disability access issue at the Millside Walk, Baile na Finne.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig requested that a meeting be arranged with relevant stakeholders to progress the Poll a' tSnámh project in Rann na Feirste.

03.2 Workshops

The Committee agreed to schedule Workshops on the following dates;

- 2nd March - 10.00 a.m. - D.F.I.
- 2nd March - 1.00 p.m. - Glenties Town Team
- 27th March - 11.30 a.m. - Rural Funding
- 26th June - 11.30 a.m. - Rural Funding
- 16th October- 11.30 a.m. - Rural Funding

PLANNING

04.1 The Committee noted the Reports circulated with the Agenda in relation to the following activities;

- Development Applications for Y/E December 2025
- Enforcement
- Schedule of monthly Planning Clinics
- RRDF and URDF Projects
- Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme
- Capital Projects Delivery Unit Schemes

In response to queries from the Committee regarding planning issues along the N56, the Area Planner advised that National Policy prohibits additional intensification, and a finalised ministerial direction is awaited.

04.2 **Development Works at Bothar an tSéipeál, An Fál Carrach**

Members welcomed progress in relation to a social housing development at this location and lodged with the Planning Authority under Ref: 25/60111

04.3 **Coffee Shop**

The Area Planner updated the Committee regarding the status of a mobile coffee truck at Corrán Binne, Dún Fionnachaidh.

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Area Planner advised that the owner of the truck will be required to obtain planning permission, and that same will be permitted to operate on this site only.

ENVIRONMENT

Members noted the Reports circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Environmental Engineer regarding the following projects;

- Solid Fuel Regulations
- Tidy Towns Competitions
- Successful enforcement outcomes for breaches of the Waste Management Act
- Anti-Dumping Initiative
- Climate Action
- Flood Relief Schemes

The Committee highlighted the following issues for the attention of the Environment Service;

- Illegal dumping - Gaoth Dobhair Industrial Estate (in close proximity to the Bottle Banks)
- Flooding in na Doirí Beaga
- Implementation of a Public Convenience Maintenance Programme
- Boardwalk Maintenance and Replacement Programme
- Prevalence of dog fouling throughout the Municipal District
- Provision of permanent toilet facilities at Machaire Rabhartigh

The Committee were advised that Midland Animal Care are the newly appointed providers of the Dog Warden Service in the County.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig expressed his opposition to the outsourcing of this service and criticized the lack of engagement with Councillors in this regard.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

06.1 Workshop

The Committee agreed with the scheduling of a Workshop at 10a.m. on 24th February. It was also agreed to reconvene at 9 a.m. on the 2nd March if there were any outstanding items.

(The Cathaoirleach left the Meeting at this stage).

On the proposal of Cllr. Carr, seconded by Cllr. McGee, the Committee agreed that Cllr. Ó Fearraigh would chair the meeting.

06.2 Road Maintenance Issues

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested the erection of additional signage to warn motorists of the presence of deer crossing roads. He also highlighted the absence of public lighting in many locations following recent storms and flooding concerns in the Gaath Dobhair area.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig raised the following issues for the attention of the Roads Service;

- Pedestrian Crossing in Loch an Iúir
- Surface water on road at the old Barracks, An Bun Beag
- Imposition of stricter conditions on utility companies (interruptions to water supply)
- Insufficient funding for the Active Travel Scheme and for the maintenance of local and national roads

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig commended work carried out on the Community Involvement Scheme in Loch an Iúir.

Cllr, McGee discussed the significance of the provision of adequate funding for a Bridge Programme in light of the numerous bus operators in West Donegal.

Cllr. Carr thanked the Road Service for facilitating his attendance at the recent Tii meeting. Cllr. Carr highlighted settlement concerns at Letterilly and queried the status of works required at Corrine Bridge.

In response to further queries from the Committee, the Roads Manager advised that;

- Roads will engage with Gleann Bheatha/OPW regarding the positioning of signage to indicate deer crossing on the carriageway
- Gardaí have advised that a speed van will be positioned near An Chrannóg
- Non-functioning public lights can be logged on the Council website
- Road Design is to prepare a briefing document on the multi-year Bridge Strengthening Programme
- Funding shortfall will be notified to Senior Management

GMD 07/26

HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

07.1

Housing Construction

Members welcomed the Reports circulated with the agenda & presented by the Senior Engineer in relation to (a) Construction Schemes (b) Schemes at Design/Tender stage (c) SHIP Renewal Project and (d) Turnkey Acquisition Development in Gaoth Dobhair.

Member were advised that Phase 1 of the Gaoth Dobhair Turnkey Scheme consisting of 11 units will be ready by the end of February this year.

07.2

Na Gleannta - Naming of Three Unit Estate

On the proposal of Cllr. Carr, seconded by Cllr. McClafferty, the Committee recommended that the proposed development be named "An Charraig".

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the Council to acquire additional landbanks in rural communities such as na Dubhchoraidh, An Chéideadh and Éadan Fhionnfhaidh.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh referred to the availability of a suitable site in the Mínlárach area.

The Senior Engineer informed the Committee of ongoing engagements with Uisce Eireann in relation to the provision of suitable infrastructure to support increased development.

07.3 Progress Reports

Members noted the Reports previously circulated and presented by the Housing Manager, in respect of Grants, Casual Vacancies, HAP, RAS, LTL, Loans and the Tenant Purchase Scheme.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh recommended that the Council provide sufficient and designated car parking spaces in all housing schemes.

Cllr. McGee informed the Committee of a developing pattern in the County where properties subject to deterioration or as a result of defective block issues were being purchased and rented out.

07.4 AHB's - Alternative Housing Bodies

In response to queries from the Committee, the Housing Manager updated the Committee regarding the status of a proposed development in Fál Carrach and also in relation to the status of ongoing works at Fairhill Lodge in an Chlochán Liath.

07.5 Multiple Housing Developments

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the Council to ensure adherence to the Planning condition to protect the language and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht.

07.6 **Palestine**

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the Council to submit correspondence to the UK Government to meet the demands of the hunger strikers awaiting trial for their Palestine action activity and the immediate release of these political prisoners.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig informed the Committee that the Palestinian Ambassador will be available to visit the Public Service Centre at the end of March/April.

07.7 **Reception**

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig proposed the official recognition of Noel Johnny Sheáin Ó Gallchóir, to acknowledge his contribution to Irish language drama and culture promotion.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING