



8<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**Sceidéal Cruinnithe**

**DÓ: DO GACH BHALL DEN CEANTAR BARDAS NA GLEANNTAÍ**

A Comhairleoir,

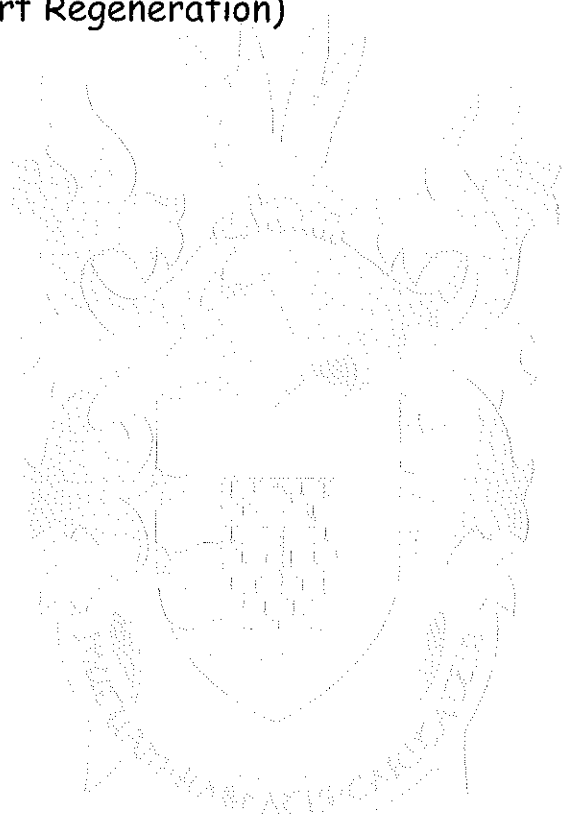
Please note the meeting times scheduled online on September 14<sup>th</sup> 2021 are as follows:

10.00 am      Planning Workshop (Burtonport Regeneration)

12.00 pm      Glenties MD

Mise le meas,

**Éamonn de Brún**  
Area Manager  
Housing & Corporate Manager





**Municipal District of Glenties**

Office of Meetings  
Administrator  
P.S.C  
Dungloe  
8<sup>th</sup> September 21

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

**TO EACH MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GLENTIES**

**Dear Councillor**

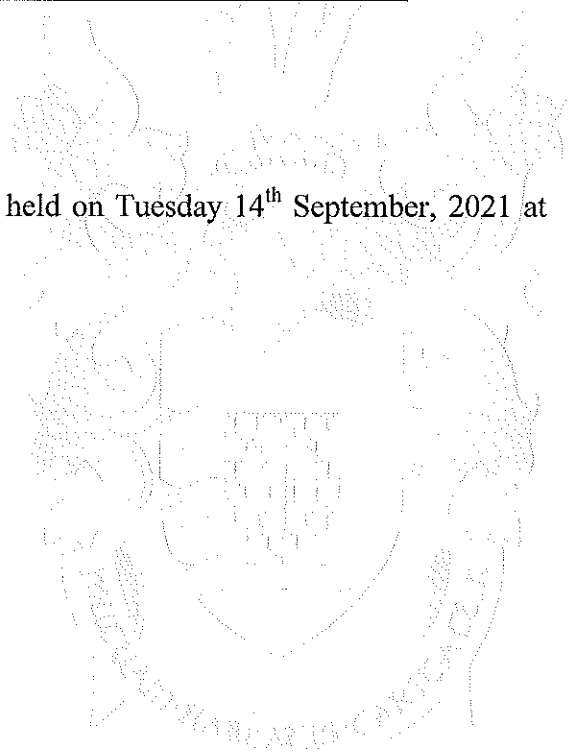
The Municipal District of Glenties Meeting will be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 at **12.00 pm online.**

The agenda for the meeting is attached.

A link to join the meeting will issue separately.

**Yours sincerely**

**Eamonn Brown**  
**Meetings Administrator**





## Ceantar Bardais Na Gleanntaí

Oifig Riarthóir na  
gCruinnithe  
P.S.C  
Clochán Liath  
8ú Meán Fómhair 2021

### FOGRA CRUINNITHE

#### DO GACH BHALL DEN CEANTAR BARDAS NA GLEANNTAÍ

#### **A Chara**

Beidh Cruinniú **ar líne** ag Ceantar Bardais Na Gleanntaí ar an 14ú Meán Fómhair 2021, ag 12.00 i.n.

Tá an clár don chruinniú ceangailte leis seo.

Seolfar nasc chun páirt a ghlacadh sa chruinniú i roimhphost eile.

**Mise, le meas**

Éamonn de Brún  
**Riarthóir Cruinnithe**

## AGENDA

1. Consideration of the Minutes of Glenties Municipal District Committee Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021. 12.00 pm
2. Report from Workshop 12.05
3. Questions & Motions 12.10
4. Environment. 12.35
5. Planning Service. 13.00
6. Economic Development, I.S & Emergency Services. 13.25
7. Community Development. 13.50
8. Roads & Transportation. 14.15
9. Housing & Corporate Services 14.40

# MINUTES OF MEETING OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

HELD REMOTELY ON 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher (Cathaoirleach)  
Cllr. Anthony Molloy (Leas Cathaoirleach)  
Cllr. Noreen McGarvey  
Cllr. Michael McClafferty  
Cllr. Michéal Choilm Mac GiollaEasbuig  
Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Michael McGarvey, A/Director Water & Environment  
Brendan McFadden - SEE, Area Manager, Roads  
Sinéad McClafferty - Area Planner  
Ann Marie McCole - Community Development Staff Officer  
Charles Sweeney -Community Development Administrative Officer  
Barney McLaughlin - Administrative Officer - Economic Development  
Michael Rowsome, S.S.O. Housing/Corporate

**APOLOGIES:** Eamonn Brown - Area Manager, Housing & Corporate  
David Friel - Coastal Officer

**GMD 104/21**

**Confirmation of Minutes of Glenties Municipal District Committee meeting.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, seconded by Cllr. McGarvey, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 were confirmed.

**GMD 105/21**

**Report from Workshops**

Members noted reports from the following Workshops:

- (i) Housing Construction Workshop held on 8.6.2021.
- (ii) Donegal Airport Workshop held on 18.6.2021.
- (iii) RESPOND AHB Workshop held on 22.6.2021.
- (iv) CLÚID AHB Workshop held on 22.6.2021.
- (v) Gaoth Dobhair hotel development briefing held on 2.7.2021.

**GMD 106/21**  
**106.1**

**Cathaoirleach Correspondence**

Cllr. Gallagher informed Members of correspondence that she received from An Gailearaí in Gaoth Dobhair and suggested the scheduling of an online meeting in this regard which was proposed by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh and seconded by Cllr. McGarvey.

**106.2**

Cllr. Gallagher recommended that an emergency meeting be scheduled on finalisation of an investigative report into the potential presence of mica in blocks utilised to build social houses at Gort na Móna, Dungloe.

**106.3**

Cllr. Gallagher informed the Committee that she is issuing an invitation to the media, the Senior Management Team and Mayor to tour West Donegal in September and requested submission of appropriate locations from Area Managers.

**GMD 107/21**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**107.1**

**Rural Review Workshop held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

The Committee noted the report on the Workshop held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 and circulated previously.

107.2

### **Community Development Activities**

Members welcomed the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Community Development Staff Officer regarding:

- Status of Community Development Projects.
- Rural Development Programme.
- YOURS Project.
- Donegal Walks and Trails.

107.3

### **Greenway Site Meeting**

Members agreed to a site meeting at 10 a.m. on the 26<sup>th</sup> July on the Creeslough-Falcarragh section of the Greenway.

107.4

### **Errigal Project**

The Community Development Staff Officer informed the Committee that tenders were sought on 13<sup>th</sup> May, returned on 18<sup>th</sup> June and that an assessment of returned tenders is ongoing with an expected completion date at end of July.

107.5

### **Mountain Bike Tracks**

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig referred to a study previously carried out and recommended development of a facility to cater for different levels of ability. Cllr. McGarvey seconded this recommendation.

107.6

### **Quads and Scramblers**

Cllr. Gallagher recommended development of a facility to cater for quad and scrambler enthusiasts and requested the Council to liaise with clubs.

Cllr. McClaflerty highlighted the suitability of a site between Falcarragh and Dunfanaghy to accommodate outdoor sports.

**GMD 108/21**

## **PLANNING SERVICE**

**108.1**

### **Planning Reports**

The Committee noted the reports circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Area Planner in relation to:

- (i) Development Application Statistics for period to end of May 2021.
- (ii) Enforcement Statistics.
- (iii) Schedule of Planning clinics.
- (iv) Central Planning Unit programme.

**108.2**

### **Burtonport Harbour CPO**

The Area Planner updated Members in relation to this project as follows:

- An Bord Pleanala made an order on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June to confirm a Compulsory Purchase Order outlining the compulsory acquisition of lands.
- CPO was confirmed without modifications.
- Next step involves publication of a notice of the making of a confirmation order within 12 weeks.
- An Bord Pleanala decision may be challenged by judicial review only and the application for judicial review must be made within 8 weeks of the decision of the Board.
- Detailed design to complete this week and the tender for the construction contract will issue by week end.

The Committee welcomed project developments and agreed to schedule a workshop at 10 a.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 to receive an update on the CPO, Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Burtonport Harbour



regeneration and ongoing progress on Arranmore Island.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig and Cllr. McGarvey highlighted the importance of ongoing public consultation with local stakeholders at all stages of the project.

Cllr. Gallagher recommended the appointment of a liaison officer.

**108.3**

### **Dungloe Property Acquisition**

The Committee welcomed the update from the Area Planner regarding the acceptance of an offer from the Council to purchase Mc Governs House, 23 Main Street, Dungloe. Successful completion of the sale will enable progression of a number of town centre actions identified in the Local Area Plan 2018-1024 in the area of traffic circulation, public realm and regeneration.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig commended the role played by Cllr. Gallagher in progression of this acquisition and highlighted the potential benefit of a one way traffic system in the town.

**108.4**

### **Health Centre Dungloe**

In response to a query from Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, the Area Planner advised that the applicants have until the 26<sup>th</sup> of September to respond to a further information request.

**108.5**

### **N56 developments - Low traffic Roads**

In response to queries from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh and Cllr. Gallagher, the Area Planner advised that any proposed changes resulting from traffic counts will be

considered within the review of the County Development Plan.

108.6

### Wind Energy

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh & Cllr. Gallagher requested clarification on the decision making body in respect of current wind energy applications. Cllr. MacGiolla Easbuig criticised the exploitation of natural resources by private corporations and the negative impact on local communities.

The Area Planner informed Members that the Council don't have an adopted wind energy policy and undertook to circulate a clarification in relation to this issue.

Cllr. Molloy also requested the Municipal District Committee to unanimously oppose the proposed development at Graffy.

108.9

### Planning Objection

Cllr. McClafferty proposed an increase in the planning objection fee of €20 to deter serial objectors.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig disagreed with any increase in this fee.

The subsequent debate resulted in a proposal from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, seconded by Cllr. McGarvey to adjourn the meeting for a brief period.

109.1

Outdoor Seating Scheme

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Administrative Officer, Barney McLaughlin who updated Members regarding the outdoor seating and accessories for tourism and hospitality business scheme.

Cllr. McGarvey highlighted bureaucratic difficulties experienced by applicants.

Cllr. Molloy outlined difficulties encountered by business owners who incurred expenditure which was paid via cash transactions and which are not allowable under the scheme.

109.2

Remote Working

The Administrative Officer informed the Committee that the new Donegal Remote Working Strategy for business was officially launched on the 24<sup>th</sup> June at gteic@gaothdobhair to maximise the opportunities arising for the County as a destination of choice for remote working.

109.3

Tourism Marketing Unit

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Administrative Officer regarding marketing updates. Cllr. McGarvey commended the proposed launch of the Donegal Digital Brochure. Cllr. Gallagher recommended that the Council promote an initiative to develop a Glens of Donegal project.

**109.4**                      **Trail Gazers Bid Project**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the Agenda.

**109.5**                      **Strategic Funding Unit**

Members welcomed the activity reports circulated by the strategic funding unit with the Agenda.

**109.6**                      **Local Enterprise Office & Information System**

Members noted the reports circulated previously from the Local Enterprise Office and Information Systems Unit.

**109.7**                      **Emergency Services**

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh and Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig expressed disappointment at the differentiation between fire service capability and infrastructure on Islands and the mainland and requested that correspondence issue to the relevant Minister in this regard.

**109.8**                      **Co-operatives**

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig expressed disappointment at the absence of a report subsequent to a motion that he had previously brought to Plenary Council to specifically support and promote the Co-operative movement.

**110.1**

**Waste & Litter Management**

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the Agenda from the Waste Awareness Officer.

Cllr. Molloy requested the provision of additional bins and the repositioning of a sign at Glengesh.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh and Cllr. McClafferty asked the Council to provide additional bins in Creeslough car park.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested an update on the large scale dumping of nappies at locations in the Municipal District as previously highlighted.

In response to queries from Cllr. McClafferty, the Environment Director advised that cardboard disposal is subject to national legislation and that private companies are prepared to supply bins to households utilising the waste disposal services on a periodic basis.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh also requested an update on the provision of a recycling location in Gaoth Dobhair.

Cllr. Gallagher highlighted the continuing need for 24 hour recycling at the Dungloe Recycling Centre and recommended minor modifications to the current facility to provide a solution.

**110.2**

**Public Conveniences**

Cllr. Molloy requested an update on the 'changing places' facility in Narin.

Cllr. Mc Clafferty requested the Council to extend the opening hours of the Dunfanaghy public toilets and the

Environment Director undertook to seek a local solution to this issue.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig asked the Council to address the closure of toilets at Magheroarty.

**110.3**

**Oyster Farmers**

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested an update on his previous calls for the Council to meet with oyster farmers in the Carrickfinn Bay area and the Environment Director agreed to liaise with the Executive Scientist in this regard.

**110.4**

**Bike Stands**

Cllr. McGarvey commended the provision of a bespoke bicycle stand at Narin Beach.

**110.5**

**Dungloe Pond**

Cllr. Gallagher asked the Council to repair cracks at bottom of pool, repair gaps in access steps and provision of railings.

**110.6**

**Hydro Electric Power**

Cllr. Molloy informed the meeting of the benefits arising from the utilisation of hydroelectric power and requested the Council to investigate the potential of this energy source.

The Environment Director submitted that this issue could be addressed along with other environmental matters at a future Workshop.

**GMD 111/21**

**Stakeholders Meeting**

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the Environment Director to follow up on previous recommendations to convene a meeting of local stakeholders, Senior Council Management, Udarás na Gaeltachta and An Roinn in respect of:

- (i) Congestion issues at Leabgarrow on Arranmore and
- (ii) Development plan for Magheraroarty Pier and Car Park area.

**GMD 112/21**

**HOUSING & CORPORATE**

**112.1**

**Housing Reports**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the Agenda in relation to the following:

- Status of grant applications at 2.7.2021.
- Casual vacancy progress report.
- Housing need.
- Housing Assistance Payment Scheme.
- Rental Accommodation Scheme.
- Long Term Leasing.
- Housing Tenancies and offers.
- Tenant Purchase Scheme.
- Mica Issues.

**112.2**

**Coiste na nOileáin**

The Committee agreed to schedule a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> July at 11 a.m. online.

**112.3**

**Bus Éireann - School Transport Scheme**

Cllr. Gallagher requested that correspondence issue to Bus Éireann requesting a refund of monies in respect of the period during which schools were

closed during 2020/2021, to the parents who paid for the full academic year.

## **GMD 113/21**

### **ROADS SERVICE**

#### **113.1**

#### **Roadworks Programme**

The committee welcomed the verbal update from the Roads Manager who informed the Committee that:

- (i) Surface dressing programme is complete.
- (ii) Restoration programme is 50% complete.
- (iii) Footpath programme in progress.
- (iv) Local Improvement Schemes in progress.

#### **113.2**

#### **NRDO Report**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Roads Manager in relation to the status of the following projects:

- N56 Kilkenny to Letterilly
- N56 Dungloe to Cloghbolie
- N56 Letterilly to Kilraine
- N56 Dungloe to Glenties (Land acquisition)
- N56 Dungloe to Glenties - Art Scheme

#### **113.3**

#### **Piers and Harbours**

Cllr. Gallagher requested attendance of a representative of the Marine Service at the next Municipal District meeting.

#### **113.4**

#### **Road Maintenance Issues**

The Committee highlighted and the Roads Manager responded to all matters in respect of the following:



- Virtual Messaging Signage at Meenacuing and Road Safety.
- Overgrown trees in Falcarragh and Meenbanad.
- Dobhair drainage.
- Japanese knotweed spraying programme.
- Sandfield Ardara, Fanmore Bacús Uí Bhaoill road, Teach Jack (Lunniagh) and Millwheel road.
- Cutting of grass at Leitir green area.
- River Walk Dungloe development and onsite meeting with Tidy Towns.
- Glen Road footpath in Annagry.
- Gritting programme.
- Fintown Junction Safety.
- Eir Work at Kilmacrennan.

113.5

#### **Pollinator Plan & Biodiversity**

The Committee agreed to schedule a Workshop at 10.30 a.m. on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 to discuss proposals / options for the €20,000 fund to support a pollinator plan / biodiversity in the Glenties Municipal District.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**

**Report from Tourism Workshop of Glenties Municipal District Committee held  
remotely on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

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- Members present:** Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher (Cathaoirleach)  
Cllr. Anthony Molloy (Leas Cathaoirleach)  
Cllr. Noreen McGarvey  
Cllr. Michael McClafferty  
Cllr. Michéal Choilm Mac GiollaEasbuig  
Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh
- Officials present:** Michael McGarvey -A/Director Water & Environment Service  
Anne Marie Conlon - SEO, Economic Development  
Barney McLaughlin - Administrative Officer - Economic Development  
Ann Marie McCole - SO, Community Development  
Máire Ní Fhearraigh - Gaeltacht Tourism Officer  
Michael Rowsome - SSO, Housing & Corporate
- Apologies:** Eamonn Brown
1. Cllr. Gallagher, Cathaoirleach, welcomed Anne Marie Conlon, Barney McLaughlin and Máire Ní Fhearraigh to the Workshop.
  2. Anne Marie Conlon, SEO, Economic Development welcomed the opportunity to update the Glenties Municipal District on:
    - (i) Importance of tourism initiatives as an economic driver.
    - (ii) Status of Tourism Strategy 2021-25.
    - (iii) Status of KPMG Analytics Campervan Study.
  3. Máire Ní Fhearraigh, Oifigeach Turasóireachta Gaeltachta made a detailed presentation to the Committee regarding:

- Gaeltacht tourism and collaboration with Údarás na Gaeltachta in the following areas:
  - (i) Bealach na Gaeltachta, (ii) Strategic Tourism Projects, (iii) South West Donegal Tourism, (iv) Donegal Airport Marketing Collaboration, (v) Laurentic Tourism Forum, (vi) Tory Island Tourism promotion, (vii) Anagaire Food destination.
- Social Media Promotion and [govisitdonegal.com](http://govisitdonegal.com) listings.
- Marketing Activities to date in 2021:
  - (i) Ireland in Music 2021, (ii) PBS Travel Programme, (iii) Lonely Planet Destination guide, (iv) Staycation feature in Public Service Magazine, (v) Outdoor dining, (vi) Donegal Tourism Recovery Taskforce, (vii) Make a Break for Donegal Campaign, (viii) Golf Marketing Campaign (ix) Atlantic on Bike Project.

4. Barney McLaughlin, Head of Tourism Unit, updated the Committee in relation to future marketing activities in 2021:

- National Destination Campaign.
- Irish legends Golf Tournament presented by the Mc Ginley Foundation.
- Bus Routes advertising.
- Influencer collaboration.
- Local live music events.
- Altan USA Tour Donegal Promotion.

The Committee also welcomed the update from the Head of Tourism regarding business engagement initiatives and supports.

5.

The Committee highlighted the following issues for the attention of the Tourism Unit:

- Availability of Campervan locations (Cllr. Mc Clafferty).
- Necessity to engage with Unions and Workers Representatives (Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig).
- Negative impact of Air B&B on housing availability. (Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig).
- Liaise with Angling clubs and promote a Glens project. (Cllr. Gallagher)
- Development to maintain biking tracks and Promotion of Arts. (Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig).

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE  
WORKSHOP.**



**ENVIRONMENT REPORT – September 2021**

**WASTE AND LITTER MANAGEMENT**

<p><b>Activity / Project Title</b></p>	<p><b>Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council launches 2021 Gum Litter Taskforce Campaign</b></p> <p><b>“Bin Your Gum When You’re Done”</b></p>
<p><b>Project Description/ Activity</b></p>	<div data-bbox="396 758 1435 1213" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council, Cllr Jack Murray, officially launched the Gum Litter Taskforce's gum litter education campaign in Bunrana.</p> <p>The Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT) is an environmental initiative that was set up to develop and implement an awareness campaign to reduce gum litter in the most sustainable way. Supported and funded by the chewing gum industry, the GLT initiative has made very real and significant improvements in relation to gum litter awareness and disposal behaviour over the last 14 years since its inception in 2007. The 2019 campaign maintained an all-time high of 93% of people stating that they regard chewing gum as litter, up from 74% when the campaign first began in 2007, pointing to the attitudinal impact which the campaign has had.</p> <p>The campaign is looking to build on the positive momentum of previous years’ campaigns and is making a strong return for 2021 after being postponed last year due to COVID-19. This year’s campaign will be different in that the national and local authority launch events will be done virtually, and the campaign will have a stronger social media presence in order to reach a wider and younger audience.</p> <p>The theme of the 2018 – 2021 advertising campaign, is “Bin your gum when you’re done”, the campaign includes:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A national online and broadcast media advertising campaign with an active social media presence across key platforms, i.e. Snapchat, Instagram and Facebook.</li> <li>• A virtual national campaign launch followed by virtual local authority led launch events.</li> <li>• A schools education programme aimed at first year secondary school students called “Bin It!”. This includes an actor-led workshop tour which takes place in schools each autumn and which is supported by materials and tools for teachers to download and integrate into lesson plans (<a href="http://biniteducation.com/">http://biniteducation.com/</a>).</li> <li>• In the case that COVID restrictions are still in place come autumn, an alternative offering in the form of an adaptable teaching resource will be created for teachers to deliver to students during class time that replaces the “Bin It” roadshow.</li> <li>• Dedicated GLT website - <a href="http://www.gumlittertaskforce.ie/">http://www.gumlittertaskforce.ie/</a></li> <li>• Sponsorship of three awards in the Tidy Towns competition and support for virtual/socially distant Tidy Towns, Green Schools, Neat Streets and National Spring Clean campaigns.</li> </ul>
<b>Contact Person</b>	<b>Suzanne Bogan, Waste Awareness Officer</b> <a href="mailto:suzannebogan@donegalcoco.ie">suzannebogan@donegalcoco.ie</a>

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	<b>Sand Dunes – They Protect Us, Let’s Protect Them</b>
<b>Project Description/ Activity</b>	<p>Damage to our sand dunes is evident all around the coast according to the Climate Action Regional Offices who recently launched a new campaign in collaboration with local authorities and NUI Galway to highlight the importance and fragility of these natural coastal protections and important habitats.</p> <p>This initiative is asking the public to help protect the dunes by enjoying the beach responsibly and will include awareness raising measures on social media to convey the importance of our sand dunes to coastal resilience and biodiversity, how they can be easily damaged from recreational activities, along with simple measures to preserve them.</p> <div data-bbox="386 1310 1422 1789" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><b>Communities:</b></p>

A series of poster have been developed that can be downloaded for use by Coastal Communities to raise awareness of the value and fragility of their local sand dunes. Each poster has a QR Code that links back to this website to provide more information.

Some posters have space left for community groups to provide local messaging as they feel appropriate to their own beach and sand dune management plans. Posters are available to download from <https://www.caro.ie/getattachment/Projects-Research/Campaigns/Sand-Dune/Coastal-Community-Posters.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>



Contact Person

Suzanne Bogan, Waste Awareness Officer  
[suzannebogan@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:suzannebogan@donegalcoco.ie)

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	<p align="center"><b>My Waste – “Bin it or Bring It Home” Anti-Litter Campaign</b></p>
<b>Project Description/ Activity</b>	<p>My Waste has developed some anti-litter material for the beaches. A local and national radio advert was also played. These have been promoted on our social media pages and in the recent Greenpiece Pages.</p> 
<b>Contact Person</b>	<p><b>Suzanne Bogan, Waste Awareness Officer</b>  <a href="mailto:suzannebogan@donegalcoco.ie">suzannebogan@donegalcoco.ie</a></p>

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	<p align="center"><b>MyWaste Summer Staycation campaign</b></p>
<b>Project Description/ Activity</b>	<p>My Waste are currently running a summer staycation campaign in relation to top tips to picnic this summer promoting reusables. Donegal County Council will be supporting this on its own social media pages through August.</p> 



## ARE YOU STAYCATION READY?



Don't forget your reusable water bottle.

Check [refill.ie](http://refill.ie) for water refill points close to you.



Ireland's guide to waste  
**mywaste**



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

## STAYCATION ESSENTIALS



Don't forget your reusable cup.

Check [consciouscup.ie](http://consciouscup.ie) for outlets accepting reusable cups.



Ireland's guide to waste  
**mywaste**



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

## PREVENT FOOD WASTE



As you staycation, only bring what you need and try to use up leftovers.



Ireland's guide to waste  
**mywaste**



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

## CHARGE UP FOR SUMMER!



Rechargeable batteries are holiday essentials.



Ireland's guide to waste  
**mywaste**



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

## PACK YOUR BAGS



Staycating this Summer? Don't forget your reusable shopping bag.



Ireland's guide to waste  
**mywaste**



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

Contact Person

Suzanne Bogan, Waste Awareness Officer  
[suzannebogan@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:suzannebogan@donegalcoco.ie)

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	<b>My Waste – Upcycle Challenge</b>
<b>Project Description/ Activity</b>	<p>The Upcycle Challenge 2021 has been launched and there are €6,000 worth of prizes to be won across eight categories. These categories include Best in Connacht/Ulster Region, Best in Southern Region, Best Eastern/Midlands Region, Best Men’s Shed / Community Group, Best School, Best Professional, The EPA Special Prize and The Public Choice Award.</p> <p>The Upcycle Challenge is a yearly competition that encourages people to look at the objects around them and to give them a new lease of life. The challenge is simple, find something that is no longer in use and transform it into something new. By creating unique pieces and submitting them to the competition, the lucky winners will be in with a chance to share €6,000 in prize money across a range of different categories. <b>To find out more information and to submit a completed application by the 15th of October log on to <a href="https://www.mywaste.ie/upcycle-challenge21/">https://www.mywaste.ie/upcycle-challenge21/</a></b></p> <p>Both Killybegs and The Rosses Men’s Sheds have had great success in the past number of years winning prizes in the Mens Shed category.</p> <div data-bbox="646 779 1187 1314" style="text-align: center;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Upcycle Challenge 2021</b> mywaste</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOW OPEN FOR ENTRIES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://www.mywaste.ie/upcycle-challenge21/">mywaste.ie/upcycle-challenge21/</a></p> </div> <p><b>Closing Date 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021.</b></p>
<b>Contact Person</b>	<p><b>Suzanne Bogan, Waste Awareness Officer</b> <a href="mailto:suzannebogan@donegalcoco.ie">suzannebogan@donegalcoco.ie</a></p>

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	<b>EPA Stop Food Waste “Stretch &amp; Save” Campaign 5<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> July 21</b>
<b>Project Description/ Activity</b>	<p><b>Aim</b> To make people aware how they can make their fresh food last longer especially for fruit, veg and salads Campaign messaging features four in-season fruit &amp; veg (strawberries, potatoes, carrots and tomatoes) with tips on how to keep them that bit fresher for that bit longer and link to the storage resource A-Z of Foods <a href="https://stopfoodwaste.ie/resources/storage-cooking/a-z">https://stopfoodwaste.ie/resources/storage-cooking/a-z</a> .</p> <p><b>Target</b> The target audience is a large segment of the population, around 989,000 individuals, who say they waste a lot of fruit and vegetables and are interested in how long fresh food lasts (informed by the EPA's 2020</p>

national food waste attitudes survey and segmentation analysis).

### Channels

To amplify the reach of the campaign's messaging a wide range of communication channels are being used:

- posting daily campaign messaging on SFW social media platforms - **Hashtag is #StretchOutAndSave @[stopfoodwaste.ie](https://stopfoodwaste.ie)**
- paid digital advertising over the 2 weeks directed to the target audience
- promotion by a range of social influencers
- national & regional press release and potential PR leverage on radio, tv and print
- collaboration with Lidl, Aldi & Tesco (watch out for mention in Lidl and Aldi leaflets)

### Communications & Assets

- A blog on 'Making Fresh Food Last Longer' will be available from the [stopfoodwaste.ie](https://stopfoodwaste.ie) homepage from Monday 5 July.
- Daily posts on the campaign assets, messaging etc will be posted from SFW social platforms (Facebook, Instagram & Twitter) 5 – 16 July
- Four static *Stretch Out and Save* campaign assets featuring strawberries, potatoes, carrots and tomatoes with a tips to keep them fresher for longer (formats attached static 9:16 (x4) and Static 1:1 (x4))
- Two campaign videos featuring strawberries & potatoes.
- Storage resource **A-Z of Foods** <https://stopfoodwaste.ie/resources/storage-cooking/a-z> .



Contact Person

Suzanne Bogan, Waste Awareness Officer  
[suzannebogan@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:suzannebogan@donegalcoco.ie)

**Activity / Project Title** Summer Greenpiece

**Project Description/ Activity**

Advertorial with information on recycling, reuse, litter campaigns, beach information, water safety etc. The pages feature in four local papers.

**Contact Person**

Suzanne Bogan, Waste Awareness Officer  
[suzannebogan@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:suzannebogan@donegalcoco.ie)

**Activity / Project Title**

**IFFPG Farm Plastic Bring Centres**

**Project Description/ Activity**

IFFPG have arranged their annual Farm Plastic Collections. Donegal dates are listed below. For more information on the collections visit [www.farmplastics.ie](http://www.farmplastics.ie)

- Silage Wrap – clean dry and loose €25 per ½ tone with label code.
- Fertiliser & Meal Bags & Drums (Triple Rinsed) €10 per ½ tonne bag.
- Netting €5 per bag per ½ tonne bag with label code.

Opening times 9am-5pm (Unless otherwise stated)

<b>Donegal</b>	Newtowncunningham, Clonleigh Co-op	Wed 18th August
	Buncrana, Inishowen Co-op (Hrs 8.30-4.30pm)	Fri 20th August

	Carndonagh, Inishowen Co-op (Hrs 8-3pm)	Sat 21st August
	Milford Mart	Tues 24th August
	Ballybofey & Stranorlar Mart	Sat 28th August
	Ballyshannon Mart	Sat 4th September
	Raphoe Mart	Fri 10th September
	Donegal Mart	Sat 11th September
	For more information visit <a href="http://www.farmplastics.ie">www.farmplastics.ie</a> or lo-call 1890 300 444.	
<b>Contact Person</b>	<b>Suzanne Bogan, Waste Awareness Officer</b> <a href="mailto:suzannebogan@donegalcoco.ie">suzannebogan@donegalcoco.ie</a>	

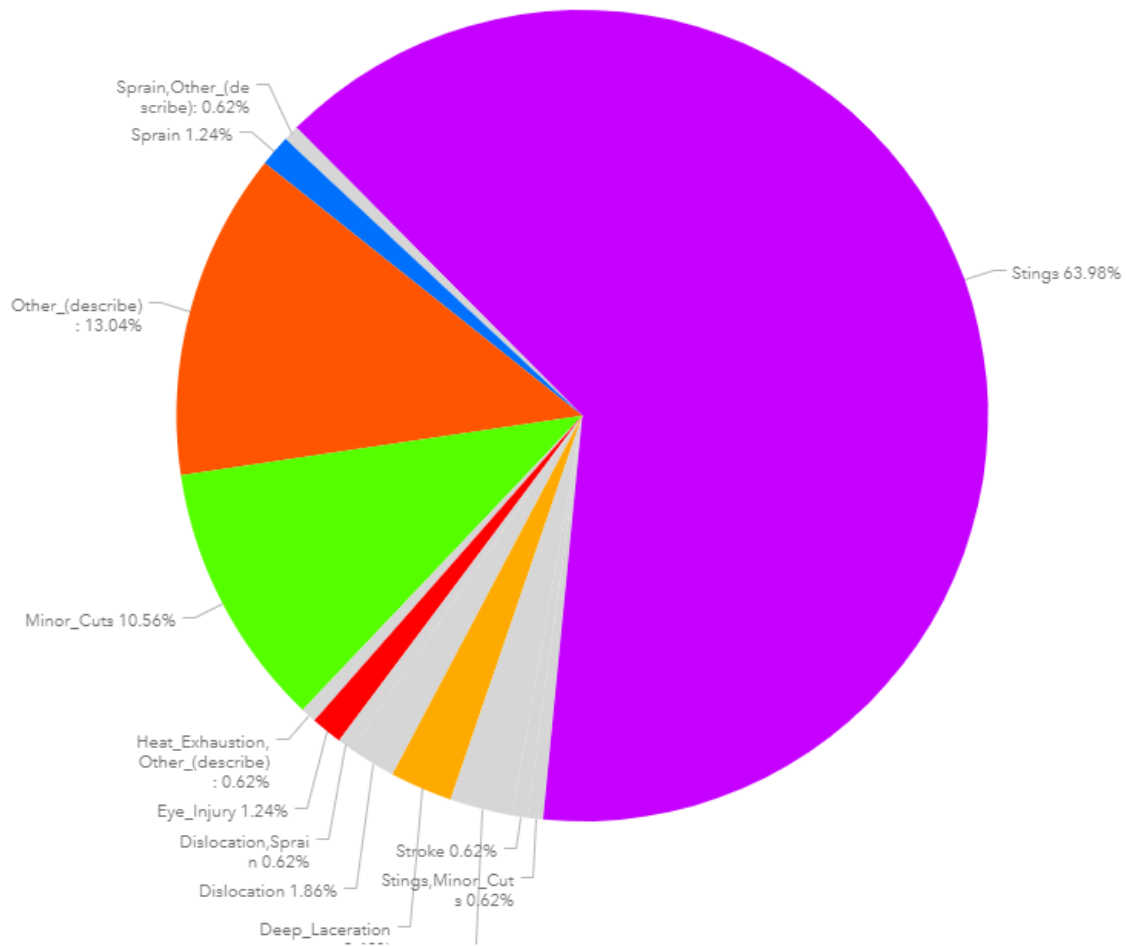
## Coastal Issues

### Voluntary Sector Support

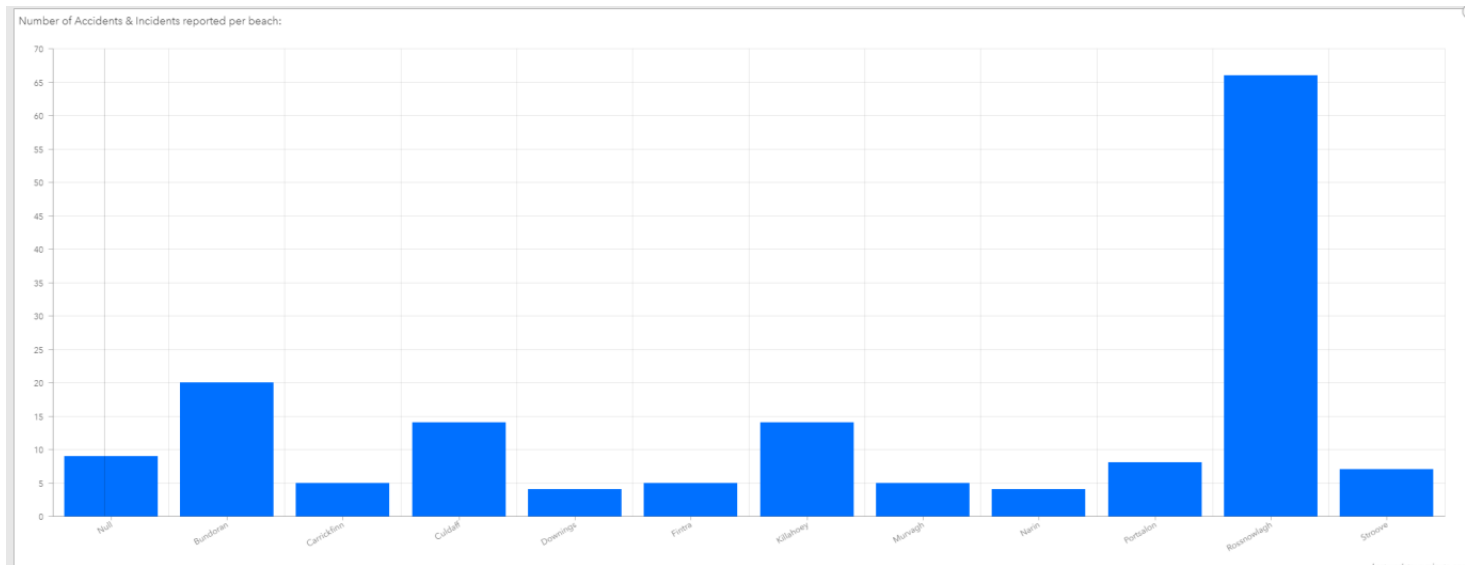
The staycationing has seen a second season of large numbers of visitors to our coastline and beaches. Thankfully there has not been a corresponding increase in accidents/incidents in the water. Our robust water safety initiatives are supporting an enjoyable and safety at the coast.

The voluntary sector who tirelessly litter pick, empty bins, provide beach cleans, etc, deserve acknowledgement for their extraordinary contribution to maintaining our coastline. They are too numerous to mention but are the constant service providers at local level, on the ground, and often go unnoticed. Without their selfless support, our County would not be as attractive for tourists or for those who live here.

There have been 162 Accidents and Incidents recorded on the 13 beaches with Lifeguards this season to date. Of these, stings were the biggest issue at almost 64% of all incidents. The high level of training of the lifeguards is required when you examine the variety of issues to be addressed including; strokes, eye injuries, dislocations, etc.

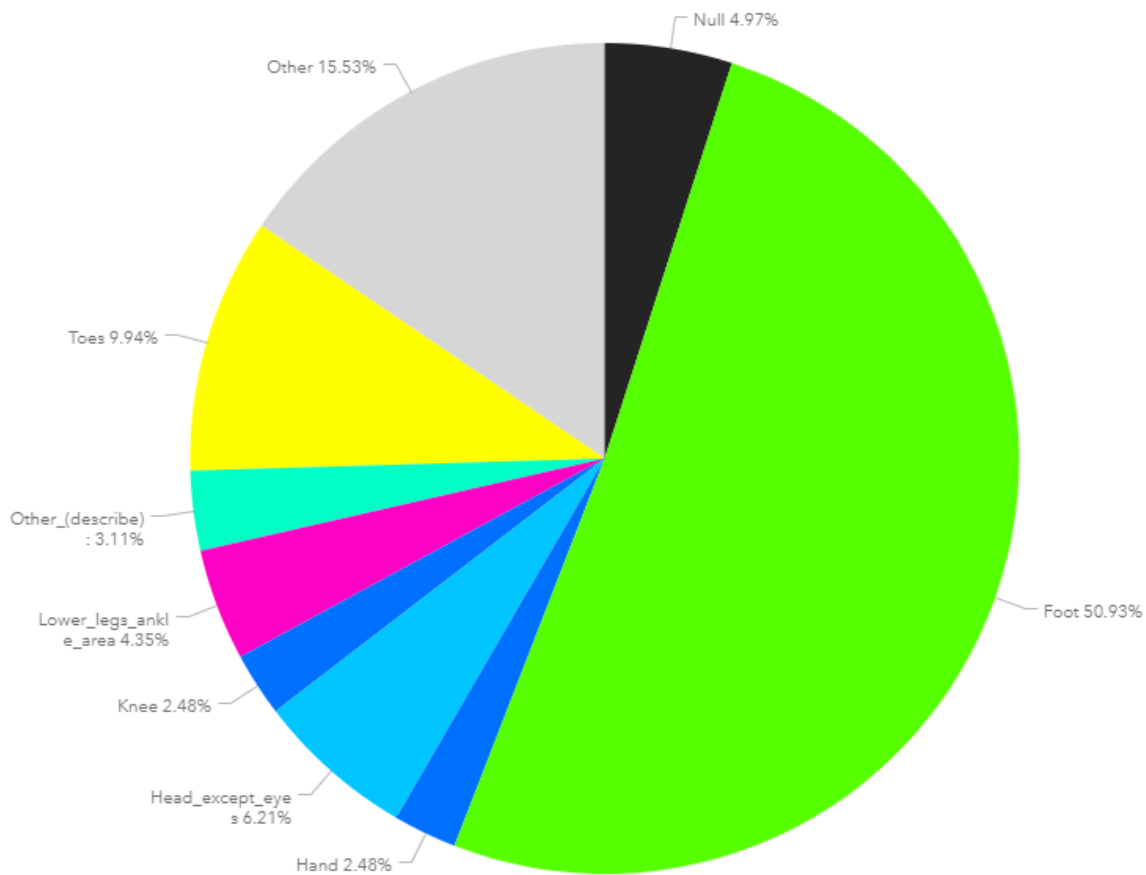


Rosstown had by far the majority of accidents and incidents recorded (66) which reflects the huge numbers of visitors to this popular destination, followed by Bundoran (20), Killahoey and Culdaff (14 each).

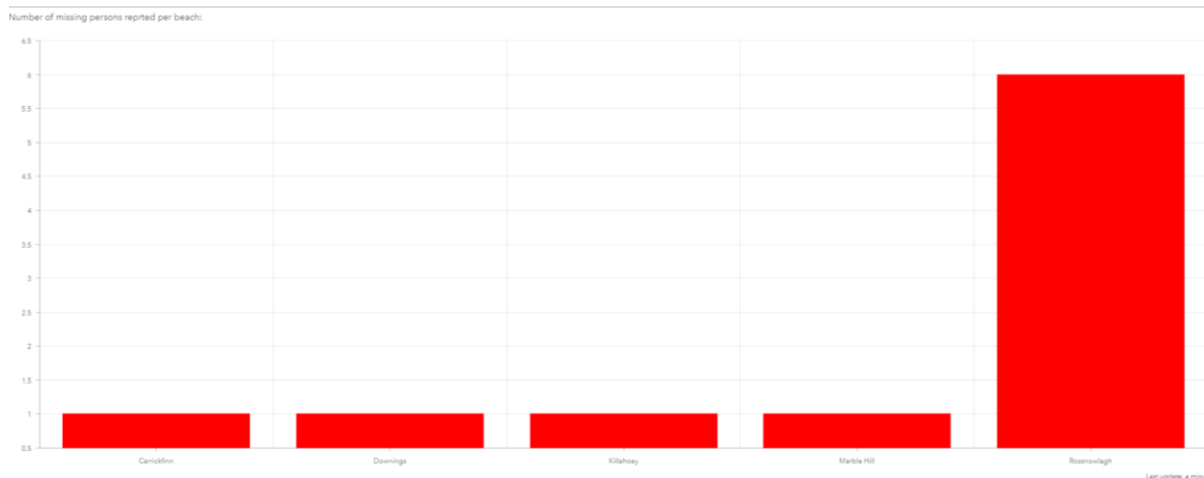


Feet injuries made up over half of the injuries treated this season to date and toe injuries comprising almost a further 10%. These can often comprise of weever fish stings or minor cuts/abrasions on unseen underwater rocks/stones.





Missing children can be a traumatic incident for both the lost child and for the guardian responsible. Beach Lifeguards have so far assisted in reconnecting ten lost children with their guardians, again primarily at Rosstownlagh. Carickfinn, Downings, Killahoey and Marble Hill each had one lost child.



**Marble Hill Invasive Alien Species Project** Donegal County Council successfully applied to the National Biodiversity Action Plan / Invasive Alien Species funding for €17,000 to address issues at the coastal dunes. These important dunes are within the Sheephaven SAC (Code: 001190) and also a proposed NHA (Natural Heritage Area). Unfortunately the location is becoming degraded due to invasive alien species and increasing recreational pressure.

Invasive species are a threat to this habitat, eg. common sea-buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*) – which is very invasive and quickly spreads, shading out other plants. There is a growing threat to the local biodiversity and related ecosystem services, including severe impacts on native species and the structure and functioning of ecosystems through the alteration of habitats, predation, competition and the replacement of native species. If not addressed, there could be a significant adverse impact on the stability of the dunes, affecting human wellbeing and the economy.

It is now intended to initiate dune restoration and visitor management of the affected ecosystem via the National Biodiversity Action Plan Local Authorities Funding Scheme 2021 by:

- Management of invasions that are already widely spread by physical removal and treatment;
- Initiate a continuous surveillance system and a contingency plan with the National Parks & Wildlife Service;
- Early detection and rapid eradication of new invasions;
- Ensure sustainable visitor management with signage and fencing to restrict access across the dunes; and
- Ensure that all stakeholders are given early and effective opportunities to participate in the project, where necessary.

This project will begin in Autumn, 2021.

### **Blue Flag/Green Coast Inspections**

Over the summer season, An Taisce has performed numerous unannounced beach inspections for compliance with Blue Flag or Green Coast criteria. If the high standards of these beach accolades are not met, the award can be withdrawn; either in the short-term until they are met or permanently.

Despite the challenging season in the current pandemic at our beaches, the vast majority of inspections received full compliance with the qualifying criteria. This includes considerable resource commitments in;

- Water Safety (lifeguarding, ringbuoys, signage, awareness campaigns, etc),
- Access (car parks, boardwalk, path maintenance, etc),
- Waste Management/recycling (bins, litter picking, etc),
- Water Quality (bathing water sampling/analysis/result posting),
- Environmental Education (environmental noticeboards, wildlife protection, sustainable transport promotion, etc).

### **Minor Works Funding**

Many beach locations are to benefit from funding which was available under the Minor Tourism Related Works Grant, shared across Directorates earlier in the season. When the beaches become quieter in the autumn we are arranging car park resurfacing, car park lining, and other beach improvements at each coastal MD.

### **Public Conveniences**

All our Public Conveniences were heavily used this season and caretakers and service providers managed to cope with demand in often trying circumstances. Services and supplies were maintained throughout the season as numbers availing of the facilities soared.

#### **Inis Bó Finne (*Inishbofin*) Public Convenience**

Donegal County Council's Water and Environment Section has recently overseen the development of a new public convenience facility on Inis Bó Finne (*Inishbofin*). The site was agreed with the Very Rev Seán O'Gallchóir, to whom DCC is very grateful. The project was only possible following Appropriate Assessment and approval by the National Parks and Wildlife Service owing to the sites EU Designation for its biodiversity and importance ecologically.

The facility was designed to a very high standard by Mr. Sean O'Donnell of DCC's Regeneration & Development Team. There is a unisex and fully accessible cubicles catering for users of all abilities. Construction was by McMenamin Brothers Contractors who completed the facility to a very high standard. Management of this public convenience will be overseen by the recently formed Island Committee.

Inishbofin Island or Inis Bó Finne is a Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point just 3km off the Donegal coast. It has a significant bird population and is a sanctuary for the corncrake, barnacle geese, choughs, Arctic terns and peregrine falcons. Very few people live on the island all year but many return to fish or holiday. The views from the island are spectacular and it has a breathtaking beach facing Tory Island. With Boffin Ferry Donegal now operating a new daily ferry service from Magheroarty Pier to Inishbofin Island the new public convenience facility is very welcome by seasonal tourist visitors, fishermen and locals alike.



1. The fully accessible toilet unit.



2. The unisex toilet unit.



3. A local fisherman inspects the newly built public convenience.

# GLENTIES FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Briefing Note 3 – August 2021

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## Progress Summary

Murphy Geospatial ([www.murphygs.ie](http://www.murphygs.ie)) have completed and delivered the property threshold, river and terrain surveys. The surveys have captured the data needed to build an up to date computer model of the Owenea, Stracashel and Gortnamucklagh Rivers, existing defences and floodplains in the area.

McBreen Environmental (<http://www.mcbreenenvironmental.ie>) have completed fieldwork and submitted draft deliverables of culvert and CCTV surveys. The surveys have captured the internal dimensions, levels and conditions of the culverts which convey watercourses beneath the ground. This information will be represented in the model to simulate the performance of these key structures.

RPS have completed the construction of a computer model to simulate the Owenea and Stracashel Rivers as well as the Gortnamucklagh Stream within the study area, based on data acquired during the detailed river, culvert and terrain surveys. Development of the boundary conditions which drive the hydraulic model is substantially complete. These are the flows, water levels and rainfall inputs which are entered into the model to replicate flood conditions, both past and future predicted (design) events. This has involved the interrogation of data from within the Owenea catchment but also data from nearby and hydrologically representative site across Donegal and nationally. As these boundary conditions are entered into the model the hydrology team will review the outputs of the simulated flood events within the hydraulic computer models to see that the models are replicating the observed flood extents and depths which have been recorded including events in 2015, 2018 and flooding observed earlier in 2021 at Mulantyboyle. In conjunction with the hydraulic modelling team, adjustments may be made to the boundary conditions to ensure the models are accurately representing what occurred. The project team will be making use of the data (photographs and reports) of past flood events provided by local residents, businessowners and stakeholders and may make further contact to clarify certain details of the flood events to ensure the closest representation to events which took place on the ground in Glenties.

RPS completed the Environmental Constraints Study report in late August, which assesses the key environmental issues which may be impacted by, or impose constraints on, the flood scheme. The report considers Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soils and Geology, Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage, Land Use and Material Assets, Landscape and Visual Impact, in addition to Population and Human Health.

Note too that a new newsletter will be posted on the scheme website this quarter, see:

<https://countydonegalfrs.ie/glentiesfrs/index.php/news/>

## Next Steps

**Data Collection:** Data collection activities at this stage of the project are focussing on identifying data gaps and obtaining further detail on hydrological and flood event data, identifying further specialist environmental surveys and anticipating what further catchment wide data might be needed to facilitate appraisal of catchment based measures.

**Surveys:** The Culvert and CCTV surveys have been completed. Draft deliverables have been submitted and survey data is being reviewed for use in the hydraulic model. RPS are currently looking at whether further surveys are needed to inform the preliminary design of a scheme.

**Hydrological Analysis:** The next steps in the hydrological analysis will focus on refining and finalising the design flows and water levels which are used within the models to simulate flooding.

**Hydraulic Analysis:** After the hydraulic model has been calibrated and validated using data from historical flood events to ensure that it provides an accurate representation of the flooding mechanisms, it will be used to assess and compare various design options which will reduce the flood risk in Glenties.

**Scheme Analysis and Development:** A list of all potential flood risk management measures which may be applicable at Glenties is currently being produced. These will be screened such that measures which could be technically and economically viable, socially and environmentally acceptable are taken forward for detailed assessment.

**Environmental Assessment:** Further detailed environmental surveys are programmed over the autumn period to include completion of ecological surveys that are seasonally constrained, e.g. aquatic ecology and more specialist surveys that are required to build on the initial baseline surveys, including protected species surveys, archaeological and architectural surveys. The environmental constraints and opportunities identified will inform the appraisal of the options for the FRS ensuring early consideration in design and a robust assessment of the potential environmental impact of the preferred scheme.

## Projected Key Milestone Dates

- Completion of Final Environmental Constraints Report – August 2021
- Completion of Draft Hydrology Report – October 2021
- Completion of Draft Hydraulic Modelling Report – December 2021
- Ecological surveys – ongoing throughout 2021
- Identification of Preferred Option – March 2022
- Completion of Environmental Impact Assessment Report – September 2022

RPS has revised the public programme for the scheme with the Stage 1 completion date pushed back by approximately four months (May 2022 to September 2022). This is due to delays in the delivery of survey data and the hydraulic analysis.

## Irish Water - Change to Contact Numbers

Irish Water is changing their customer contact numbers to non-geographic prefixes 1800 (free) and 0818 numbers (standard rates). The move addresses perceived customer confusion and high costs of using non geographic numbers.

- The General Enquires numbers including operational issues is now **1800 278 278**
- The dedicated Business Enquiries number changing to **0818 778 778**.
- The dedicated service to Councillors/Deputies the Local/Oireachtas Representative support desk can now be contacted on **0818 178 178 / 0818 578 578**, or they can mail [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie)

Irish Water customers who dial the old numbers will only be diverted to the new number until December 2021. Therefore, to ensure all customers are aware of the correct numbers to use, we are asking stakeholders/representatives to update any collateral or online support they may have and to share changes with their members/constituents where appropriate. Irish Water will also be updating their collateral, website and sharing updates via social media, should you wish to amplify by resharing through these channels please do so.

**Our contact numbers are changing**

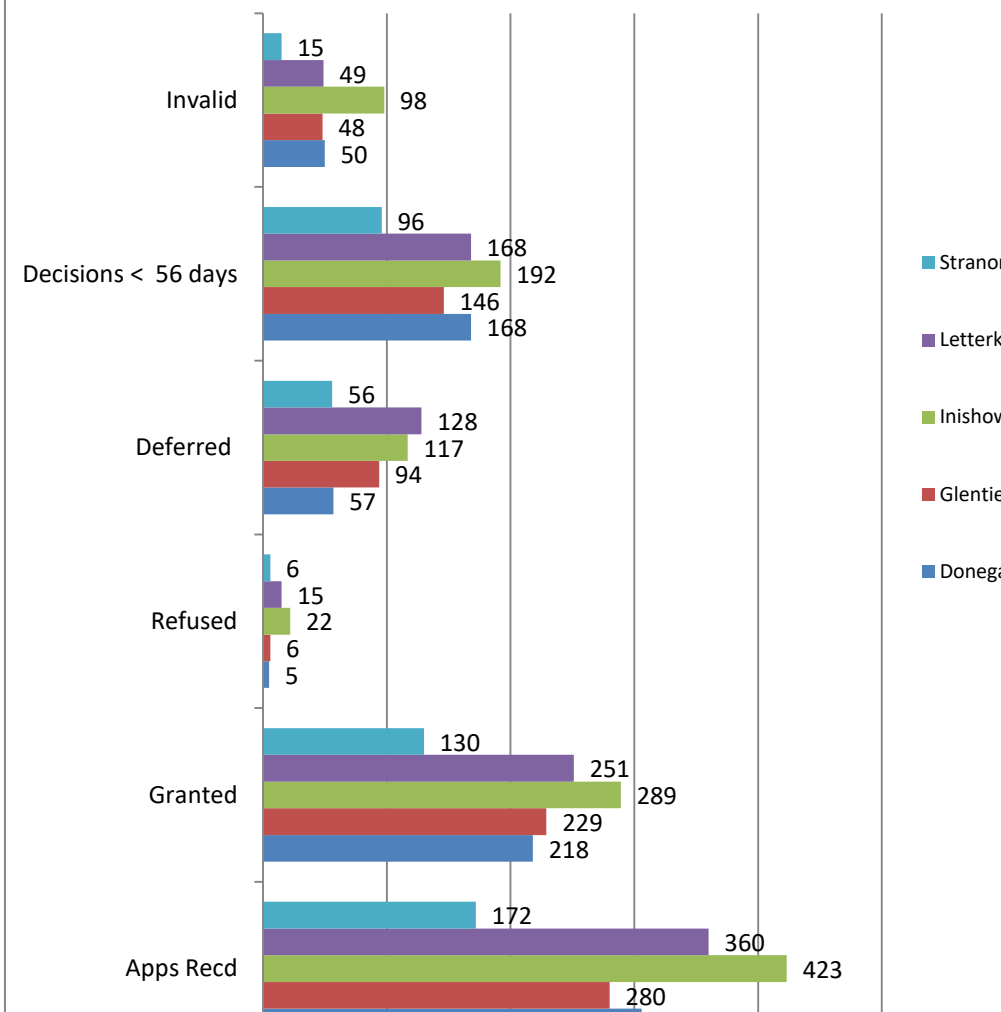
UISCE ÉIREANN IRISH WATER

**General Enquiries**  
1800 278 278

**Business Enquiries**  
0818 778 778



**Glenties MD Meeting**  
**14<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Item	Update																																										
<b>1 Development Applications</b>																																											
(1) Statistics	<p><b>Glenties MD Totals Year to End July 2021:</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="496 488 1329 719"> <tr> <td>Applications received</td> <td><b>280</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Granted</td> <td><b>229</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Refused</td> <td><b>6</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deferred</td> <td><b>94</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Decided in under 2 months</td> <td><b>146</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Invalid</td> <td><b>48</b></td> </tr> </table>	Applications received	<b>280</b>	Granted	<b>229</b>	Refused	<b>6</b>	Deferred	<b>94</b>	Decided in under 2 months	<b>146</b>	Invalid	<b>48</b>																														
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	<div data-bbox="264 741 1316 1899" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Applications to End December 2021</b></p>  <table border="1" data-bbox="287 873 1292 1881"> <caption>Applications to End December 2021 - Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Stranor</th> <th>Letterkenny</th> <th>Inishow</th> <th>Glenties</th> <th>Donegal</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Apps Recd</td> <td>172</td> <td>360</td> <td>423</td> <td>280</td> <td>206</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Granted</td> <td>130</td> <td>251</td> <td>289</td> <td>229</td> <td>218</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deferred</td> <td>56</td> <td>128</td> <td>117</td> <td>94</td> <td>57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Refused</td> <td>6</td> <td>15</td> <td>22</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Decisions &lt; 56 days</td> <td>96</td> <td>168</td> <td>192</td> <td>146</td> <td>168</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Invalid</td> <td>15</td> <td>49</td> <td>98</td> <td>48</td> <td>50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div>	Category	Stranor	Letterkenny	Inishow	Glenties	Donegal	Apps Recd	172	360	423	280	206	Granted	130	251	289	229	218	Deferred	56	128	117	94	57	Refused	6	15	22	6	5	Decisions < 56 days	96	168	192	146	168	Invalid	15	49	98	48	50
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	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="499 248 963 286"><b>Glenties MD</b></th> <th data-bbox="963 248 1342 286"><b>July 2021</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="499 286 963 324">New Cases</td> <td data-bbox="963 286 1342 324"><b>12</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="499 324 963 362">Closed Cases</td> <td data-bbox="963 324 1342 362"><b>17</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="499 362 963 443">Outstanding cases on record since 2012</td> <td data-bbox="963 362 1342 443"><b>230</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Glenties MD</b>	<b>July 2021</b>	New Cases	<b>12</b>	Closed Cases	<b>17</b>	Outstanding cases on record since 2012	<b>230</b>
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Outstanding cases on record since 2012	<b>230</b>								
<b>3 Notes &amp; Monthly Schedule</b>	<p><b>Please note pre planning clinics during the Covid-19 restrictions are on a telephone call only basis between 09.30am and 12.30pm on the dates outlined below.</b></p> <p><u>Planning Clinics:</u> 15<sup>th</sup> September 29<sup>th</sup> September 13<sup>th</sup> October 27<sup>th</sup> October</p> <p>Please see website for further dates. <a href="http://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/planningclinics/">http://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/planningclinics/</a></p>								
<b>4 Regeneration Report</b>	See Appendix A								
<b>5 Central Planning Unit</b>									
(1) <i>Letterkenny Plan and Local Transport PPlan</i>	No further updates other than to note that the programme of workshops with Members is continuing across Q3 of 2021.								
(2) <i>County Development Plan 2018-2024 (CDP 2018-2024)</i>	<p><b><u>(a) Policy Interpretation and Implementation</u></b> Following the submission of the various Working Groups' final reports in June and consideration of these reports at subsequent SPC and CPG meetings respectively, it is anticipated that these matters will be further progressed in the coming weeks in consultation with the aforementioned Committees.</p> <p><b><u>(b) Proposed Variation on Foot of Adoption of Northern and Western Regional Assembly's Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy</u></b> As per Item (a) above, and in tandem with that item, it is anticipated that this matters will be further progressed in the coming weeks in consultation with the aforementioned Committees.</p> <p><b><u>Proposed Variation re TEN-T Priority Roads Project</u></b> The Variation was made following a resolution of the Members at the Plenary Council meeting of 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2021.</p>								



		<p>The Variation is effective from that date.</p> <p><b><u>Wind Energy Policy and Proposed Variation</u></b> Following the update report submitted to the May Plenary Council meeting, at the Plenary Workshop on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2021 Members requested that MD-level Workshops be arranged to enable Members to examine the proposed wind energy mapping at the MD level and it is hope to arrange these towards the end of September.</p>
	<p><i>Casual Trading Review</i></p>	<p>A preliminary report was submitted to Members in mid-May outlining the initiation of the policy review, progress to-date and a timetable for the remainder of the project.</p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Further Information</b> <i>Click on web links to access information.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly List of applications and decisions: <a href="http://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/weeklyplanninglists/">http://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/weeklyplanninglists/</a></li> <li>• Planning service email (to be used in correspondence with the planning service): <a href="mailto:planning@donegalcoco.ie">planning@donegalcoco.ie</a></li> <li>• Planning Webpage: <a href="http://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/">www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/</a></li> <li>• Planning Application Online Query – planning reference number required: <a href="http://www.donegalcdb.ie/eplan/internetenquiry/rpt_querybysurforrecloc.asp">www.donegalcdb.ie/eplan/internetenquiry/rpt_querybysurforrecloc.asp</a></li> <li>• File Retrieval Form – to be used for file retrieval and when requesting planning searches: <a href="http://www.donegalcoco.ie/media/donegalcountyc/planning/pdfs/fileretrieval/File%20Retrieval.pdf">www.donegalcoco.ie/media/donegalcountyc/planning/pdfs/fileretrieval/File%20Retrieval.pdf</a></li> </ul>



## **APPENDIX A**



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council



Rialtas na  
hÉireann  
Government  
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**

**Regeneration & Development Team**  
**Community Development & Planning Services**

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# **September (2021) Municipal District Meetings Report to Elected Members**

## **1.0 RURAL REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (RRDF)**

### **1.1 EXISTING APPROVED CATEGORY 1 RRDF PROJECTS (2019)**

#### **1.1.1 Killybegs 2040 – A Town Centre Regeneration Project**

This project was formally launched with a Press Release on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 announcing that McCabe Architects have been appointed to deliver the new €4.84m regeneration project that will see the transformation of the town centre environment.

The Detailed Design phase has now commenced and will complete, together with the Construction Tender Process, over the next period of approximately 26 weeks. The commencement of construction is scheduled in Q4 of 2021 with a build period of approximately 52 weeks.

Given the status of the project it is proposed to seek a date for a workshop with the Members in order to provide an update on the next steps, key milestones and delivery timelines and arrangements.

#### **1.1.2 Burtonport and Aranmore Island – Harbour to Island Regeneration**

This project was launched on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021, with a ‘turning of the sod’ event on Aranmore Island when the Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council, Cllr. Rena Donaghey and Bainisteoir of the Comharchumann Oileán Árann Mhór, Ms. Nóirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh turned the sod on the new Shore Front Amenity Development at An Leadhb Gharbh, Oileán Árann Mhór.

Donegal based building contractors Joseph McMenamin & Sons (Stranorlar) Ltd have been appointed to carry out the development which has now commenced and is scheduled to complete over the next 31 weeks.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021 An Bord Pleanála confirmed the Compulsory Purchase Order authorising the compulsory acquisition of lands entitled Donegal County Council (Burtonport Harbour Redevelopment) Compulsory Purchase Order 2019 (**Board Order ABP – 306336-20 refers**). The next steps in the process are now being advanced.

Detailed design has completed and a tender for a construction contractor has opened on eTenders and is currently live.

A full update on this project will be provided to Members at the scheduled workshop at 10am on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

## 1.2 **EXISTING APPROVED CATEGORY 2 RRDF PROJECTS (2020)**

1.2.1 **Back to Ballyshannon** – A transformational project to re-energise, re-imagine and sustain the social, cultural, historical, physical and economic fabric of Ballyshannon’s historic town centre.

**Value: €247,500. (RRDF funding approved €185,625)**

**Update:** The development of the project towards a ‘shovel ready’ Category 1 RRDF project in accordance with the emerging priorities of the draft Ballyshannon Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan is advancing and detailed site survey work is nearing completion. Work has also commenced on the preparation of a Part VIII planning application in respect of this project including preliminary design concepts for the Market Yard. Publication of the Part VIII application is targeted for the end of September of this year in order to align the project with the anticipated Category 1 RRDF call for shovel ready capital projects.

1.2.2 **Ramelton Historic Town Centre** – A Restorative & Transformational Public Realm Scheme.

**Value: €249,159 (RRDF funding approved €186,869)**

**Update:** This project was formally launched with a Press Release on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 announcing the appointment of a major multidisciplinary international design practice, BDP, to deliver the Detailed Design of this project which aims to restore and transform the historic commercial centre of Ramelton through a suite of integrated and heritage led public realm interventions.

The Preliminary Design phase is now well underway which will see the advancement of this project from its current concept stage through targeted public and stakeholder consultations, Part 8 planning and detailed design to a

contract ready capital project. The anticipated completion date for the Detailed Design Stage is March 2022 which will position the project for the fourth call for Category 1 capital funding in 2022.

### **1.3 THIRD CALL FOR CATEGORY 1 PROJECTS (SHOVEL READY) UNDER THE RURAL REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT FUND (RRDF)**

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD announced that €18.8m had been awarded under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) for three (3) rural regeneration projects in County Donegal. These applications were submitted on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and were supported by match funding commitments by the Council in the sum of €2.5m.

Specifically this recent investment will help to advance the following three (3) ambitious and transformational regeneration projects:

#### **1.3.1. Ballybofey & Stranorlar**

The ‘SEED’ project – A sustainable, green regeneration project to Strengthen, Engage, Enable and Deliver transformational change in Ballybofey-Stranorlar.

This project was successfully submitted to the DRCD (RRDF) by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 in partnership with BASICC. The project has a value of €9,756,969 and funding support of €8,781,272 has been awarded from the RRDF.

Following submission to DRCD of verification of the project costs, milestones and delivery programme on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021, a Letter of Offer and Funding Agreement in respect of the project has been received on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021. These documents have been reviewed and recommended for signing and will be returned to DRCD by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021. The next steps entail an invitation from DRCD to Donegal County Council to prepare and submit a Procurement Strategy.

#### **1.3.2. Burtonport (Harbour to Island) Regeneration**

This project was successfully submitted to the DRCD (RRDF) by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020. The Project has a value of €2,060,752 and funding support of €1,854,677 has been awarded from the RRDF.

Following submission to DRCD of verification of the project costs, milestones and delivery programme on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021, a Letter of Offer and Funding Agreement in respect of the project was received on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021. These documents have been accepted, signed and returned to DRCD on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Donegal County Council has now been invited to prepare and submit a Procurement Strategy for approval and in order for the project to commence.

### 1.3.3. Carndonagh Tús Nua Regeneration Project

This project was successfully submitted to the DRCD (RRDF) by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 in partnership with Spraoi agus Spórt. The Tús Nua project has a value of €9,542,852 and funding support of €8,218,982 has been awarded from the RRDF.

Following submission to DRCD of verification of the project costs, milestones and delivery programme on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021, a Letter of Offer and Funding Agreement in respect of the project was received on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021. These documents have been accepted, signed and returned to DRCD on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Donegal County Council has now been invited to prepare and submit a Procurement Strategy for approval and in order for the project to commence.

### 1.4 **THIRD CALL FOR CATEGORY 2 PROJECTS UNDER THE RURAL REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT FUND (RRDF)**

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021 the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced the third call for Category 2 applications to the €1 billion Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. The deadline for applications presented a very challenging timeframe set at 12 noon on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The Regeneration Team developed and submitted a Category 2 application for the Tier 2A Strategic Town of Buncrana under this call entitled ‘Repowering Buncrana.’

Specifically under this Category 2 application, RRDF support is sought to procure Architect Led Full Integrated Design Team for the preliminary design, planning scheme design and detailed design of the ‘Repowering Buncrana’ regeneration project described below together with support to acquire the former Garda Barracks, St Oran’s Road and other limited acquisition of land to cater for necessary enabling works. This category 2 application, if successful, will enable the advancement of the final project to a shovel-ready status resulting in a further future Category 1 capital project application.

The ‘Repowering Buncrana’ regeneration project envisages a series of measures that will work in an integrated way to strengthen the shore front, enhance walking and cycling, provide quality shore front amenities, integrate art and biodiversity into the urban landscape and critically work to counter the disconnect between Main Street and the shore front. In addition, reuse of a vacant town centre building (Former Garda Barracks) and creation of circa 100 jobs will bring much needed employment opportunities to Buncrana as well as increasing the number of people in the town centre resulting in many spin offs for business. The suite of integrated interventions proposed to be brought through design processes at Category 2 stage include:

1. A new iconic pedestrian bridge over the Mill River connecting the NW Greenway Project and Amazing Grace Park to a transformed harbour/pier environment,
2. The creation of a high performance promenade and Shore Front Green including enhanced walkways, beach access, public realm & festival gathering space and development of a new bespoke public/civic shore green users building,
3. Enhanced connection between the new Shore Front Green environment and the Main Street and commercial core of the town with targeted public realm improvements,
4. Enhanced Shore Front walkway and promenade along the Fishing Green, with dramatic re-imaging of the Amazing Grace viewing point,
5. Onwards connection of the promenade to Swan Park, Bunrana Castle and Cockhill Road, and
6. The repurposing and extension of a vacant heritage building to create bespoke office accommodation.

The overall value of this Category 2 project (Design services and acquisition) is €1,355,865 inclusive of match funding commitment of €271,173 (20%)

A further briefing of Inishowen MD will be organised in September.

## **1.5 REGENERATION STRATEGIES & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT WORK**

The Regeneration & Development Team had undertaken with Members to progress Regeneration Strategies in a number of Tier 2 Strategic Towns as a part of our work programme. This work has been progressing through in house resources and capacities together with consultancy services. An update on this area of the work programme is provided hereinunder:

### **1.5.1 Ramelton Action Plan**

The Ramelton Action Plan was formally launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020.

The Plan can be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.donegalcoco.ie/media/donegalcountyc/planning/pdfs/rameltonactionplan/Ramelton%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

### **1.5.2 Killybegs Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan**

The Killybegs Regeneration Strategy was formally launched on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and is available at <https://bit.ly/KillybegsRegStrat>. It has also been circulated across Donegal County Council Directorates and to key stakeholders.



The Strategy was commissioned by the Killybegs Regeneration Group in conjunction with Donegal County Council and was funded by BIM, FLAG with match funding by Donegal County Council. Its delivery was led by Pasparakis Friel Architects with the support and input of the Council's Community Development Section and the Regeneration and Development Team.

The Killybegs Regeneration Strategy is an ambitious vision and urban design proposition for the town centre. It proposes 11 projects across the town centre including enhancements to the town centre urban realm to create streets for people, business and the community, a river walk, a boardwalk along the coast, a weighbridge coffee house, reuse of part of the striking Auction Hall building as a craft beer brewery and enhancement of the northern arrival to the town through a Welcome Quarter and grand staircase to St Mary's Church. It sits alongside the secured RRDF investment of €4.8million for the redevelopment of Island House and the creation of a new civic space.

### **1.5.3 Ballybofey-Stranorlar Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan**

The Draft Regeneration Strategy was made available from Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 for public consultation, closing initially on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Having regard to the restrictions arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and resultant limitation on holding of events/ gatherings, the consultation period was extended to 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The extension was accompanied by a further concerted effort, assisted by Community Development to encourage public participation in the project including circulation of posters to circa 20 businesses in the towns together with a substantial social media presence and article in the Donegal News.

The submissions are currently being tabulated but include circa 15 submissions through a combination of the wider public, statutory agencies and internal DCC comments. A short report on the submissions will now be prepared including identification of potential appropriate amendments to the draft and this will be brought to a workshop of Stranorlar-Lifford MD.

### **1.5.4 Ballyshannon Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan**

The Draft Ballyshannon Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan was made available for public consultation from Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July until Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September. A number of notifications of the consultation period were issued via the local press and on social media and a number of submission options were made available to engage the community via the project website, the project Facebook and Twitter pages, an online public consultation event held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021, and targeted consultations with local stakeholders including the Ballyshannon Regeneration Group and Erne Enterprises.

Work has now commenced to integrate the feedback and observations arising from the various consultations and to amend and finalise the Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan for Ballyshannon Town Centre. It is anticipated that

endorsement of the final Strategy & Action Plan by the Donegal Municipal District will be sought by the end of September 2021 and thereafter the Ballyshannon Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan will be formally launched.

#### **1.5.5 An Clochán Liath (Dungloe) Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan**

Stage 1 of the project has now completed following the submission of the Final Stage 1 Report entitled ‘An Clochán Liath (Dungloe) Town Centre Baseline Profile’ to the Regeneration and Development Team at the end of May 2021 and as was presented to the Elected Members of the Glenties MD at a workshop on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Work on the preparation of the draft An Clochán Liath (Dungloe) Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan is now well underway and it is anticipated that Stage 2 of the project will be completed by the end of September 2021.

It expected that the draft Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan will be published in early October 2021 and will be made available for public consultation thereafter. Prior to publication a workshop will be held with Members and the Regeneration Team will make the necessary arrangements directly at a Municipal District level.

#### **1.5.6 Rathmullan RRDF Project Development work**

The tender to procure fully integrated design team services to advance this project through consultation and Part VIII planning opened on eTenders on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and closed on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021. The tender assessment process is now underway and is at an advanced stage.

Updates will be provided to the Elected Members of the Letterkenny & Milford Municipal District at an agreed future workshop and through Municipal District Reporting.

## **2.0 URBAN REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (URDF)**

### **2.1 Successful application to the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (May 2020)**

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O’Brien TD announced that €13.6m has been awarded under the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF) for the URDF application Letterkenny 2040 (Phase 1) ‘Re-energise and Connect the Historic Town Centre’. This application was submitted on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and is supported by match funding committed by the Council in the sum of €4.5m.

Specifically this new investment will help to advance five projects to varying stages of development with a focus on the transition of the historic town centre to a vibrant, accessible and livable place.

The projects relate to priority areas for regeneration and development including:

- The further enhancement of the Cathedral Quarter
- The re-purposing of the Courthouse
- Strategic land assembly towards:
  - Regeneration of Lower Main Street
  - Advancement of a Regional Transport Hub
- Enhancement of 'LK Green Connect,' walking, cycling and parkland infrastructure.

Following early engagement with the DHLGH in respect of funding drawdown arrangements and due diligence on funding approval conditions, a Preliminary Approval Letter has been received on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021. This includes a requirement by DHLGH to complete and provide 'Project Financial Tables', identifying milestones and any potential risks together with associated funding plans and expenditure/grant drawdown profiles. In addition, DHLGH also recommend review and update where necessary of previously submitted indicative estimates of project costs to ensure that same adequately reflect the present estimated holistic total cost for the approved proposal over its whole lifecycle. This work is targeted to be complete and returned to DHLGH by 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

The communication from DHLGH further outlines the next steps following completion of Project Financial Tables as:

- The preparation and submission by Donegal County Council of a Preliminary Business Case in accordance with the Public Spending Code and;
- A Project Action Plan Meeting with DHLGH to discuss and consider the plans for the advancement of the approved proposal, in particular with a view to determining timelines and delivery milestones and also the level of related URDF funding required for 2021 and beyond.

## **2.2 Existing approved URDF project in Letterkenny (application submitted 2018; final approval to proceed received September 2019)**

This first application secured €1.9m in URDF monies, match funded by €600,000 for three sub-projects, the detail and progress of which is set out below:

### **(i) Preparation of a Regeneration Strategy for Letterkenny Town Centre.**

The process to prepare Letterkenny 2040 Regeneration Strategy commenced on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 by means of a workshop with Letterkenny-Milford MD facilitated by the lead consultant for the project, The Paul Hogarth Company.

The MD workshop was followed by launch of the first phase of public engagement on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 until 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Following the close of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of consultation, a number of steps/ workshops have been progressed as follows:

- The consultancy team analysed the findings of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of consultation and presented these at a workshop of Letterkenny-Milford MD on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- A workshop of Letterkenny-Milford MD was held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 in order to update Members further on the project and focused discussion around a Regional Transport Hub was specifically facilitated.
- A town centre walk-around with Letterkenny-Milford MD took place on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 during which the sub-projects approved URDF funding in principle as regards concepts were visited and the wider Regeneration Strategy was discussed.
- A workshop of Letterkenny-Milford MD was held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021 during which The Paul Hogarth Company presented emerging components of the draft masterplan to the Members and at which there was consensus to proceed to work up the emerging components in more detail in order to work towards appropriate material for public consultation in September/ October 2021. A further MD workshop was agreed for 16<sup>th</sup> September at 10am.

During the month of August, the consultancy team has continued to develop the emerging components of the draft masterplan in more detail and will present further more detailed material to Members at our scheduled workshop on 16<sup>th</sup> September. The next step thereafter, subject to Members endorsement will be to advance to public consultation on the draft masterplan.

**(ii) Acquisition of key town centre regeneration site.**

Works to progress interests in the key regeneration site approved by DoHLG for acquisition continues with intent. Progress has been affected by the National public health emergency and negotiations are subject to Covid related restrictions. The Elected Members of Letterkenny-Milford MD will be updated on progress and timelines as definitive steps and milestone are reached.

Alongside acquisition steps and as outlined during the recent walk- around of Letterkenny, the Paul Hogarth Company, under the auspices of the Letterkenny 2040 Regeneration Strategy project has undertaken site specific masterplanning of the key town centre regeneration site in relation to its capacity, potential layout and form for a mixed use development in line with the terms of the URDF support secured for acquisition of the site. This work will inform the subsequent preparation of Part VIII proposals and will support the process for acquisition This work is largely complete and a workshop of Letterkenny- Milford MD will be arranged to brief Members in more detail.

**(iii) Public realm in the area of the Public Services Centre and Joe Bonnar Rd**

Detailed design of the public realm approved has been carried out using in-house architectural resources and is now complete. The Tender for Construction Contractor opened on E-tenders on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and closes on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Documentation outlining the detail design is being circulated to Members for information. Members will be kept up-to-date as the Tender process progresses.

**2.3 Update in relation to an Architectural Competition to Re-imagine Market Square, Letterkenny.**

Following the briefing to the Letterkenny-Milford MD workshop on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021, Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce announced the winning design on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 as that of Joseph McCallion. This marks the completion of the architectural competition.

The winning design concept provides a solid basis from which more detailed work will be undertaken to consult directly with key stakeholders and the wider community and further develop and adapt the winning design so that it is achievable and can be implemented effectively. This work will lead to a more definitive design in relation to Part VIII planning consent and this will include further engagement with Members in advance of publication of any Part VIII scheme.

**2.4 Letterkenny Cultural Corridor project**

Letterkenny's cultural partners (Donegal County Museum, the Regional Cultural Centre and An Grianan Theatre) secured funding from the Irish Architectural Foundations 'Re-imagine' project to undertake the Letterkenny Cultural Corridor project in 2020.

To date, the project architects have developed a number of short term and temporary sign posting interventions which have been installed to improve and enhance the existing physical connection between the three institutions.

The more long term aspirations of the project to provide a new and more direct physical link between the three cultural institutions was presented to a workshop of Letterkenny-Milford MD on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Following this, the team engaged further with the local stakeholders with particular reference to Letterkenny Tennis Club to explore the potential to coordinate the project with the objectives and aspirations of the Tennis Club. To facilitate this engagement, a detailed topographical survey has been carried out of the area and the architects are now exploring access arrangements further. Importantly, there are ongoing discussions in relation to site boundaries which are required to be closed out. Once these discussions are closed out and the explorative work is complete, a full options briefing will be brought to Letterkenny-

Milford MD together with clarity on a recommended pathway to part VIII in respect of the Cultural Corridor.

## **2.5. Letterkenny Parklets (Town & Village Renewal)**

At the Letterkenny-Milford MD workshop on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021, Members agreed three locations for parklets subject to sufficient funding as follows: Forecourt at An Grianan, A-Wear, the old Courthouse. The Community Development section is now leading on design, manufacture and installation of the parklets with the support of the Regeneration and Development Team. Having regard to realistic and practical timescales, it is targeted that parklets will be installed around October 2021.

## **2.6 Failte Ireland's, 'Weather Proofing and Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme.'**

A funding application in respect of the public space to the front of An Grianan Theatre was submitted on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to the Failte Ireland, 'Weather Proofing and Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme.' The application was developed jointly by the Community Development section and the Regeneration and Development Team. The design concept prepared by the Paul Hogarth Company together with detailed costings provided by Sammon Quantity Surveyors was developed in consultation with the Board of An Grianan Theatre and other hospitality businesses in the area. A copy of the design concept was circulated to Members by email on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and was followed by discussion during the walk-around on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021. A further follow up with An Grianan and other hospitality businesses in the area will be undertaken. The Community Development Section have been in further communication with Failte Ireland around a number of more detailed areas of the application however a formal decision on the application by Failte Ireland is anticipated to be imminent.

**Regeneration & Development Team  
September 2021.**



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

**Economic Development, Information Systems &  
Emergency Services Directorate**

**MD Report September 2021 - Glenties**

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# 1. Division: Economic Development (September, 2021)

## 1.1 Division: Economic Development – Economic Development Unit

### Project / Activity Report

Title	Economic Development Unit
<b>Outline of Work</b>	<p>The Economic Development Unit proactively engages in economic development opportunities, supporting job creation and strategic investment in Donegal and is focusing on the following areas of work:</p> <p><b>#LoveDonegal:</b> This year's #LoveDonegal Day campaign, which took place on August 18<sup>th</sup>, had a huge response across all social media platforms with the hashtag #LoveDonegal trending on Twitter for two days, as well as #DúnnanGallAbú, and reaching over 16 million social media users across the globe.</p> <p>More local businesses and entrepreneurs from across all sectors in Donegal got involved with this year's campaign, downloading and using the #LoveDonegal logos and creatives for their own marketing use across social media platforms including instagram and twitter.</p> <p>This year's campaign focused on several key areas to showcase the rich and unique offering Donegal has including remote working, doing business here, studying in Donegal, the culture, the people, the different communities and relocating to Donegal.</p> <p>#LoveDonegal also had a large media presence in the lead up and on the day with interviews and advertising on Highland Radio, Raidió na Gaeltachta, Ocean FM, The Irish Times and local print media.</p> <p><b>#BuyDonegal:</b> The 2020 #BuyDonegal campaign has been nominated for a Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards for Promoting Economic Development. The award ceremony hosted by Mary Kennedy will take place on Thursday, 18 November 2021.</p> <p>Preparations are also underway for the 2021 campaign which will once again take place on the first weekend in November and run until the end of December. There will once again be a strong marketing campaign to support #BuyDonegal and we are in the process of updating the website buydonegal.com which will integrate with our new Donegal.ie site, to go</p>



live in the coming weeks.

Last year over 250 businesses across Donegal supported the #BuyDonegal initiative and the 2021 campaign will look to expand upon this number and benefit the Donegal economy during this important trading period.

**Economic Development Covid-19 Recovery:** The Unit is continuing to be proactive in supporting businesses during this Covid-19 pandemic and activities include:

**The Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality**

**Business Scheme:** The focus of this scheme is to provide a level of financial support to tourism and hospitality businesses, in our town centres, to purchase or upgrade equipment to provide additional outdoor seating to create outdoor dining experiences in a regulated and accessible manner. Funding under the scheme is only available to existing businesses.

This scheme is open to attractions, hotels, restaurants, cafes, public houses or other tourism and hospitality business establishments. It is eligible to those premises that have no commercial rates outstanding to Donegal County Council or have a payment plan in place.

- The Scheme opened 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and will close 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 4pm.
- Expenditure must be incurred between 1st April 2020 and 30th September 2021.
- The scheme will provide for up to 75% of the ex-VAT cost of equipment purchased/installed with a maximum allowable contribution of up to €4,000 per applicant.
- A total of 259 completed applications have been received with 37 grants paid out to date.

**Communications on business supports:** The EDU is proactively promoting and sharing information on the various supports available to businesses at this time including supports available through LEO, Enterprise Ireland, Failte Ireland and various Councils

initiatives on all our platform including Donegal County Council and Invest Donegal platforms.

**Concierge Service:**

Existing businesses, potential business start-ups or businesses looking to relocate or wishing to expand and who need advice on accessing a wide range of Council services and supports, can contact the Business Concierge Service by email

[economicdevelopment@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:economicdevelopment@donegalcoco.ie). To date this year there have been 36 queries processed through the system.

**Property Solutions:** involves identification, marketing, option appraisal of Council owned property and land for economic development opportunities including provision of soft landing and second site location opportunities for business. The Unit is progressing 11 queries of property solution opportunities in various locations across the county.

**Remote Working:** On the 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2021, The EDU organised and hosted an online event called 'Working in Donegal' which presented a number of panellists speaking about their experiences relocating and remote working in Donegal, and the EDU speaking about the 'Donegal Remote Working Strategy for Business', which was officially launched June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

This event proved to be very successful with 142 registrations for the event. The event also showcased the opportunities and benefits of working remotely in Donegal, and the impact on quality of life it can have.

The EDU are also working with the Grow Remote Chapters in Donegal and Arranmore on the development of a pilot app which will assist prospective remote workers in finding information and digital hub facilities, remote working resources, and an established network of remote workers.

The EDU collaborate and engage with various Innovation and Digital Hubs in Donegal and Connected Hubs to ensure that relevant and pertinent information on funding opportunities, marketing and promotion assistance, infrastructure improvements, etc are clearly communicated and supported.

The EDU is engaging with Donegal ETB on the development and the roll out of their new remote working training this September which will facilitate individuals seeking employment via remote working, and also

established remote workers and teams.

**Caravan & Camping Study:** KPMG Future Analytics is continuing to work on a study of the Caravan & Camping sector in Donegal with a view to making recommendations on the future development of this sector. A number of surveys have been conducted as part of this study with a large number of responses:

- Camper van/motorhome survey: 1195 responses
- Campsite Owner Survey: 61 responses
- Public Survey: 1792 responses

In addition to the above surveys there have been one to one indepth interviews and focus groups with various stakeholders including the elected members. The research team have also received a number of indepth submissions and these are also being considered as part of the study. A first draft of the study has been received and is currently being considered by the Economic Development Unit.

**Alpha Innovation Centre:** The project will support businesses and early idea entrepreneurs to develop their innovation capability and business resilience post Brexit and post Covid. The recruitment of the innovation team is being progressed. The position of Head of Innovation is currently being promoted through various social media and employment platforms.

**InvestDonegal Communications Update:** Latest key stats for the InvestDonegal LinkedIn and Twitter (@DonegalInvest) accounts are as follows;

	Impressions (last 28 days)	Total Followers
Linked In	71,100 (+19%)	2,519 (+212)
Twitter	222,000 (+93%)	1,476(+74)
Donegal.ie	2K Web Users +19% (4 weeks 29 July – 25 August 21 v prior period)	

10 News Items Published

The EDU continue to inform businesses of the range of government supports alongside insightful business and original content features.

	<p>In addition to the above accounts, the EDU works closely with the Council’s Communications Office to share information on the Councils corporate social media channels.</p> <p>The EDU thanks Elected Members for their continued engagement with InvestDonegal on our social platforms</p> <p><b>Global engagement:</b> work is continuing to proactively target potential FDI opportunities in the US market in collaboration with Derry City &amp; Strabane District Council and working to create a Donegal/North West bias for businesses interested in exploring investment opportunities in the EU and UK. Both Councils are currently overseeing a two tender process to procure a company to develop an Inward Investment strategy for the North West City region and a service provider for the development of a Talent Solution for the North West City Region.</p> <p><b>Collaboration:</b> Working with our colleagues in Community Development and Planning Services to progress a range of strategic projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of RRDF projects were developed and submitted in July 2021.</li> </ul> <p><b>Atlantic Economic Corridor:</b> working with Local Authority partners along the western coast to progress mutually beneficial projects and initiatives.</p> <p>The EDU supported recent successful applications received totalling approximately €300,000 to the Connected Hubs funding, which was available to already established hubs. The successful applicants were Mevagh Family Resource Centre, the BASE Enterprise Centre in Stranorlar, gTeic @ Cill Charthaigh, the Business Hub in Letterkenny, Cowork Plus An Tearmann and Spraioi agus Spórt in Carndonagh.</p> <p>The Western Development Commission continue to promote an online booking engine for hubs <a href="http://www.Connectedhub.ie">www.Connectedhub.ie</a>, the EDU are facilitating local hubs to sign up to this facility.</p>
<p><b>Contact Person</b></p>	<p>Ciaran Martin - <a href="mailto:ciarane.martin@donegalcoco.ie">ciarane.martin@donegalcoco.ie</a> (086) 8261760</p> <p>Rosita Mahony – <a href="mailto:rosita.mahony@donegalcoco.ie">rosita.mahony@donegalcoco.ie</a> (087) 2510128</p>

## 1.2 Division: Economic Development – Tourism Marketing Unit

### 2 Project / Activity Report

Title	<b>Tourism Marketing Unit. Go Visit Donegal - Digital and Online Marketing.</b> <b>Data range: May and June 2021</b>											
Outline of Work	<p><b>Year to Date Stats *as of 28<sup>th</sup> June</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="441 464 1243 600"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Numbers</th> <th>Performance vs 2020</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Page Views</b></td> <td>221,487</td> <td>Up 81.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Users</b></td> <td>78,550</td> <td>Up 70%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Traffic came from 158 countries in total. Top Ten Countries include: Ireland, UK, USA, Germany, China, Canada, Netherlands, France, Australia.</p> <p><b>Golf in Donegal Campaign-</b> 14th June – 26th July 2021 inclusive (6 weeks). This is a domestic marketing campaign, targeting visitors from across the island of Ireland, to include NI visitors. The primary target audience for the campaign are golfers living on the island of Ireland who will potentially have an interest in experiencing what Donegal has to offer golfing enthusiasts. This campaign is integrated across channels in NI and ROI and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional PR campaign, targeting regional media and travel media</li> <li>- Paid-for media in NI and ROI</li> <li>- In-house digital campaign (govisitdonegal.com &amp; Google Ads).</li> </ul> <p>Work carried out in advance of the campaign incl. engagement with the trade regarding upload of offers on the govisitdonegal.com website, development of online assets, set up of campaigns.</p> <p><b>Printed media</b> - Articles to be published across a number of leading golfing publications. These articles will be drawn from a selection specially produced for this campaign featuring a list of Donegal golfing ambassadors, and may be duplicated across a number of publications. All articles produced will be published on IrishGolfDesk.com.</p> <p><b>Outdoor Dining</b> - Tourism Unit reached out the trade and tourism group in the county and put together a list of restaurants/cafés that offer outdoor dining seating across Donegal. Places are listed by location &amp; mapped by IS Department of Donegal CoCo. Providers can contact Tourism Unit directly to get their business included. There are over 90 businesses listed is promoted via social media: <a href="https://www.govisitdonegal.com/outdoor-dining">https://www.govisitdonegal.com/outdoor-dining</a></p>				Numbers	Performance vs 2020	<b>Page Views</b>	221,487	Up 81.7%	<b>Users</b>	78,550	Up 70%
	Numbers	Performance vs 2020										
<b>Page Views</b>	221,487	Up 81.7%										
<b>Users</b>	78,550	Up 70%										

**New Donegal place brand-** Go Visit Donegal brand has embraced the new logo on the website and across social media platforms following the last Donegal Tourism Board meeting.

- Staycation feature in the Public Service Magazine - (June 2021).
- Belfast Telegraph advertising - Full page advert on June 25th.
- Family Life will cover areas such as Fun Days Out, giving you a choice of places to take the family, eat & shop.

**Partnership with Eoghan Corry & Destination Ireland** - Donegal Tourism engaged in a summer promotion with Destination Ireland. They offer waves of promotions throughout a summer partnership to include digital promotions via Destination Ireland Guide, Eoghan Corry Vodcast interview via Vimeo, Podcast via Soundcloud / iTunes / Spotify etc, and regular posts directly to 20K+ followers on social media. They will also be using the promotion channels of their sister company, Destination Golf Travel, which is the World's Best Golf Travel Magazine.

**City of Derry Airport** - Engaging with the City of Derry Airport – providing brochures and submitting content for their website for cross-promotions.

**Social media** – ongoing promotions across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter promoting Donegal as a county with focus on each of the MD Regions

**Irish Legends Golfing Event** - Hosted by the McGinley Foundation at Rosapenna Hotel and Golf Resort, na Dúnaibh/Downings. The weekend kicked off with a Celebrity Series Pro Am with stars such as Keith Wood, James Nesbitt, Mike Tindall, Georgie Bingham, Daniel O'Donnell, Niall Quinn, Michael Murphy and others getting a chance to experience the old Tom Morris course with the likes of Paul Lawrie, Ian Woosnam, Mauricio Molina and Thomas Bjørn who won the Legends Tour title after a play off with Philip Price. This was a very successful event which showcased some of the great golf that Donegal has to offer. Highlights of the tournament were broadcast on Sky Sports Golf on Wednesday 25 August. As a result of Covid-19 restrictions spectators were not allowed at the event. However the Irish Legends will be returning to the Rosapenna in 2022 and will hopefully include a festival for the community.

**TIDE – Atlantic Network for Developing Historical Maritime Tourism** - The objective is to develop a niche historical maritime tourism package for Atlantic based on connecting & marketing assets from historical period across different regions. Three Pilot themes have been agreed by the Donegal Stakeholders – Napoleonic Era, Spanish Armada & World War 1. World War 2 & Emigration will be promoted through the TIDE Platform.

**Donegal Tourism Strategy 2021-2025** - Tourism Development International has been appointed by Donegal County Council to develop a new 5 year tourism strategy for the County. Stage 2 has been completed and work is ongoing for the final Stage 3.

**International marketing of Donegal, Sligo and Mayo implementation plan**

Draft implementation plan for the international marketing of Ireland’s North West provided for three partnering local authorities by DHR

Communications consistent with strategic tourism planning in the North West region, bringing together the shared priorities of the counties’ tourism strategies. Research and consultations shaped this plan include group consultations with tourism trade (one per county), One-to-one interviews with national tourism experts and policy makers, group consultation with senior management in each local authority, an online survey of stakeholders which generated 157 responses. A list of objectives and recommendations has been set out to successfully market the region and this information will feed into the full cooperation project which is currently being worked on.

**Donegal Tourism Marketing Campaign – Reset, Rediscover and Reconnect - Domestic Campaign**

- Three new destination videos and a photo bank of 170 images were produced over the summer months that showcase the breath and beauty of Donegal. The Tourism Unit commissioned the creative company MMGY to produce these video which promote defined tourism themes that deliver a marketing message unique to the market segments identified by Fáilte Ireland with equal promotional representation for all regions the county. The campaign - Reset, Reconnect, Rediscover campaign will be rolled out in autumn and will be executed across TV, Radio, Press, PR, Social and Digital.

**North West Tourism Product Development Programme** - The mentoring is still ongoing with a number of tourism businesses as part of this programme

	<p>and is due to complete in mid September. We are currently working with the Tourism section of Derry Strabane District Council to deliver a Halloween event to help promote the region. This aim of this is to expand the Derry Halloween activity into Donegal.</p> <p><b>Other</b> - Managing Donegal Tourism LinkedIn account. Submitting Tidy Towns team application for this year and planning ahead for collaboration ideas for tourism initiatives. Working with Donegal County Council on the communal outdoor dining project. Town Team working with DCC for ongoing Failte Ireland Destination Town project.</p>
<b>Contact Person</b>	<p>Barney Mc Laughlin  Head of Tourism Unit  <a href="mailto:barney.mclaughlin@donegalcoco.ie">barney.mclaughlin@donegalcoco.ie</a>  074 9724465</p>

### **1.3 Division: Economic Development – Trail Gazers Bid Project**

#### **Project / Activity Report**

<b>Activity / Project Title.</b>	Trail Gazers Bid Project.
<b>Activity / Project Description.</b>	‘To quantify the return to the local economy for every euro invested in walks and recreational trail infrastructure. ‘
<b>Budget.</b>	€2.6 M
<b>Outline of Work.</b>	<p>In 2018, Donegal County Council’s Research &amp; Policy Unit successfully led an application to the Atlantic Area Programme under objective 4.2 ‘ Enhancing natural and cultural assets to stimulate economic development’. This transnational project is managed by Donegal County Council (Lead Partner), working with 9 different partners located across Ireland, UK, France, Spain and Portugal.</p> <p>The project sets out to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantify the impact key strategic investments in walks and recreational trail infrastructure can have on stimulating rural communities, using sensors data, counters, surveys of users, businesses, communities etc.</li> <li>• Develop and trial a range of practical initiatives and interventions such as business to consumer initiatives, digital marketing tools etc to enhance the return.</li> <li>• Work with communities, businesses and other key stakeholders in the area to develop community plans and initiatives around the site.</li> <li>• Develop a range of community trail ambassadors to champion the</li> </ul>



	<p>sites as catalysts for the development of rural economies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply the key learning and methodology from our research site – Inch Levels - to other sites in the county and region through an extensive capitalisation programme.</li> </ul> <p><b>SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS:</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.trailgazers.eu">www.trailgazers.eu</a></p> <p>Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/TrailgazersB">www.facebook.com/TrailgazersB</a></p> <p>Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/TrailGazers">twitter.com/hashtag/TrailGazers</a></p> <p>Instagram: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/trail.gazers">www.instagram.com/trail.gazers</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/trailgazers">https://www.linkedin.com/company/trailgazers</a></p> <p>#TrailGazers</p> <p><b>PROGRESS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-site user surveys were conducted at Inch in late June/early July and involved over 100 participants. The data derived from these surveys will be used to establish site user needs and business/site development opportunities.</li> <li>• Workshops to progress the development of the Trail Gazers app were held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July.</li> <li>• A ‘Spin and Chat event’ will be held at Inch as part of Bike Week 2021 (12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September).</li> <li>• Meetings scheduled for September include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Monthly Coordination meeting – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September;</li> <li>(ii) Steering Committee Meeting – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September;</li> <li>(iii) Project Monitoring Committee Meeting – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Work is ongoing in relation to identifying other trail sites and catchment areas in Donegal that can benefit from the learning and outputs from Trail Gazers.</li> </ul>
<b>Contact Person.</b>	<p>Colin Mc Nulty  086 8057810  <a href="mailto:cmcnulty@donegalcoco.ie">cmcnulty@donegalcoco.ie</a></p>

## 1.4 Division: Economic Development – Strategic Funding Unit

### Project / Activity Report

<b>Title</b>	<b>Strategic Funding Unit</b> – exploring EU and National Funding Opportunities that support the objectives set out in the <b>Donegal County Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024</b>
<b>Outline of Work</b>	<p><b>SFU Webinar September 2021</b></p> <p>The next in the SFU series of webinars takes place on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 starting at 9.30am. The Strategic Funding Unit September webinar will cover the latest news on funding programmes and project development opportunities. Christopher Parker, Programme Manager for Project Development Support from the NPA (Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme) and Liz Gavin from EUR Digital Village will provide an overview of the latest funding programmes and calls opening in the coming weeks. This webinar will look at our various Directorate Strategic Objectives and to which funding programmes we can best align to achieve tangible results from future projects.</p> <p><a href="#">Registration via Zoom is available here</a></p> <p><b>URBACT Playful Paradigm</b></p> <p>The Strategic Funding Unit has successfully applied for membership of the URBACT Playful Paradigm EU wide network which looks at innovative ways to develop public spaces for a variety of uses. As part of this project, a study visit to Cork City will take place in September 2021 with a view to learning more about the innovative public space schemes that have been rolled out in the city. The knowledge gained through URBACT will then be factored into the Masterplan for Donegal Town Pier and the Diamond.</p> <p><b>IABCN Membership</b></p> <p>In July 2021, Donegal County Council joined the IABCN (Irish American Business Chamber Network) with the aim of developing partnerships in the US and attracting inward investment to Donegal. IABCN is based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and promotes the common business interests of its members by seeking to develop economic and educational relationships between and among Irish and American members of the business community. IABCN has 300 + members across 8 US states, the UK, Northern Ireland and Ireland. The Council will avail</p>

	<p>of opportunities to promote Donegal through participation at events and networking.</p> <p><b>EU Belong Project Approved</b></p> <p>The EU Belong project has been successfully funded under the Asylum, Migration and Integration fund in the amount of €1.5 million. The SFU is currently working on the partnership agreement and early stage preparations before handover of the project to the Social Inclusion Unit in Donegal County Council for delivery. The EU-BELONG project will be led by the Assembly of European Regions and a partnership of 11 Regions, 3 technical partners. The expected impact of the Action is to improve migrants' socio-economic inclusion and sense of belonging through the development of Regional integration strategies based on a strong intercultural approach.</p> <p><b>Project Partnership &amp; Development</b></p> <p>The SFU is currently exploring several partnership and project development opportunities with various network partners/consortiums in several key areas such as climate change, health/wellbeing, habitat/species preservation, skills/education and culture.</p> <p><b>Other areas of work included:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Funding Programme Reviews</li> <li>• Participation in project scoping meetings with potential partners</li> <li>• Participation in EU network meetings such as CPMR, AER etc.</li> <li>• Funding Needs Analysis of Council Divisions</li> <li>• Strategic Funding Webinars</li> <li>• Regular Strategic Funding Newsletters</li> </ul>
<b>Contact Person</b>	<p><b>Joy Harron</b>  <b>Acting Senior Staff Officer</b>  <b>Mobile: +353 (87) 0619360</b>  <b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:joyharron@donegalcoco.ie">joyharron@donegalcoco.ie</a></b></p>

## **2. Local Enterprise Office**

### **Project / Activity Report**

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	<b>The Local Enterprise Office (LEO)</b>
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	<p>The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) as part of the Economic Development, IS &amp; Emergency Services Directorate, is the “first stop shop” for anyone planning, starting or growing a small business in Donegal. The LEO plays a major role in offering expertise, know-how and financial support to local small businesses, enabling them to grow and thrive. Supports available can be categorised under 4 core pillars, notably Business Advice, Financial, Capability Development, Enterprise Promotion and Economic &amp; Other initiatives.</p>
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<p><b>Outline of Work</b></p>	<p><b>General Overview:</b></p> <p>Demand for the services of the Local Enterprise Office has remained high to date in 2021. The sense of confidence and resilience demonstrated by the businesses has been key to overcoming current challenges from Brexit and the covid situation.</p> <p>Many established businesses we deal with are continuing to invest and progress plans, whilst there are a growing number of people contacting the office with the view to setting up a business. This can be because of a review of their current situation due to covid or that they feel the time is right to progress an idea. This is evident through the number of enquiries and those that are taking up the Start Your Own Business Courses and Online Training.</p> <p>The office will continue to support those businesses facing the challenges of Covid through mentoring and business advice – mostly in relation to funding supports and sustainability of the business.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Covid Specific Supports:</b> Key Covid specific supports which still active or being drawn down through the local enterprise office are</p> <p><b>Mentoring:</b></p> <p>Between 3 and 12 hours of free one-to-one mentoring can be applied for by any business seeking assistance in addressing COVID -19 issues. It can be applied via this online link – <a href="#">Online application</a></p> <p><b>Progress:</b> To date in 2021, 71 COVID - Mentoring applications have</p>
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been approved. In 2020, 136 mentoring supports were approved.

**Covid - Trading Online Voucher Scheme:** The Covid specific scheme was available on applications received up to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2020, the rate of support was 90% on expenditure up to a value of €2500. This greatly helped many businesses reach new customers while their physical business was closed to the public.

**Progress:**

COVID TOV's approved **520**

Paid out to date - **482** COVID TOV's to a value of **€1,139,477.33**

**Microfinance Ireland Loan for COVID-19**

The **COVID 19 Business Loan** from Microfinance Ireland (MFI) in association with the Local Enterprise Office is a government funded initiative to support small businesses through the current period of uncertainty and protect job creation/sustainment in Ireland. Loans up to €25,000 are available with a reduced interest fee of 4.5% as opposed to 5.5% available, if the application is submitted via the Local Enterprise Office. Interest Free and Repayment Fee for 6 months is available. For more information, click [here](#).

***Progress: During 2020 25 applications were submitted to MFI via the Local Enterprise Office of which 15 were approved. In 2021 five applications have been received and 3 submitted to MFI.***

*In addition, there is a **COVID–19 Working Capital Loan available from SBCI**. This is for eligible businesses impacted by COVID-19. Loans from €25,000 up to €1.5m will be available at reduced rates (max 4%), with up to the first €500,000 unsecured. Applications can be made through the SBCI website <https://sbci.gov.ie/>.*

**Brexit Specific Supports:**

**Scorecards and Checklists**

Scorecards and checklists are available to assess how a business may be impacted by Brexit.

**Mentoring**

One-to-one advice and guidance from an experienced mentor to deal with Brexit Related issues. The key challenge being raised by businesses

is the increased requirements in dealing with customs related activities due to Brexit.

**Customs Training**

Customs change is here and the workshops help businesses adapt. Hundreds of local businesses have participated in the workshops in 2020 with further Workshops scheduled monthly. A workshop took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August. The next workshop is scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> of September – bookings taken [here](#).

**Ready for Customs Grant**

Ready for Customs grant will assist businesses increase its capacity to manage the customs process after 1st January 2021. Up to €9,000 is available for each new Full Time employee engaged in Customs work.

**Brexit Readiness Checker**

*The Brexit Readiness Checker develops a personalised report to help businesses prepare for Brexit.*

**Brexit Stimulus Package Programmes – Update**

The Brexit Stimulus Programmes is made up five core topics. as outlined previously .Further information about programmes is available [here](#)

	<b>Status</b>	<b>No of Participants</b>
<b>Retail Programme</b>	Training & Mentoring Complete	36 Donegal businesses
<b>Green for Micro</b>	Phase 1 Complete, Phase 2 started.	19 phase one recipients, 2 of 10 phase 2 applications received.
<b>Export Programme</b>	Training & Mentoring complete. Final reports submitted.	9 Donegal businesses.
<b>Finance Programme</b>	Training & Mentoring complete	16 Donegal businesses
<b>Innovation Programme</b>	Training commenced and initial mentoring meeting held. Duration – 6months	8 Donegal businesses.

### **Brexit Stimulus Funding & Capability Development**

The government awarded brexit stimulus funding to previously grant aided clients. The clients received funding and the allocation of 3 days consultancy to help them with a specific need they identified. 41 Donegal businesses have received the allocated funding in 2020/2021.

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### **Financial Supports – Measure 1 & Other Financial schemes.**

**Measure 1 Grant Aid:** Details of funding and eligibility can be found via the LEO website [here](#). Businesses must meet the eligibility criteria and employing 10 or less people with the potential for employment growth.

- [Feasibility/Innovation Funding](#)

Up to 60% of the cost of undertaking a feasibility study on an innovative new product or service may be considered subject to a maximum of €15,000

- [Priming \(Start Up\) Grant Aid](#)

Our Priming Funding is designed to assist a micro-enterprise within the first 18 months of start-up. It covers 50% of eligible costs, subject to a maximum contribution of €80,000.

- [Business Expansion Grant](#)

Our Business Expansion Funding is designed to assist a micro-enterprise that has been trading for over 18 months. It covers 50% of eligible costs, subject to a maximum contribution of €80,000.

**Progress:** To date in 2021, **30 applications have been approved €733,958** in funding. The next meeting of the Evaluation Committee is scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> September and we are working with **8 further applications to prepare them for consideration.**

*Previously in 2020, 32 grants were approved €769,630 in funding creating a projected 81 jobs over the 3 year period.*

**Trading Online Vouchers – 50% Scheme.** From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 the scheme is allocated to the DETE, where businesses can apply for a TOV to support the development of their online trading. Vouchers will be

available to a maximum value of €2,500 or 50% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser for those businesses that meet the eligibility criteria. Applicants must first attend an information session. The next one is planned for [15<sup>th</sup>](#) September. It can be booked [here](#).

**Progress:** 2021 TOV's **72** Applications to date. **58** Approved to date to a value of **€114,003.32**. 12 Paid out to a value of **€23,111.50**

**Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters –**

Applicants can apply for a grant of up to €2500 or 50% of eligible expenditure on activities which are associated with developing their export sales. Demand for these in 2020 was lower, due to no trade fairs taking place. Businesses can apply for this to support online events/activities which are supports international sales development.

**Progress –** To date for 2021 – 4 applications for TAME have been received.

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*Measure 2: Training & Capability Development*

A key objective of the LEO is to develop and support the capability and development of business owners and managers to help sustain and grow their businesses in Donegal. Due to Covid, much activity is being delivered online.

**Profitnet - Peer Learning for Owner/Managers**

Profitnet is a highly successful business development and support programme which has benefited 180 Donegal businesses to date.

The **Engineering Profitnet** meeting continues to host online meetings since the COVID -19 restrictions have been put in place, on a monthly basis from 7.30am to 10.30am. The next meeting of the group will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September.

A new **Food Coast Profitnet** group has been established with 15 businesses from the food sector, both food production and services involved. The latest meeting of the group took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

**Training**



In 2021 to date **1714 participants** have availed of training through the LEO.

- **Business Information Session:** *A Monthly Information Session/Grant Aid Workshop is held online monthly on the last Friday of each month.*
- **Start Your Own Business** – 4 completed programmes - 4<sup>th</sup> programme to start on 20<sup>th</sup> September (evenings).
- **National Green for Micro** – SMEs can apply for consultancy to help review business in relation to green and sustainability issues to identify savings.
- **Lean for Micro** - 1 workshop hosted, 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop to be held August/September 2021. To date for 2021 - 9 LEAN projects commenced, a 3 drawing to a close and ready to report. Each Project has a value of up to €5k for each participating company.
- **Digital/Online Sales Online Training** – a series aimed at helping develop online trading capability
  - [Using Social Media for Business.](#)
  - [Online Advertising for Business.](#)
  - [Developing Online Marketing Strategy](#)
- **Export Programme** – procurement process has been completed and contracted will be awarded. Programme and workshops will take place in October 2021.
- **Cash Flow Management** – planned for September 2021. Can be booked [here.](#)

**AMBITION- Pre Accelerator for Women in Business.**

Programme aims to support ambitious female founders to develop scalable businesses in Donegal. Application is now open. Application will close on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September at 12noon. Stakeholder briefing will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September, Opening evening for potential applicants will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. Goal is to recruit 12 new participants for this intensive programme. This is open to applicants from the Donegal Diaspora.



**Donegal SCALE-X – Technology Accelerator programme.**

The ambition of this programme to develop the activity of technology based start-ups in Donegal.



The programme received 45 applications, following screening interviews and review – 12 participants were selected. 11 businesses have completed the programme.

The programme started online on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June. The final showcase, to feature guest speakers and participant pitches takes place on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 6.30pm. There are currently 60 bookings confirmed for this final event of the programme.

### ***3.0 Enterprise Promotion***

To develop the ambition of the county and inspire current and future entrepreneurs, the LEO actively promotes the idea of setting up a business in Donegal by sharing news of those in business in Donegal and hosting events which aim to inspire

#### **Core Annual Promotional Activities:**

- Enterprise Awards
- Student Enterprise Awards
- Local Enterprise Week

LEO has presence on a number of social media platforms and aims to share news of relevant information for small businesses in Donegal as available.

- LinkedIn
- Facebook – 4900 Followers, 3259 people reached June 21.
- Instagram
- Twitter – 5272 Followers

#### **Donegal Stories**

*A new Website <https://donegalstories.ie/> showcasing some of the Small Businesses supported by the Local Enterprise Office has been developed.*

### ***4.0 Economic & Other Initiatives***

The LEO is engaged in a wide range of other initiatives, including;

- **Enterprise Europe Network**

Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) led up by Donegal County Council and the Local Enterprise Office is providing unique opportunities to businesses all over Ireland to make connections and meet internationally in ways we never thought possible until 2020. Two virtual meet the buyer events took earlier this year for the engineering and food sectors which facilitated almost 1200 one to one meetings for the attendees. Clients can explore opportunities to attend other international events, search and post on the profile database requests and offers in business, technology and research and development or get information on markets in almost 70 countries around the world.

Please contact Eileen Kelly, Enterprise Europe Network Coordinator [eileen.kelly@leo.donegalcoco.ie](mailto:eileen.kelly@leo.donegalcoco.ie) for more information.

- **Donegal Diaspora**

The Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Awards nomination process is now closed for 2021. The names of the recipients

The awards ceremony is an initiative of the broader Donegal Diaspora project and has become a highlight of Donegal County Council's calendar of events. Enquiries relating to Donegal Diaspora can be directed to project executive [joanne.kilmartin@leo.donegalcoco.ie](mailto:joanne.kilmartin@leo.donegalcoco.ie)

- **The Food Coast – Donegal's Good Food Initiative,**

The Food Coast is engaged in a wide range of initiatives to promote, develop and grow the potential of the Donegal Food sector.

**Management Development Programme** started 25<sup>th</sup> of May – 9 owner managers taking part. Receive training and mentoring.

**A Food Starter** – second programme planned for September 2021. Required for any producer hoping to apply for the Food Academy.

**Food Academy:**

3 Donegal producers currently on trial in 7 local stores – Filligans (Glenties), Love a Little Sauces (Ballyliffin) and Sinless Snacks (Buncrana). Call for next national programme sees two more Donegal businesses being awarded places on the programme – they will attend online classes before pitching to Supervalu for potential store trial. Training will start in August 2021.

**An International marketing programme** will be delivered in conjunction with St Josephs University, Philadelphia from 13<sup>th</sup> September over a six week period.

**Food Coast Certification 2021** is now complete, with all businesses receiving their plaques this and last week. We also distributed branded face masks, aprons and pens to the successful applicants. There is a 32% increase in the number of businesses being approved from 2020 to 2021.

**LEO Donegal Partners with LYIT on New Hospitality Course:** Local Enterprise Office Donegal is joining forces with LYIT to present a Higher Diploma in Food Product Innovation and Enterprise (Level 8). For the academic year 2021/2022, this programme is co-funded by the Local

Enterprise Office, Donegal County Council. Places are limited and there is a remaining fee of €1,350 to be paid by the participant, which can be paid in instalments throughout the course.



- **The Creative Coast**

A new website for the creative sector is to be launched shortly.

Official launch new Creative Coast Website 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 with Creative industries expert Sonya Lennon. Nearly 200 creative businesses listed on database.

This will be followed by a skills audit of the sector.

[Management Development programme](#): Donegal LEO is managing the roll out of a management development programme for creative businesses in the North West – Building a Craft and Design Enterprise Programme – 18 businesses from the North West region are participating

- **Donegal Engineering Cluster**

**Funding secured for Donegal Engineering Cluster for three year period** and to be launched within next two months. Confirmed commitments to support and engage from LYIT, ETB, Udaras na Gaeltachta and IDA Ireland. An initial meeting with engineering businesses in the county The recruitment process for a co-ordinator has started, interviews will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> September.

Engaged in peer learning group of national & international engineering cluster managers, to help offer insight and best practice for cluster management in Donegal.

- **European Programmes – SME related**

	<p><b>EIS</b> – Internationalisation of SMES. Approved extension to consider impact of Covid on SMES and their internationalisation activities. Next meeting of partners will be online on 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2021.</p> <p><b>PASSPARTOOL</b> – focused on innovation development within SMES and how to develop the opportunity for this within the partner regions.</p> <p><b>SinCE – AFC</b> - objective to enhance the competitiveness of Donegal based SMEs in the agricultural, fisheries and aquaculture, food &amp; drink manufacture, and wider food industries by promoting new ideas and fostering innovative circular opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Enterprise Plan</b> Draft of a new 10 year Strategic Enterprise Plan has been completed for Donegal through consultants, OCO Global.</li> </ul>
<b>Contact Person</b>	<p>Eve – Anne McCarron, Acting Assistant Head of Enterprise Local Enterprise Office  ☎: 074 9160735   Mobile: 087-7763929  ✉ <a href="mailto:eveanne.mccarron@leo.donegalcoco.ie">eveanne.mccarron@leo.donegalcoco.ie</a></p>

### LEO Donegal - Performance Metrics

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE SUPPORTS 2020				
Supports	Applications Submitted	No of Approvals	Value of Approvals	Uplift from 2019 (applications)
Business Continuity Vouchers	678	574	€917,560	+678
Trading Online Vouchers	563	462	€1,116,165	+518
Mentoring	217	199	€137,294	+187
Measure 1 Grant Supports	38	32	€529,685	-
Micro Enterprise Assistance Fund	12	7	€6,750	+12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,508</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>€2,707,454</b>	<b>1,395</b>

### 3. Information Services

#### Activity/Project Update

<b>Title</b>	<b>Information Systems COVID-19 Response</b>
<b>Outline of Work</b>	<p>The Information Systems Department has implemented a range of services and solutions to deal with internal staffing and work rearrangements, remote working solutions as well as solutions for public information and communications.</p> <p>A range of planned information systems are being implemented on an on-going basis, as well as planned networking and communications infrastructure upgrades.</p>
<b>Budget</b>	
<b>Progress to date within the last month-inclusive of current status</b>	<p><b>Operations Programme</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rollout of remote working extended to an additional tranche of critical staff members.</li> <li>2. eTenders procurement process completed for the replacement of the switch network infrastructure that supports the Council's Local Area Networks (LAN) and Wide Area Network (WAN).</li> <li>3. Migration to O365 Statement of Work reviewed and initial test phase completed.</li> <li>4. County-wide Network Switch Replacement Project has commenced with the following sites now completed; The BASE Enterprise Centre – Stranorlar, Regional Training Centre – Stranorlar, Water Pollution Laboratory – Stranorlar, Civil Defence – Stranorlar, Central Library - Letterkenny, Library Administration Centre – Rosemount, Library Stores – Magherennan, Letterkenny Fire Station, County Museum, Local Enterprise Office, Bundoran Branch Library, Gweedore Branch Library, Bunrana Branch Library, Letterkenny PSC, Milford PSC, Dungloe PSC, Carndonagh PSC and the new Bunrana Outreach Office.</li> <li>5. Infrastructure put in place to facilitate Climate Awareness Training for all staff during 2021.</li> <li>6. 3249 online meetings on GoToMeeting to date in 2021, with roll</li> </ol>

- out of GoToMeeting functionality to 140 different admin users.
7. Implementation of Rates Grants 2021 (SBASC) Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID.
  8. Windows 7 to Windows 10 upgrade programme progressing.
  9. Ongoing configuration of new equipment and devices to facilitate Window upgrade. Supplier delivery timescales have deteriorated for high end workstations & laptops.
  10. Preparatory work ongoing for the rollout of the national ePlanning project
  11. New temporary Buncrana Outreach Office re-cabled for corporate network access and staff relocated on Wednesday June 23<sup>rd</sup>
  12. Phase 1 of the National upgrade of the CORE HR system to v28, which has been rebranded as People XD, has been completed
  13. Handover of the ICT elements of the upgraded Stranorlar WWTP from the contractor to Information Systems has been progressed
  14. Following extensive a 'Phishing' training platform has been selected for the HR/Training Department with the training of staff to be commenced in the coming weeks.
  15. 140 x staff members now migrated to Office365 platform for accessing their email and the latest versions of the Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Powerpoint, Excel & Access).
  16. Upgraded all AutoCAD users at HQ Lifford and NRO Donegal Town to the single-user subscription model allowing them to access the latest versions of the AutoCAD Suite of products.

### **Systems Programme**

17. Ongoing development and support of major online and backend support systems to facilitate management of the Defective Block Scheme which opened in 2020.
18. Ongoing upgrade of Dynamics CRM for a number of solutions to facilitate in house development of mobile applications.
19. Implementation and ongoing support of third party solution for PRD Inspections (Private Rented Dwellings).
20. Evaluating submitted IP Telephony tenders. This is a major tender to replace the current PSTN Lines based Corporate



	<p>Telephony with a VOIP unified communication Telephony system and an upgrade of the current Contact Centre System.</p> <p>21. Agricultural and Fisheries Committees added to eCouncil site for meetings' documentation</p> <p><b>GIS Programme</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mapping support for Wind Energy variation, Letterkenny Transport Plan and Letterkenny Housing Capacity, thatched survey, Casual Trading survey, Knotweed survey, Winter maintenance service,</li> <li>2. Public Tourism map created from multiple related datasets.</li> </ol>
<b>Contact Person</b>	<p>Daragh McDonough – Broadband Officer</p> <p><a href="mailto:dmcdonough@donegalcoco.ie">dmcdonough@donegalcoco.ie</a></p> <p>074 9172450</p>

**Activity/Project Update**

<b>Title</b>	<b>WiFi4EU</b>
<b>Outline of Work</b>	<p>WiFi4EU is an EU sponsored initiative to create free public WiFi spaces within the Digital Single Market. Municipalities across Europe had the opportunity to apply for a max of 4 Vouchers. DCC were successful in winning 4 vouchers to the value of €60,000. The Department of Rural &amp; Community Development will match fund each voucher +€60,000. DCC to invest additional €30,000 to create budget total of €150,000 or €30,000 per Municipal District.</p> <p>Propose to install 75 outdoor public WiFi access points throughout County Donegal to create centres of public connectivity.</p>
<b>Budget</b>	€150,000

<p><b>Progress to date within the last month-inclusive of current status</b></p>	<p><b>Glenties MD: Complete &amp; Signed Off</b></p> <p>WiFi Installed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annagry – Annagry Pharmacy</li> <li>2. Ardara – Corner House Bar</li> <li>3. Crolly Distillery</li> <li>4. Dungloe – O’Donnells Pharmacy</li> <li>5. Dungloe – PSC</li> <li>6. Dunlewey – Community Centre</li> <li>7. Falcarragh – An tSean Bheairic</li> <li>8. Falcarragh – Centra</li> <li>9. Falcarragh Community Centre</li> <li>10. Glenties – Community Centre</li> <li>11. Glenties – Garrett O’Donnell Pharmacy</li> <li>12. Gortahork – Ostan Loch Altan</li> <li>13. Kilclooney – Dolmen Centre</li> <li>14. Dungloe - Mulherns Corner Bar</li> <li>15. Ionad an Machaire</li> </ol>
<p><b>Project Targets for the next monthly reporting period</b></p>	<p>Submit co-financing application to Department of Rural and Community Development for all completed 4 voucher areas.</p>
<p><b>Contact Person</b></p>	<p>Daragh McDonough – Broadband Officer  <a href="mailto:dmcdonough@donegalcoco.ie">dmcdonough@donegalcoco.ie</a>  074 9172450</p>

## Activity/Project Update

<b>Title</b>	<b>NBP – National Broadband Plan</b>
<b>Outline of Work</b>	<p>The NBP was signed by Government in November 2019 and will deliver High Speed Broadband to all rural Premises as defined in the Amber areas of the National Broadband Plan Map. The NBP will invest €135m in fibre infrastructure in County Donegal over the 7 years of the rollout and will connect 32,130 premises.</p> <p>National Broadband Ireland (NBI) is the consortium which will deliver the network and the NBP contract is managed by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.</p> <p>Liaison with NBI is through the Broadband Officer in Donegal County Council and the Department of Rural and Community Development.</p> <p>Early implementation of the NBP in 2020 will see the rollout of Community Broadband Connection Points (BCP's). These centres will act as locations where High Speed Broadband is available in a local community setting or strategic site until the NBP Fibre is implemented.</p> <p>During 2021 NBI will be carrying out route proofing and surveying in preparation for the main fibre rollout.</p>
<b>Budget</b>	
<b>Progress to date within the last month-inclusive of current status</b>	<p><b>Broadband Connection Points: BCP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amharclann Ghaoth Dobhair: Complete</li><li>• An tSean Scoil Málainn Bhig: Complete</li><li>• Comharchumann Oileáin Thoráí: Complete</li><li>• Cranford Community Centre: Complete</li><li>• Errigal training Centre Falcarragh: withdrawn</li><li>• Fort Dunree: Complete</li><li>• Glenveagh NP: Complete</li><li>• Leghowney Community Hall: Complete</li><li>• Malin Head: Complete</li><li>• Meenreagh Hostel: Complete</li><li>• Ranger Station Sliabh Liag: Complete</li><li>• Ray Community Centre: Complete</li></ul> <p>Carrowmenagh Community Centre added as an additional BCP</p>

	<p>Progressing Access Cinema facilities at Tory Island BCP</p> <p>Progressing Digital Skills with Camara Ireland and Microsoft Dream Space with Ray Community Centre BCP</p> <p>Successfully secured €250,000 in funding for BCP network development through the Connected Hubs funding call at  Malinbeg  Leghowney Community Hall  Ray Community Centre  Comharchumann Oileáin Thoráí  Carrigart Digital hub  Sliabh Liag Ranger Station</p> <p>NBI Surveying started on 5 Islands  NBI submitted pre consultation review for Section 254 Licence Application for New Poles in the Letterkenny Deployment Area.</p> <p>Successfully secured funding of €12,800 under Digital Innovation programme 2021 for Climate Stories App</p>
<p><b>Project Targets for the next monthly reporting period</b></p>	<p>Progress eHealth on TORY island project (held up due to HSE Cyberattack) – Tender for “pod” building  Commence tendering for services through Connected Hubs fund.  Liaise with NBI and DCC Service on Section 254 review and application  Start Surveying for broadband connection at Carrowmenagh CC.</p>
<p><b>Contact Person</b></p>	<p>Daragh McDonough – Broadband Officer  <a href="mailto:dmcdonough@donegalcoco.ie">dmcdonough@donegalcoco.ie</a>  74 72450</p>

#### **4. Emergency Services - Fire Services:**

##### **Project / Activity Report:**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Number of: (June)*</b>	<b>Total for year</b>
Fire Brigade incidents within County Donegal**:	66	346
Mobilisations (by Donegal Fire Service Brigades)**:	75	379
Mobilisations into Donegal (by NI Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS))**:	10	49
Fire Safety Certificate applications received:	12	88
Fire Safety Certificates waiting to be assessed:	25	N/A
Fire Safety Certificate applications assessed by Fire Officer and waiting for Further Information from Applicant / Agent:	44	N/A
Fire Safety Certificate decisions made:	8	51
Applications for Dangerous Substance Licences received:	0	2
Dangerous Substance Licences issued:	0	1
Form of notice received under the Explosives Act, 1875:	0	0
Inspections and Auditing carried out (Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003, Annual Licensing, DSA 1972, Explosive Stores, Pyrotechnics, BCA 1992 & 2007):	8	25
Fire Safety Complaints received:	1	5
Fire Safety Complaints dealt with:	1	5
During Performance Inspections carried out:	0	0

Fire Safety awareness presentations delivered:	0	4
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\* Current data only available up to end of June 2021.

\*\* Provisional Figures.

Activity	Number of: (July)*	Total for year
Fire Brigade incidents within County Donegal**:	83	429
Mobilisations (by Donegal Fire Service Brigades)**:	89	468
Mobilisations into Donegal (by NI Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS))**:	10	59
Fire Safety Certificate applications received:	18	106
Fire Safety Certificates waiting to be assessed:	25	N/A
Fire Safety Certificate applications assessed by Fire Officer and waiting for Further Information from Applicant / Agent:	43	N/A
Fire Safety Certificate decisions made:	13	64
Applications for Dangerous Substance Licences received:	0	2
Dangerous Substance Licences issued:	0	1
Form of notice received under the Explosives Act, 1875:	0	0
Inspections and Auditing carried out (Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003, Annual Licensing, DSA 1972, Explosive Stores, Pyrotechnics, BCA 1992 & 2007):	9	34
Fire Safety Complaints received:	2	7

Fire Safety Complaints dealt with:	2	7
During Performance Inspections carried out:	0	0
Fire Safety awareness presentations delivered:	0	4

\* Current data only available up to end of July 2021.

\*\* Provisional Figures.

## 5. Emergency Services – Civil Defence:

### Project / Activity Report:

Resources (Covid 19 Response)		Number
Availability to Civil Defence volunteers		14
Total Task Deployment July - August	Volunteer Man-hours (April – May)	Accumulative Monthly Deployment of Volunteers (2021)
10	87hrs	1423

Activity (Covid 19 Response) <i>(Support to the PRA's and wider community)</i>	No. of Tasking's
Patient Transfers to Ophthalmology Department, Sligo University Hospital with patients under the care of the National Council of the Blind (NBC)	3
Provision of transport for patients to outpatients clinics in Letterkenny University Hospital (Patients has no family and no transport of their own)	1
Assisting the Irish Blood Transfusion Services with administration and social spacing at the blood donor clinics in Jackson's Hotel, Ballybofey	2 volunteers per clinic, 2 clinics per day for a period of 4 days
Civil Defence Officer participates in on line meetings with the Donegal Community Forum and the Civil Defence Branch/ Department Defence.	
<b>Supported Agencies</b>	Donegal Community Forum, Health Service Executive, Irish Blood Transfusion Board, MS Society, National Council of the Blind, ALONE, SAOLTA.
It is envisaged that following the anticipated further easing of restrictions by the Government on 20 <sup>th</sup> September, Civil Defence Covid Transport Support will cease.	



<b>Training Activities (<i>Essential Training Only</i>)</b>	<b>Delivered to No. of Volunteers</b>
Weekly Auxiliary Fire Fighting (Flood Response and Wild Land Fire training) has come to an end for this year and will recommence in the autumn. However, the service continues to be in a state of preparedness to assist the PRA's.	16
Emergency First Responder (EFR) Training continues weekly in the Civil Defence Headquarters, Stranorlar with exams scheduled for the 31 <sup>st</sup> August	8
Refresher Emergency First Responder Training continues monthly for certified EFR's. Exams scheduled for the 8 <sup>th</sup> September	28
Regional Rope Rescue Supervisor Skills training continuing on a regional basis between counties Meath, Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan in preparation for the Rope Rescue Instructor Course to be delivered through the Civil Defence Branch in October 2021	4
In preparation for the Autumn / Winter of 2021, a county training plan is being prepared, in line with government restrictions and the Civil Defence College training programme.	

<b>Non-Emergency Community Support</b>	A gradual return to 'normal' business for Civil Defence has commenced with Civil Defence assisting communities with ambulance and medical cover at non emergency events and An Garda Siochanna with their Annual Public Order training for their members.
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<b>New projects</b>	Civil Defence are working with the Community Development section of the Local Authority, to develop a list of defibrillator locations county wide, to be shared on social media platforms, in support of a motion raised at the last Stranorlar MD Meeting by Cllr Gary Doherty.
<b>Staffing</b>	The closing date for receipt of applications for the position of an Assistant Civil Officer was 9 <sup>th</sup> August.
<b>Contact Person</b>	Edel Flynn – Civil Defence Officer <a href="mailto:edel.flynn@donegalcoco.ie">edel.flynn@donegalcoco.ie</a> 074 9175665





**Municipal District of Glenties**

**14 September 2021**

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**Community Development Division**

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**CLÁR / AGENDA**

1. Report on recent activity in the Community Development Division
  - 1.1 Community Development
  - 1.2 Rural Development Programme/LEADER
  - 1.3 Public Participation Network
  - 1.4 Donegal Walks & Trails

## Glenties Municipal District - Community Development

Project Location	Project Details	Funded Under	Current status
Digital Hub, Arranmore	To bring an underwater cable to Arranmore	Town & Village Renewal Scheme	Cable delivered and Council advancing application for foreshore licence in conjunction with local community group
Glenties T & V project	Enhancement of Streetscape Design & installation of interpretative information signs supported by directional signage	Town & Village Renewal Scheme	Procurement complete, Works ongoing on site
Maghery	Installation of galvanized equipment storage cage, outdoor shower, street furniture and surfacing works at Maghery pier. Installation of camping pods, self catering kitchen, toilet / shower facilities, lighting and a beach wheelchair at Ionad an Mhachaire. Development of a loop walk / cycle route Installation of tourism information points/panels Development of website, promotion and branding materials	Town & Village Renewal Scheme	Ongoing with group Procurement being progressed
Dunfanaghy public car park	To develop a new car park	Town & Village Renewal Scheme	Tender assessment complete, successful contractor to be appointed
Dore	Develop app to assist visitors to local area Refurbishment of waiting area within community centre	Town & Village Renewal Scheme	Project has been completed
Dungloe AF Project	To improve the walkability of Dungloe providing safer and greater accessibility for all ages and abilities	Town & Village Renewal Scheme	Tender documents to be published in July

## Glenties Municipal District - Community Development

Project Location	Project Details	Funded Under	Current status
Ardara	<p>Improvements to town:            Improve seating along the Main St. &amp; Front St.            Provide fully wheelchair accessible picnic and resting tables in the Diamond            Provide 2 bins along the Main St. and 1 no. bin along Front St.            Provide additional landscaping and planting in the Diamond and Town Garden            Provide 3 no. awnings at the Heritage Centre on the Main St.            Provide 4 no. semi mature trees</p>	Town & Village Renewal Scheme	Work has been completed
Railway Greenway at Muckish	Section of trail to be brought to greenway standard	ORIS	Works nearing completion
Glenties	Walking trail at Glenmacannive Lake	ORIS	Works are ongoing
Errigal	Pathway and environmental improvements	ORIS	Upland path specialist and ecologist appointed. Tender assessment almost completed

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	Rural Development Programme/LEADER
<b>Activity / Project Description</b>	Donegal Local Community and Development Committee are the Local Action Group for County Donegal, with responsibility for the LEADER/Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 & Transitional LEADER Programme 2021-2022
<b>Budget</b>	€13,413,875 (Additional funding received 2019) <i>Note: Project costs €10,063,586, administration and animation costs €3,350,289</i>
<b>Transitional Programme</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021 – 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022 €2,861,598 project costs € 953,866 for Administration & Animation.
<b>Progress to date within the last two months-inclusive of current status</b>	There are 4 Implementing Partners within the county; Donegal Local Development Company (DLDC), Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP), Údarás Na Gaeltachta and Comhar na nOileán, who are rolling out the LEADER Transitional programme on behalf of the LAG (Local Action Group). The LEADER Transitional programme is effective from 1st April 2021 and runs until 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022. €45 million is allocated nationally for the Transitional Programme and €20 million from the EURI programme. 7 projects in Donegal are now approved by Pobal under the Transitional programme and Letters of Offer have issued/are pending, granting LEADER funding to a value of €184,751.
<b>Project Targets for the next bi-monthly reporting period</b>	The next LCDC/LAG meeting will be held on 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2021. Monthly Evaluation Committee meetings will continue to be held to progress projects to LCDC/LAG stage and the LDCs will continue to engage with promoters on the ground to develop and assess potential applications and to promote the Transitional LEADER programme.
<b>Contact Person</b>	Seamus Canning 074 9172597. <a href="mailto:seamusc@donegalcoco.ie">seamusc@donegalcoco.ie</a>

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	Donegal Public Participation Network (PPN)																																	
<b>Project Description/Activity</b>	Link through which organisations from the community & voluntary sector have a voice on Council decision making bodies and other structures																																	
<b>Budget (if applicable)</b>	€115,000.00 per annum																																	
<b>Progress to date within the last two months inclusive of current status</b>	<p>PPN membership now stands at 631 registered organisations. Donegal MD 119, Glenties MD 147, Inishowen MD 117, Letterkenny MD 177, Stranorlar MD 76. The PPN have 54 Representatives on 22 different Committees and Boards.</p> <p>A new Secretariat has been elected (details below) and will meet on a bi-monthly basis to coordinate the functioning of the PPN in conjunction with the Resource Worker.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Margaret Toner</td> <td>Letterkenny CDP</td> <td>C &amp; V Pillar</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Declan Meehan</td> <td>Ray Community Centre</td> <td>C &amp; V Pillar</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Helen Nolan</td> <td>Spraoui &amp; Spórt, Carndonagh</td> <td>SI Pillar</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joe Boland</td> <td>Cara House, Letterkenny</td> <td>SI Pillar</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anne McGowan</td> <td>An Taisce</td> <td>Env Pillar</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joanne Butler</td> <td>Changemakers</td> <td>Env Pillar</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Micky Mullen</td> <td>Inver Community Centre</td> <td>Donegal MD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Máirín Ní Fhearraigh</td> <td>Comhairchumann na nOileán</td> <td>Glenties MD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>George Mills</td> <td>Culdaff Development Ass</td> <td>Inishowen MD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>James McClean</td> <td>Cairde le Cheile</td> <td>Letterkenny MD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew McNulty</td> <td>Balor Theatre</td> <td>Stranorlar MD</td> </tr> </table> <p>Social Inclusion Week starts runs from 11<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October. Donegal PPN Events will include: Community Safety, Disability-Walkability Audit &amp; Intercultural Awareness &amp; Anti Racism Training</p> <p>Our Community Training Programme for Quarter 3 &amp; 4 will include New Options for Funding &amp; Grant Applications, The Charities Governance Code, Compliance of Governance Code.</p>	Margaret Toner	Letterkenny CDP	C & V Pillar	Declan Meehan	Ray Community Centre	C & V Pillar	Helen Nolan	Spraoui & Spórt, Carndonagh	SI Pillar	Joe Boland	Cara House, Letterkenny	SI Pillar	Anne McGowan	An Taisce	Env Pillar	Joanne Butler	Changemakers	Env Pillar	Micky Mullen	Inver Community Centre	Donegal MD	Máirín Ní Fhearraigh	Comhairchumann na nOileán	Glenties MD	George Mills	Culdaff Development Ass	Inishowen MD	James McClean	Cairde le Cheile	Letterkenny MD	Andrew McNulty	Balor Theatre	Stranorlar MD
Margaret Toner	Letterkenny CDP	C & V Pillar																																
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James McClean	Cairde le Cheile	Letterkenny MD																																
Andrew McNulty	Balor Theatre	Stranorlar MD																																
<b>Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period</b>	<p>Environment Linkage Group Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021  Social Inclusion Linkage Group Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021  Community &amp; Voluntary Linkage Group Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021  Representative Network Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2021  National RW Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2021  Property Marking Events Programme TBD  PPN AGM/Plenary November 2021  Regional PPN Meeting October 2021</p>																																	
<b>Contact Person (to include telephone number &amp; e-mail address)</b>	<p>Mary Clyde / Annette McGrenra  074 9153900  donegalppn@donegalcoco.ie</p>																																	

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	<b>Donegal Walks and Trails</b>
<b>File:</b>	
<b>Project Description/Activity</b>	Maintenance, Development and Promotion of Walks & trails in Donegal including Cycle Routes and Greenways.
<b>Budget (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status</b>           <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<p><b><u>Muckish railway</u></b> These works are progressed very well with a lot of tarmac surfacing having been laid and contractor finishing along the edges project is looking very well as it approaches completion.</p> <p><b><u>Glenmacannive</u></b> The contractor Hugh Harkin is now back on site as of last week commencing well with agreed works as per guidance of Coillte and supervision of Donegal County Council.</p> <p><b><u>Kincaslugh Tower trail</u></b> We are currently awaiting the group to return the signed Land owners access agreements. Prior to pursuing of any proposed surfacing works.</p> <p><b><u>Cholm Cille Camino</u></b> Donegal County council would like to try to assist in some way with the group on the identified areas of difficulty. It will require some negotiation between community and development and the roads departments, along with the Camino group.</p> <p><b><u>ORIS 2021</u></b> With the applications been submitted for Glenties municipal district. We anticipate the announcement of awarded funds will be in January 2022.</p>
<b>Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sport Ireland inspections are scheduled</li> <li>• Prepare small tender doc for improvement works on Sli Colm cille.</li> </ul>
<b>Contact Person</b> <i>(to include telephone number &amp; e-mail address)</i>	Darryl Connor (Outdoor Recreational Development Officer) 0873613811 <a href="mailto:dconnor@donegalcoco.ie">dconnor@donegalcoco.ie</a>





**GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT  
MEETING  
14<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Roads & Transportation Agenda**

- 1. Follow up to Issues raised at last MD Meeting.  
Report has / will issue in advance of the MD Meeting to the Member that raised the query. If more than One Member raised the same query then the response is issued to All Members.**
- 2. Report on N56 at Meenacuing**
- 3. Report on Traffic Concern at Annagry**
- 4. Road Works Programme 2021 – Overview**
- 5. Wild Atlantic Way Route Update**
- 6. 3 Year Restoration Improvement (2022-2025)  
Workshop date to be agreed w/c 04 Oct 2021?**
- 7. Notes from Workshop dated 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021**
- 8. NRDO Update**
- 9. AOB**

## Major & Minor Roads Projects

### 1. N56 Kilkenny Letterilly

Works are now completed save for a snag with the road surface south of the Maas Junction. The Contractor is scheduled to carry out remedial works this month. Some repairs to the local road network are to be scheduled in Q3 2021. TII have provided funding in this respect.

### 2. N56 Dungloe to Cloghbolie

Construction is ongoing by BAM Civils Ltd., and progress is good to date moving towards 70% complete. Completion is expected by end of Q1 2022. Barry Transportation are supervising the Works on behalf of Donegal County Council. As Works proceed towards conclusion over the Winter, the number of Traffic Lights required will reduce.

### 3. N56 Letterilly to Glenties (Kilraine)

Construction is ongoing by Wills Bros. Ltd. Roughan & O'Donovan are supervising the Works on behalf of Donegal County Council. The section from Glenties to Kilraine will be tendered later in 2021 or early 2022, Some design issues are yet to be resolved.

### 4. N56 Dungle to Glenties – Land Acquisition

Close out of the remaining Land Acquisitions will be completed by the end of the year (332 out of 339 complete), although a small number of the remaining cases will possibly be referred to arbitration.

### 5. N56 Dungle to Glenties – % for Art Scheme

Stage 2 of the procurement process is now complete and a winning proposal has been identified. Fabrication works are complete and Installation Works are due to commence this month.

**Fergus Towey, SEE**

## **Notes from Pollinator and Biodiversity Workshop dated 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

### **Attendees:-**

Cllr. John Sheamais O'Fearraigh  
Cllr. Marie Terese Gallagher  
Cllr. Michael Mc Clafferty  
Cllr. Anthony Molloy  
Cllr. Noreen Mc Garvey

Michael Mc Garvey, Director of Service  
Suzanne Bogan, Env Services  
Brendan Mc Fadden, Area Manager/SEE Roads  
Colm Gillespie, Translator

### **Notes:-**

Brendan Mc Fadden outlined the purpose of the meeting as follows:-

GMD (Roads) has received €20,000 (from the provision in the Budget Book at 5.32) to support and stimulate the Pollinator Plan and Biodiversity. Members views are sought on how best to expend the monies to ensure the best possible results are obtained. M Mc Garvey and S Bogan gave views on their experience re Pollinator Plans and Biodiversity.

All present were unanimous in that the best approach was for the Executive to work with a number of existing Groups within the MD. This approach will ensure that ownership and maintenance will occur. Training was also aired as an important part of this Development. Members agreed that Dungloe, Falcarragh and Glenties should be included in the discussions.

Brendan Mc Fadden said that he would progress on that basis and involve Suzanne Bogan with regards to Group contacts and stages of Development.

That concluded the Workshop Business.

Brendan Mc Fadden.

# **Housing & Corporate Agenda**

## **For Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

- (1) Progress Report - Grants
- (2) Progress Report - Casual Vacancies
- (3) Housing Need
- (4) HAP
- (5) RAS
- (6) LTL Properties
- (7) Tenancies and Offers
- (8) Tenant Purchase

**1. PROGRESS REPORT - GRANTS AT 01/09/2021**

<b>Housing Aid for Older People Grants</b>						
<i>Year</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Cancelled/ Refused</i>	<i>Applicant Further Info</i>	<i>Referred to Eng</i>	<i>Pending</i>
2021	94	71	8	8	7	15

<b>Housing Adaptation Grants</b>							
<i>Year</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Cancelled/ Refused</i>	<i>Applicant Further Info</i>	<i>Referred to Eng</i>	<i>Referred to OT</i>	<i>Pending</i>
2020	33	22	7	2	1	1	4
2021	54	8	8	10	4	14	28

<b>Mobility Aids Grants</b>							
<i>Year</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Cancelled/ Refused</i>	<i>Applicant Further Info</i>	<i>Referred to Eng</i>	<i>Referred to OT</i>	<i>Pending</i>
2020	45	28	16	0	1	0	1
2021	29	15	4	1	6	3	10

## 2. PROGRESS REPORT – CASUAL VACANCIES AT 01/09/2021

Glenties MD	Address	Beds	Vacant From	Current Status
Annagry				
	Clos Naomh Duigh	3 bed	26/07/2021	Tenders Received – currently being assessed
Arranmore				
	Leabgarrow	1 bed	29/06/2021	To be Tendered
Bunbeg				
	Burma Road, Magheraclogher	3 bed	04/03/2021	Offered
Derrybeg				
	Ailt Aoibhinn	2 bed	26/07/2021	Tenders Received – currently being assessed
Doochary				
	Radharc an tSeipeil	2 bed	29/03/2021	Contractor appointed & works due to be completed by 17 Sept
Dungloe				
	Gort na Mona	2 bed	23/02/2021	Offered
	Gort na Mona	2 bed	23/04/2021	Offered
Fintown				
	Radharc na Finne	3 bed	13/04/2021	Contractor appointed & works due to be completed by 17 Sept
Falcarragh				
	Ballina	1 bed	29/06/2021	Contractor appointed & works due to be completed by 17 Sept
	Ballina	3 bed	12/07/2021	To be Tendered
	Carrowcannon	2 bed	23/04/2021	Tenders Received – currently being assessed
Glenties				
	Clos Naomh Chonail	3 bed	13/04/2021	Contractor appointed & works due to be completed by 17 Sept
Gortahork				
	An Roisin	4 bed	30/06/2021	Tenders Received – currently being assessed
Loughanure				
	An t-Ardan Rua	3 bed	11/06/2021	Tenders Received – currently being assessed

### 3. HOUSING NEED

<b>Glenties Municipal District</b> <b>Approved Gross and Net Need Waiting List by Approved Bedrooms Numbers</b> <b>detailing Locations selected by the Applicant as their 1<sup>st</sup> Area of Preference</b> <b>as at 01st September 2021</b>												
Location	1 Bed		2 Bed		3 Bed		4 Bed		5 Bed		Total Net	Total Gross
	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross		
<b>Annagry</b>	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
<b>Ardara</b>	4	5	6	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	10	15
<b>Arranmore</b>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Burtonport</b>	0	0	3	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	8
<b>Creaslough</b>	0	0	3	6	1	2	1	3	0	0	5	11
<b>Doochary</b>	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Dunfanaghy</b>	1	1	4	8	3	4	0	0	0	0	8	13
<b>Dungloe</b>	6	7	9	32	2	6	1	2	0	0	19	47
<b>Falcarragh</b>	1	1	11	29	1	3	0	0	0	0	13	33
<b>Fintown</b>	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Glenties</b>	1	1	1	4	2	7	1	3	0	0	5	15
<b>Gortahork</b>	1	1	3	8	0	2	0	1	0	0	4	12
<b>Gweedore</b>	2	2	5	23	2	4	1	1	0	0	10	30
<b>Lettermacaward</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Loughanure</b>	0	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	4
<b>Magheroarty</b>	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Tory Island</b>	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	17	24	53	143	13	29	5	12	0	1	84	203

\* Gross Need represents all approved Applicants on the Waiting List for Social Housing.

\* Net Need represents approved applicants/households on the Social Housing waiting list, but who are not currently in receipt of social housing support.

\* To avoid duplication of the same household, data is presented based on the 1<sup>st</sup> Area of Preference/location for social housing, as selected by the Applicant.

### 4. HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT (HAP) SCHEME

As at 01<sup>st</sup> September 2021, the Glenties Municipal District is providing Social Housing Support in the form of the Housing Assistance Payment to 102 families/individuals.

### 5. NUMBER OF RAS PROPERTIES

As of the 01<sup>st</sup> September 2021, the Glenties Municipal District is providing Social Housing Support in the form of the Rental Accommodation Scheme to 43 families/individuals.



## 6. NUMBER OF LTL PROPERTIES

As of the 01<sup>st</sup> September 2021, the Glenties Municipal District is providing Social Housing Support in the form of the Long Term Lease Properties to 19 families/individuals.

## 7. HOUSING TENANCIES AND OFFERS

<b>Total Housing Stock Glenties MD</b>	<b>Offers Issued from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021</b>	<b>Tenancies created from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021</b>	<b>Tenancies terminated from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021</b>
849	32	28	31

## 8. Tenant Purchase

<b>Number of Applications Received since Scheme Commenced</b>	<b>New Applications from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021</b>	<b>No. of Offers Issued from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021</b>	<b>Total Number of Houses Sold Under the Scheme to Date</b>
77	12	14	12