

**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING  
HELD IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON  
12th NOVEMBER 2024**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh (Cathaoirleach)  
Cllr. Michael McClafferty  
Cllr. Anthony Molloy  
Cllr. Micheál Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig  
Cllr. Denis McGee  
Cllr. Brian Carr

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Michael McGarvey - Director of Water & Environment Service  
Michael Rowsome, A/Area Manager, Corporate & Housing  
Brendan McFadden, SEE/Area Manager, Roads & Transportation  
Jim Boner, SEE, Housing Capital  
Kevin McCloskey - Coastal Officer  
Anne Marie McCole- S.O. Community & Development  
Ciara Condon- Executive Planner  
Joy Harron (Brown) - SSO, Housing Capital  
Mary Boyle, A/SSO, Housing & Corporate

**Aistriúcháin  
Comhuaineach:** Clíona Ní Ghallachóir

**GMD 60/24**

**Confirmation of Minutes of Glenties Municipal District Meeting**

On the proposal of Cllr. Mac Giolla Easpaig, seconded by Cllr. Molloy, the Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and the statutory Budget meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 were confirmed.

**GMD 61/24**

**CORPORATE SERVICES**

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the live streaming of all Municipal District meetings, and the Meetings Administrator undertook to liaise with Corporate Headquarters in this regard.

Cllr. McClafferty raised data protection issues to be considered as part of the decision-making procedures in this regard.

**GMD 62/24**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The contents of the Economic Development, Information Systems, & Emergency Services Report, as circulated with the Agenda, were noted and the Senior Staff Officer provided updates to the Committee on the following;

- U.S. trade mission to promote the Northwest City Region
- Move West Series on TG4
- #BuyDonegal Campaign
- Autumn/Winter Tourism Marketing Campaign
- TBEX conference to be held in September 2025 in County Donegal
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Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig welcomed Joy Brown to the meeting and looked forward to working with her in the future, emphasising the need for continuity of representation at the Municipal District meetings. He

also repeated previous requests for a Workshop on Tourism to discuss issues in relation to Housing,

Planning, Language, Environment Sustainability arising from increased footfall in the Islands and the Gaeltacht region.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh commended Local Enterprise Office support to local businesses to assist with ongoing inflationary pressures. He also paid tribute to Mary Coyle representing Ionad Naomh Padraig in Dore for her tireless charity work in the provision of subsidised flights for cancer patients from Donegal Airport, and he emphasised the importance of the retention of this invaluable service.

## **GMD 63/24**

### **PLANNING**

The Members noted the Reports circulated with the agenda regarding development applications, enforcement, planning clinics, regeneration, and capital projects.

Cllr. Carr welcomed positive interaction at the recent Glenties Town Team Meeting.

The Committee requested the Planning Service to facilitate site visits, as the absence of same is leading to difficulties for both members and applicants.

Cllr. McClafferty highlighted ongoing issues of concern pertaining to applications on the N 56.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh stressed the importance of pre-planning clinics in the Public Services Centre and the Area Planner responded positively to this issue.

**GMD 64/24**

### **HOUSING CONSTRUCTION**

Members welcomed the housing capital update circulated with the agenda and presented by the Senior Executive Engineer in relation to the following projects-

- Chapel Rd., Dungloe-Construction Scheme X 43 units
- Massinass, Creeslough-Construction Scheme X 3 units
- Glenties Fire Station-Construction Scheme X 3 units
- Gweedore Turnkey Acquisition X 29 units

The Senior Executive Engineer responded to Members queries in relation to Molloy's field, Ardara; Falcarragh AHB Scheme; Status of the Falcarragh turnkey proposal; land acquisition on islands; Udaras site in Gweedore; the necessity to acquire land for social housing development in Doochary, Annagry and other rural settlements and proximity to schools; and the S.I. Programme.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig criticised the Council's dependency on AHB and the private market to address social housing needs. He also requested the designation of a housing unit(s) on the Annagry Turnkey development as Emergency Accommodation.

In response to queries from Cllr. McGee and Cllr. McClafferty, the Acting Housing Manager confirmed that the HSE Disability Services and the Developer finalized a plan for a proposed Group Home in Falcarragh on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September, and that the Council are awaiting a funding application from Respond AHB in this regard. Cllr. Ó Fearraigh emphasized the importance of submission of housing applications from the Island Community to enable the Council to plan for future need.

**GMD 65/24**

### **ENVIRONMENT**

Aidan Smith, Senior Executive Engineer presented the Environment Report as circulated with the Agenda in relation to litter and waste initiatives.

The Committee were also updated in relation to the allocation of funding under the multi-annual Waste Programme for Group Water Schemes in Tory, Dunlewey and Maghera. In relation to a query from Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, regarding the absence of allocations for group water schemes in the Rosses and Gweedore, the Director advised that he anticipates that further funding may become available following Departmental consideration of further information submissions.

Cllr. Carr requested information on white goods collections throughout the Municipal District and welcomed the provision of recycling facilities in Lettermacaward and requested the provision of a similar facility in Doochary. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig stated that the recycling facilities should be in public ownership.

Cllr. McClafferty highlighted the lack of domestic and sanitary waste disposal facilities for campervan operators.

Cllr. McGee requested the Council to take responsibility for the extension of the sea wall on Tory to preserve local properties.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the Roads and Environment Directors to address this issue.

Cllr McClafferty informed the meeting of outstanding information in relation to land ownership at this location and proposed a CPO to facilitate progress.

The Director clarified that Donegal County Council have no responsibility for sea wall/coastal protection measures at this location. He confirmed Council involvement only in situations where the preservation of public infrastructure is required and undertook to refer the matter to the relevant Government department.

In response to a query from Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, the Coastal Officer informed the Committee that a Contractor has been procured to deal with Ring Buoy issues.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig also requested an update on a survey on boardwalks.

#### **GMD 66/24**

#### **DEPUTATION FROM THE MARY FROM DUNGLOE ARTS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE**

The Committee welcomed Gavin Boyle, Pat Conaghan and Gráinne Nic Niallais, representatives from the Mary from Dungloe Arts Festival Committee.

Members were advised of tourism promotion, Irish language promotion, new initiatives, connection with Donegal

Associations, Involvement with Immigrant Communities and social media activity to expand the appeal of the event.

Representatives from the Mary From Dungloe Arts Festival Committee informed the Committee

1. That funding in the sum of €200,000 is required annually to run the festival and
2. That they have requested financial support from the Council

Members commended the voluntary contribution of the Mary from Dungloe representatives to the promotion and growth of a significant economic and cultural international arts festival.

#### **GMD 67/24**

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee noted the Reports circulated with the agenda in relation to recent activity in this service.

Cllr. Molloy requested maintenance works on walkways at Leconnell and Meenahalla and the Community Development Staff Officer undertook to liaise with the outdoor recreation officer.

#### **GMD 68/24**

#### **HOUSING**

The Committee discussed the Reports previously circulated by the Housing Manager. The Members welcomed the recent announcement that Housing Grants are due to increase from the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024, and that all applications submitted on or after that date will be considered under the revised scheme.

The Acting Housing Manager informed the Committee of the status of both the painting and deep retrofitting programmes.

Cllr. Carr commended the Housing Service for meeting residents of Clós Naomh Chonail estate in Glenties and requested that the Council fund and expedite the remediation of historical issues at this location.

Cllr. McGee highlighted the importance of the provision of adequate budgets to the Housing Service to address remediation of defective block issues in social housing pending adequate resourcing of the Social Housing Remediation Team.

Cllr. McClafferty recommended that the Council encourage and promote the building of additional S.I. housing to prevent rural depopulation.

**GMD 69/24**

## **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

### **N56 Schemes**

Members welcomed the Reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Roads Manager regarding the status of the following projects;

- N56 Letterilly to Kilraine - Phase 2
- Upgrade to Dungloe/Glenties Cycleway
- N56 Gortahork/Falcarragh
- N56 Dunfanaghy to Portnablagh Scheme



### **Roadworks Programme 2024**

The Roads Manager informed the Committee that the Programme will be substantially complete by the end of November, and also responded to Cllr. Ó Fearraigh's queries in relation to the takeover of non-county roads and the provision of crash barriers at Corveen.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**