

MINUTES OF MEETING OF

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

HELD ON 19th NOVEMBER 2015 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

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

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Michael McGarvey – A/Director Water & Environment
Paul McGill - Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services
Brendan McFadden – S.E.E Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Charles Sweeney – Area Manager, Community Development and Enterprise
Frank Sweeney – Executive Planner, Enforcement
Denis Kelly – Senior Executive Planner
Sinead Harkin – Executive Planner
David Friel – Coastal Officer
Barney McLaughlin – Administrative Officer, Tourism Development
Alana Greene – Executive Planner
Damien McDermott – Senior Executive Engineer, NRDO
Michael Rowsome – SSO Corporate Services

GMD 219/15

MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING – 13th October 2015

On the proposal of Cllr Slowey, seconded by Cllr Ó Domhnaill the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on the 13th October 2015 were agreed.

GMD 220/15

**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE MEETING – 28th October 2015**

On the proposal of Cllr Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr Slowey the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on the 28th October 2015 were agreed.

GMD 221/15

REPORT FROM WORKSHOP – 13th October 2015

The Committee noted the report from the Workshop held on the 13th October 2015 in relation to the preparation of the 2016 Revenue Budget. Cllr Bonner expressed disappointment that items highlighted by the Committee for consideration by the Executive were not included in the 2016 Budget.

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

GMD 222/15

AN EARAGAIL DEVELOPMENT

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the C&E Manager who informed the Committee that the Council are currently examining potential sources of funding for environmental studies and pathway design.

GMD 223/15

IPB PRIDE OF PLACE COMPETITION 2015

The Committee discussed the report circulated previously in relation to work carried out by local groups to create viable, vibrant and visible communities. Members welcomed the success of Coiste Pobail Gort a Choisce in achieving runner up in their category in the National Competition.

GMD 224/15

RAILWAY WALKS

In response to a query from Cllr Ó Domhnaill, the C & E Manager informed the meeting that discussions are ongoing with funding bodies to extend and enhance local walks already commenced.

GMD 225/15

LAND AT LOWER MAIN STREET DUNGLOE

Cllr Bonner requested the Council to investigate if funding could be obtained to purchase land available for sale in Dungloe for the development of leisure and tourism projects.

GMD 226/15

EU UNIT UPDATE

The Committee noted the bulletin circulated at the meeting from the EU Funding and Strategic Policy Unit of the Council. The C & E Manager informed Members that the EU Unit proactively targets external funding opportunities and EU networks of benefit to the Council.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Barney McLaughlin, Tourism Development made a detailed presentation to the Committee in relation to:

- (i) Strategic Tourism Projects
- (ii) Donegal Tourism Ltd, (partnership marketing company)
- (iii) Community Tourism Support
- (iv) Marine Tourism & EU Projects
- (v) Walks & Trails

The Committee praised the contribution of the Tourism Development Officer to promotion of Donegal and highlighted the following issues for further consideration:

- Adequate investment in amenities, signage and infrastructure
- Increased Fáilte Ireland investment in promotion of Donegal
- Development of Linkage between Cycleways and Railway Walks
- Development of Glens project to link mountain ranges within the County.
- Necessity for An Roinn to increase and promote tourism projects in the Gaeltacht.
- Inclusion of additional points along the Wild Atlantic Way e.g. Crohy Head, Maghery.
- Development of swimming pool at Dolmen Centre, Breakwater at Portnoo pier and Dooley Beach Surfing Project.

Cllr Gallagher requested the Council to provide additional C&E Development officers in the Dungloe PSC.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig expressed appreciation to the Tourism Development Officer for his commendation of the Poll an tSnámh marine themed project for the old swimming pool in Ranafast.

Cllr Slowey requested the Council's Tourism Officer to liaise with Knock Airport to ensure that the Donegal Area is prominently advertised and marketed in light of the Council's Annual Financial Contribution.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

GMD 228/15

ROADS PROGRAMME

The Roads Manager updated the Committee in relation to the status of the:

- (i) Roadwork Programme
- (ii) Mulantyboyle Bridge Project
- (iii) Ards Sea Defence Scheme

GMD 229/15

NRDO UPDATE

The NRDO Senior Executive Engineer updated the Committee in relation to the status of:

- (i) ongoing works on the Boyoughter to Kilkenny N56 Scheme
- (ii) design works on the next phase of the N56 Project
- (iii) NRA Schemes at Dunfanaghy, Falcarragh, Crolly & Creeslough

Members requested the urgent necessity for implementation of road safety measures at the Log Cabin, Creeslough.

GMD 230/15

RANAFast NATIONAL SCHOOL

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig raised a safety concern at Ranafast National School. He indicated that a costing had been prepared by the Roads Service for a simple solution and the cost of the Works was in the region of €10,000. He also committed the 2015 allocation of €2,000 for Non County Roads which will leave a shortfall of circa €8,000. Both Cllr Slowey and Cllr O Domhnaill supported the proposal. The Roads Manager explained that the proposal would allow a walking link from the nearby car park to the school and committed to circulating a sketch to Members.

The Committee agreed that the Project was a priority and it should proceed as soon as possible if the Roads Manager could source the funding and if consents from the Parties concerned were in place. The Roads Manager committed to expediting the Project.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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GMD 231/15

PLANNING STATISTICS

The Committee noted the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Planning Manager in relation to 2015 Planning Statistics.

GMD 232/15

RECENT REFUSALS

Members discussed the report circulated at the meeting regarding recent decisions to refuse planning permission.

Members expressed dissatisfaction at their inability to convene site meetings and also the apparent reluctance of Planners to issue further information requests to applicants.

The A/Director of Service undertook to liaise with the Planning Service and to revert to Members regarding Further Information policies and site meeting scheduling.

GMD 233/15

LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN

Denis Kelly Senior Executive Planner & Sinead Harkin Executive Planner made a presentation to the Committee in respect of the Draft Donegal Local Economic & Community Plan previously circulated to Members.

The Committee were advised that:

- (i) In accordance with the Local Government Reform Act 2001 as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, a draft Donegal Local Economic and Community Plan was prepared through the Donegal Local Community Development Committee and the Economic Development Committee.
- (ii) Purpose of the LECP is to identify and implement actions to strengthen and develop the economic and community dimensions of the County over a 6 year period.
- (iii) The LECP is required to support the implementation of existing and proposed national and regional spatial, community and economic strategies.

In the course of the presentation Members were advised of the following elements of the plan:

- Role of Municipal Districts
- Structure of the LECP & priority goals
- Consultation phase and focus group meetings
- Priority goals, objectives and actions of the LECP
- Connection with Council Strategic Infrastructure priorities and programmes

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Ó Fearraigh, the Committee agreed with the Draft LECP and its consistency with:

- (i) Core Strategy and objectives of County Development Plan 2012 – 2018 (as varied)
- (ii) Regional Planning guidelines for Border Regions
- (iii) That the community elements and economic elements are consistent with each other.

Cllr Gallagher recommended that the Planning Service decentralise staff to the Municipal Districts to guarantee and deliver actions of the LECP.

ENVIRONMENT SERVICE

GMD 234/15

BEACH IMPROVEMENT WORKS

The Committee welcomed the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer at the meeting in relation to beach improvement works at Murvagh, Fintra, Carrickfinn, Shrove and Lisfannon.

GMD 235/15

ADOPT A ROAD 2015/2016 SCHEME

Members noted the work in progress in relation to the promotion of this scheme by the Environment Service.

GMD 236/15

ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP GRANT 2015

The Committee welcomed the distribution of funding to 19 successful applicants.

GMD 237/15

WASTE ENFORCEMENT

The Committee noted the waste enforcement activities undertaken by the Council as follows:

- Prevention of waste burning
- Enforcement activity in relation to 'Smokey Coal'
- Inspection of Household Waste Collectors premises
- Serving of Fixed Penalty Notices

GMD 238/15

PORT ARTHUR BEACH DEPUTATION

The Committee welcomed a deputation from Port Arthur to the meeting.

The Deputation was represented by Margaret McGeady, Aisling McCool & Hugh McBride.

The Deputation outlined the short term and long term aims of their Coiste to encourage local enterprise in conjunction with developing Port Arthur beach.

The Committee were advised that initial aims of the Coiste are as follows:

- Development of a car park on acquired land
- Footpath Development along the R247
- Installation for public lighting & provision of a water supply
- Promotion of Port Arthur as a discovery point along the Wild Atlantic Way

- Development of Walking Trail Links to Port Arthur – Bealach na Gaeltachta
- Provision of chippings to fill potholes on the route to the beach

The Committee thanked the Deputation for their attendance and presentation at the meeting.

Cllr Bonner requested that Roads Service to provide chippings on the assumption of the availability of funding from his roads fund.

GMD 239/15

DUNGLOE & GLENTIES SEWERAGE SCHEME

In response to queries from Cllr Gallagher & Cllr Slowey, the Director of Service undertook to circulate Members with a report on the Dungloe & Glenties Sewerage Schemes.

Cllr Slowey highlighted the risk to the public water supply as a consequence of the lack of filtration in Lough Anna

Cllr Slowey also expressed disappointment at the ongoing failure of Irish Water to address Fintown Water Supply deficiencies.

HOUSING AND BUILDING

GMD 240/15

SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the status of Mobility Aids, Housing Adaptation and Housing Aid for Older People grants as at the 6th November 2015.

Cllr Ó Domhnaill expressed disappointment at the lack of progress in respect of the provision of housing for applicants on the waiting list.

GMD 241/15

CASUAL VACANCIES

The Committee noted the list of casual vacancies as at the 6th November 2015 circulated with the agenda.

GMD 242/15

TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME

The Housing Manager informed the Committee that a new tenant purchase scheme will come into operation on 1st January 2016 and that details of the scheme will issue to Members on receipt of the relevant Departmental Circular.

GMD 243/15

2016 SCHEDULE OF MD MEETINGS

The Committee agreed that MD Meetings will be held on the following dates during 2016:

January 12th
February 9th
March 8th
April 12th
May 10th (MD & AGM)
June 14th
July 12th
September 20th
October 11th
November 8th

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING