

MINUTES OF MEETING OF

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

HELD ON 14th July 2015, IN THE DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr. Enda Bonner
Cllr. Terence Slowey
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr. Mícheál Mac Giolla Easbuig
Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh
Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Michael Heaney, Director of Community, Culture & Planning
Paul McGill - Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services
Brendan McFadden – S.E.E, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Frank Sweeney – Executive Planner
Joe Peoples – Director of Water and Environment Service
Michael Rowsome - SSO Corporate Services

Apologies: Charles Sweeney – Area Manager, Community Culture & Enterprise

GMD 105/15 **MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE AGM**

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the minutes of the AGM of the Glenties Municipal District held on the 8th May 2015 were confirmed.

GMD 106/15 **MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Slowey, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on the 8th May 2015 were confirmed.

GMD 107/15 **REPORT FROM WORKSHOP – LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT**

The Committee noted the report from the Workshop held on the 8th of May 2015 in relation to the preparation of a Landscape Character Assessment.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

GMD 108/15

ROADWORKS PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Roads Manager informed the Committee of the status of the Surface Dressing and Restoration Improvement Programmes as detailed in the reports circulated with the agenda.

GMD 109/15

MULANTYBOYLE BRIDGE

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Roads Manager regarding the status of the Mulantyboyle Bridge Project.

The Roads Manager informed Members that land acquisition is complete and that 9 no. tenders have been received and are currently being analysed for accuracy. The Committee were advised that the end of July is the indicative commencement date for construction works, which should have a 7 month duration, to completion.

GMD 110/15

PUBLIC LIGHTING

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Roads Manager regarding the allocation of a €50,000 budget for a public lighting upgrade in the Glenties MD.

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, Members agreed the distribution of the public lighting budget as set out in the report at the following locations:

- Pound Street, Dunfanaghy
- Dollar Row, Falcarragh
- Doochary Village
- St. Peters Terrace, Dungloe

GMD 111/15

SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

Cllr. Gallagher recommended that Councillors utilise their powers in conjunction with Roads engineering staff to amend speed limits in certain locations. Cllr. Gallagher informed Members that a Garda report remains outstanding in respect of a recent accident on the Gweedore Road, Dungloe, notwithstanding the occurrence of 2 fatalities at this locus.

Cllr. Slowey recommended an overhaul of the Gardai procedure for logging of road accident statistics on the PULSE System to aid the improvement of data transfer to Local Authorities. The Roads Manager undertook to arrange a workshop once the speed limit review commences within the next 12 to 18 months.

GMD 112/15

MAGHERAROARTY BREAKWATER

Cllr. Ó Domhaill requested that the Council provide funding for the design of a Breakwater at Magheraroarty Pier and that the Marine Service be advised of the necessity to prioritise this project for advancement.

GMD 113/15

TAKEOVER OF NON COUNTY ROADS

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh regarding the takeover of 2km of road per MD per year, the Roads Manager advised that this was not currently policy and that an updated Roads takeover Policy is currently on the Roads SPC for adoption prior to the year-end.

Cllr. Ó Domhaill highlighted the Clonbara Road as an example of a road that was in a good state of repair when application for takeover was originally made and that their application should not be penalised due to the current substandard condition of the roadway.

GMD 114/15

TREATMENT PLANT – DUNGLOE

The Committee expressed their concern and dissatisfaction with both Coffey Construction and Irish Water in relation to the deterioration of the Pole Road in the vicinity of the new Dungloe treatment plant.

Members requested that Irish Water adheres to planning conditions and that clearly defined protocols are also set out for all contacts with Irish Water to prevent development of ad-hoc arrangements.

The Roads Manager updated the Committee regarding temporary roadwork's carried out at this locus and stated that recent roadwork's will be monitored for 6 months during settlement prior to commencement of any permanent work which will require the sanction of the Roads Service.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhaill, the Committee requested the attendance of an Irish Water official at the next MD meeting.

GMD 115/15

N56 DEVELOPMENT

Cllr. Bonner requested an update from the NDRO at the next MD meeting.

GMD 116/15

HEDGE CUTTING

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh regarding hedgecutting between Meenacuing and Glenveagh, the Roads Manager undertook to obtain a costing.

GMD 117/15

ROAD MAINTENANCE ISSUES

Members highlighted the following issues for action by the Roads Service:

- Ongoing Drainage Issue at Glasserchoo
- Road safety concerns at Log Cabin Creeslough.
- Poor state of Dunfanaghy and Falcarragh Main Streets.
- Faulty brackets on road signage.

GMD 118/15

TORY ISLAND HELIPAD

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Roads Manager informed Members that a contractor is in the process of being appointed.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE AND CULTURE

GMD 119 /15 COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE ACTIVITY REPORT

The Committee noted the reports circulated with the agenda in relation to:

- Donegal Community and Economic Plan
- Public Participation Network
- Proposed Sustainable Development at An Errigal
- IPB Pride of Place Competition 2015
- Cultural Services Project update
- Heritage Plan and Heritage Projects update.

GMD 120/15 DONEGAL TOURISM

Cllr. Gallagher reiterated her request at the previous MD meeting to arrange a presentation by Donegal Tourism to the Committee. The Director of Community and Culture undertook to arrange a presentation by this body.

GMD 121/15 LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

In response to a recommendation previously raised by Cllr. Gallagher at the May MD meeting, the Director of Community & Culture undertook to liase with L.E.O to request their attendance at a meeting with the Committee.

GMD 122/15 CAMPERVAN SITES

In response to recommendations from Members, the Director informed the Committee that his service are prepared to meet with the relevant representative body to aid and promote the availability of suitable facilities in the County.

GMD 123/15 BURTONPORT DEVELOPMENT

Cllr. Gallagher requested that all relevant development agencies, statutory bodies, and economic development organisations be invited to a forum to initiate a regeneration plan for Burtonport.

GMD 124/15

LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Committee requested the Community and Enterprise Service to liaise with the Gardai to request the removal of the obligation on local community groups to pay for policing services.

Cllr. Gallagher also highlighted the onerous costs of road closure applications imposed on event organisers.

GMD 125/15

COMMEMORATION OF THE 1916 RISING

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill regarding the distribution of funding the Director of Community and Culture advised Members that application forms are available under the 2016 Commemorative Grant Scheme to support inclusive and appropriate community participation in the commemoration of the 1916 Rising.

Cllr. Gallagher recommended the organisation of special commemorative events in the Glenties MD to mark the century of the 1916 Rising and Cllr. Ó Domhnaill supported the proposal.

GMD 126/15

TRIBUTE TO DIRECTOR

Members paid a warm tribute to the Director of Community, Culture and Planning for his significant achievements, dedication to the Irish language, and his important role in the promotion of inward investment into the County. The Committee wished the Director a successful future in his new role with Udaras Na Gaeltachta.

The Corporate Manager, on behalf of the Council officials in the Glenties MD, expressed his appreciation to the Director for his courtesy and assistance to staff and Members during his term on the Glenties MD Committee.

ENVIROMENT

GMD 127/15

RECYCLING AND AWARENESS

The Committee noted the report from the Waste Regulation Officer circulated at the meeting and presented by the Director of the Environment Service.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested the Council to allocate additional resources to the prosecution of illegal dumping offenders.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested an update on the roll out of his proposal for a Tidy Towns competition on a Municipal District basis.

The Director responded to Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig regarding the status of the Dungloe Recycling Centre.

GMD 128/15

HOUSEHOLD FOOD WASTE REGULATIONS

Members noted the report circulated at the meeting regarding the extension of the household 'Pay by Weight' regulation to 10no. Towns in Donegal from 1st of July 2015. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested a presentation on the topic at the next MD meeting.

GMD 129/15

BEACH MANAGEMENT AND WATER QUALITY

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Director of the Environment Service.

Members commended the council on the achievement of 13no. Blue Flags and 5no. Green Coast Awards in 2015.

In response to recommendations from Members regarding the necessity to have a beach management plan for all Beaches in the MD, Cllr. Slowey undertook to itemise this matter for inclusion on the Environment SPC agenda.

Cllr. Bonner requested an update on his previous recommendations for the provision of necessary infrastructure at Dooley Beach to facilitate consideration of this location for Blue Flag status.

Members also highlighted the necessity to recognise the prominence of the Irish language on signage in Gaeltacht areas.

GMD 130/15

COMMUNICATIONS

Cllr. Bonner requested an improvement in the level of communication between Councillors and officials in the Environment Service. Cllr. Bonner highlighted the lack of attendance of Councillors at a Green Flag ceremony in Magheraroarty due to the 'last minute' notification by Council officials and suggested the implementation of protocols to offer Public Representatives sufficient opportunity to arrange for their attendance at such ceremonies in future.

GMD 131/15

DISPOSAL OF WHALES

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the immediate preparation and implementation of protocols in conjunction with appropriate public consultation to determine suitable measures for the disposal of beached whales.

GMD 132/15

SEPTIC TANKS

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Director of Environment Services regarding commencement of the National Inspection Plan.

The Director undertook to revert to Members with clarification regarding the eligibility criteria for grant aid assistance in cases where septic tanks require remediation or upgrading as a result of an inspection carried out under the national inspection plan process.

GMD 133/15

ENFORCEMENT

Members noted the enforcement statistics circulated at the meeting and presented by the Director of the Environment Service.

HOUSING AND CORPORATE SERVICES

GMD 134/15

CASUAL VACANCIES

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manger in relation to Casual Vacancies as at the 7th July 2015.

GMD 135/15

GRANTS

Members noted the statistics in relation to the status of Housing Grants previously circulated.

GMD 136/15

RETRO FIT SCHEME

The Housing Manager updated the Committee in relation to the status of the retro-fit programme.

GMD 137/15

EMIGRANT-HOUSING ASSISTANCE

In response to a query from Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig regarding housing assistance available to Irish born emigrants, the Housing Manager informed the Committee of the availability of the Safe Home Programme.

GMD 138/15

HOUSING PROGRAMME

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to expedite and prioritise the purchase of suitable sites for housing in the Falcarragh area to address the increasing local housing need.

The Housing Manager informed the Committee that a proposal for the demolition of 3 older person dwellings in Dunfanaghy and their replacement with 6-8 housing units is currently awaiting sanction by the DOE.

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill regarding replacement of the footpaths in Cottage Row, Falcarragh and Muckish Terrace, Creeslough, the Housing Manager acknowledged the necessity for repairs at both locations if funding becomes available.

The Housing Manager also informed Members that;

- The Housing Service are awaiting a response from Respond Housing Association regarding proposals for the provision of Housing Units on the ground floor of their building at Fairhill, Dungloe.

- The DOE have advised local authorities that a revised Tenant Purchase Scheme will be launched before the year-end.

GMD 139/15

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (H.A.P)

Members welcomed the introduction of H.A.P in Donegal since the end of May 2015 and the Housing Manager updated the Committee in relation to the workings of the Programme.

Cllr. Gallagher recommended that the Council become more proactive in promoting the Housing Assistance Programme.

GMD 140/15

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS

In response to proposals from Cllr Ó Domhnaill and Cllr. Gallagher, the chairman, Cllr. Bonner, agreed that a workshop be convened to discuss both standing orders and the frequency of MD meetings.

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GMD 141/15

PLANNING APPLICATION STATISTICS

The Committee noted the reports circulated with the agenda in relation to the issues listed hereunder:

- Summary of planning applications received for the period from 01/01/15 – 30/06/15.
- Appeals received during the period from 27/04/15 – 02/07/15
- Appeal decision notified during the period from 27/04/15 – 03/07/15
- Transboundary Applications
- Part 8 at Tullymore to improve the LP-2563 at the Tullymore Bridge on the Ardara to Maas Road.

The Planning Manager responded to queries from Cllr. Slowey regarding the Tullymore Bridge development.

GMD 142/15

DUNGLOE DEVELOPMENT

Cllr. Gallagher requested an update on phase 2 of the Shorefront Development and also the proposed preparation of a draft local area plan in respect of Dungloe (Tier 2 Town).

GMD 143/15

VARIATION OF COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Cllr. Gallagher expressed frustration at the intervention of Environment Minister, Alan Kelly, to change the County Development Plan notwithstanding the unanimous vote of the Council to vary the Development plan to enhance the ability of indigenous Members of Local Communities to build in rural areas.

GMD 144/15

PRE-PLANNING MEETINGS

Members expressed concern regarding the pre-planning process in relation to both facilitating meetings and also the negative responses given to prospective applicants.

Members requested that their concerns regarding the lack of a service to the public in this regard be communicated to Planning Management at HQ for action and a response.

GMD 145/15

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Cllr. Gallagher requested that her concerns in relation to the implications arising from the mapping of landscape characters areas and landscape character types on the planning process in Donegal be communicated to the Planning Management for action and a response.

GMD 146/15

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Members highlighted the unacceptable absence of any issues in relation to economic development on the agenda of Glenties MD meetings and in this regard recommended the attendance of the Chief Executive Officer of the Council.

The Committee requested a presentation from both Donegal Tourism and Economic Development bodies to Members at future MD meetings.

This concluded the business of the meeting.