

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY-MILFORD MEETING, HELD  
IN THE AURA LEISURE CENTRE, ON 14 SEPTEMBER, 2021 AT 2:00 P.M.**

**MDL402/21 MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh (Mayor), Cllr. Liam Blaney, Cllr. Kevin Bradley, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, Cllr. Donal Coyle, Cllr. Donal Kelly, Cllr. Ian McGarvey, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and Cllr. John O'Donnell

**MDL403/21 OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Patricia McIntyre, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services; Bernadine McGee, Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services; David McIlwaine, S.E.E. / Area Manager, Roads & Transportation; Elaine McEntee, Executive Planner; Joe Ferry, A/Senior Executive Chemist, Francis Conaghan, Development Officer, Ciaran Martin, Economic Development and Paddy Mullen, Community & Planning

Apologies: Cllr. Michael McBride

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh

**MDL404/21 VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to the late Cllr. Bernard McGuinness and the late Delia Ward, mother of Liam Ward, Director of Service

Cllr. Kavanagh noted that Members would have the opportunity to pay tribute to the late Cllr. McGuinness at the Plenary Meeting. He added that the McGuinness Family had appreciated the support given to them from the Members and Staff.

**MDL405/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting.

**MDL406/21 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Donal Coyle the Minutes of Meeting of the MD Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were adopted.

**MDL407/21 LAYOUT OF JUNCTION AT OLD TECH IN MILFORD**

On the proposal of Cllr. John O'Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

**“That this Council immediately address the serious concerns over the junction layout of the junction at the old Tech in Milford. A number of bus operators are stating quite clearly that it's a serious safety hazard as they have to cross the road to incoming traffic now to take the turn.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The works that are being carried out at the Gap Junction in Milford are part of the 2021 Safety Improvement Works that funding was allocated to after the location was prioritised for funding due to a history of numerous accidents occurring at the Junction. The improvements that are being carried out are designed in accordance with the DMURS National standards and Specification.***

***Following representations received from local bus companies the design was reviewed. This review included an onsite study of bus and HGV turning movements at the junction and the new layout that is being constructed takes these manoeuvres into account.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. O’Donnell advised that he had been contacted by bus drivers as it is a serious safety hazard for them trying to cross the road. He added that he had raised this with the local Engineer and with David McIlwaine. He noted the response given and thanked David for taking time to discuss the matter with him.

David McIlwaine advised that discussions had taken place with local Bus Companies and a review has been carried out. Amendments have been made to overcome the issues raised and work is ongoing at this location.

Cllr. McGarvey noted that there has been a problem with layout there for years and that speed is a major problem there.

**MDL408/21 FOOTPATH FROM RESOURCE CENTRE IN DOWINGS TO THE PIER**

On the proposal of Cllr. John O’Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

***“That this Council construct a footpath from the Resource Centre in Downings to the pier as this is a serious safety hazard with people walking on the road on a blind corner and needs to be addressed immediately.”***

**Members were advised that:**

***“We will carry out an assessment of this location with the view to having a new footpath that provides linkage between the Main Street and the Pier being prioritised for NTA Active Travel funding.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. O’Donnell noted that there has been a surge in the number of Tourists visiting the area. There are a number of businesses in the Downings area and there is also the pier there. He advised that he had spoken to David McIlwaine about this and acknowledged that a lot of work has been done and a lot of money spent. He welcomed the response given.

**MDL409/21 FORESHORE LICENCE FOR DOWNINGS**

On the proposal of Cllr. John O'Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

**"That this Council commit to getting a foreshore licence applied for again to get the boardwalk from the beach entrance to the pier in Downings shovel ready for future funding."**

Members were advised that:

***"This matter was considered at the Letterkenny MD meeting on the 11th of May 2021 and a Memo was provided from Mr. Brendan O'Donnell, A/Director of Roads and Transportation and Mr. Liam Ward, Director Community Development and Planning which concluded that;***

- ***There is no funding available to progress this project any further***
- ***The estimated cost of completing the foreshore license application process is approximately €20,000 with no guarantee of a positive outcome***
- ***In the event that the foreshore license is granted a further €600,000 approx. will be required to complete the project (design costs €100,000 and construction costs €500,000)***
- ***Any significant delay between securing a foreshore licence and commencing construction could result in the foreshore licence having to be revisited at that time.***
- ***Due to an absence of funding and work commitments on currently funded projects, the Council is not in a position to advance this project at this time.***

***The above circumstances have not changed in the interim and in particular no funding has been identified to allow for completion of the foreshore license application process."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. O'Donnell noted that the people have been messed about in relation to the last licence application. Funding for this needs to be prioritised to apply for the foreshore licence and have the area shovel ready when funding is available. A lot of work has been done on this already. Locals have raised funds for part of the project and funding was provided by Údarás na Gaeltachta. He noted that he is not happy with the response given and added that it is a failure on the Council's behalf that this project has not progressed. Recently the beach alone has been lined with people. A promenade and boardwalk is needed for the enjoyment of the people. He asked that this be brought forward again and that Liam Ward arrange a meeting on this.

**MDL410/21 STONE NAME SIGN AT ARD O'DONNELL & SHED AT ALLOTMENTS SITE**

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

**“That the Council erect a "Stone name sign" at Ard O'Donnell and that the Residents Association be allowed to locate a small shed at the allotments site for storage purposes.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The motion is noted and if adopted the Resident's Association should contact the Roads Section to discuss the type and location of the sign required at Ard O'Donnell. The Community Development Section of the Council will consult with the paying plot holders in relation to the request for the Resident's Association to locate a shed in the allotment and will revert to the Resident's Association thereafter.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh advised that he had received a request from the Ard O'Donnell Residents Association. They have done a lot of work in what is one of the oldest estates in the Town. They would like a sign similar to the one at Beechwood. They would also like a store for equipment. He noted the response given and that the allotment holders would be contacted regarding the location of the shed there.

**MDL411/21    LOCATION FOR DEFIBRILLATOR AT LOWER MAIN STREET**

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

**“That the Council liaise with Eircom and seek agreement on locating a defibrillator at the unused telephone kiosk on Lower Main Street.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“We will arrange for discussion with all the relevant groups to explore the procedure and feasibility of having this carried out.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh noted that this has been done in other towns around the Country. It would cover a big area that is busy at weekends. People are never sure where to find one when needed. Local people are willing to fundraise for this if agreement is reached. He welcomed the response given hoping that this can be done as soon as possible. He asked that feedback be given when possible. He noted that there may be concerns that it could be vandalised as it needs to be easily accessible. This should not stop this progressing.

**MDL412/21    GRASS CUTTING AT CILL AN ÓIR CROSSROADS AND KILLYLASTIN JUNCTION**

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

**“That the Council arrange to cut the grass at the Cil an Oir crossroads and also at the junction going towards Killylastin.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“This section is included in the footpath programme that is currently being progressed. This grass cutting will be included as part of this project.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh noted that this had been a problem during the summer. There had been an accident there the previous summer. He asked that the Tidy Towns Committee / local Residents be consulted in relation to this. He was happy with the response given.

**MDL413/21 RAMP AT PEDESTRIAN CROSSING NEAR THE AURA**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, the following motion was adopted:

***“That we consider installing a Ramp at the Pedestrian Crossing near the Aura to control the speed of motorist using the road and make it safer for people using the crossing.”***

**Members were advised that:**

***“Letterkenny Roads installed a new Belisha Beacon crossing across the R250 beside the Aura Leisure centre circa 2018/2019.***

***This crossing is within the 50 KPH speed limit and constructed in accordance with Road Design office design and funded under the low Cost Accidents funding***

***As this is a regional route, and a critical arterial route into and out of the urban area and indeed to the emergency services based within the Urban Area. It is important that this route remains free of vertical deflection measures in the form of Speed Ramps in order to ensure the safe and unfettered access for emergency vehicles to the wider area.***

***An alternative proposal could be to develop the footpath link directly from the town centre to the Aura Leisure centre, thus removing the need for pedestrians to cross the road. This is a significant project entailing the design of footpath, procurement of multiple parcels of land and construction. The next stage of this process is to develop a design to establish the land take required and we will be working with Road Design to progress this. This will be considered for prioritising for Active Travel funding.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle noted the response given in relation to speed limit but that drivers are not adhering to the speed limit. People are having difficulties getting out from the Town, the paths are not fit for purpose and the road is windy. A raised platform is needed at the crossing to alert drivers to slow down and give way to pedestrians. He welcomed the thoughts re widening the paths but this involves acquisition of land, finding funding and issuing tenders and would mean this work would be years away. A crossing

would also be of benefit to local Residents. Access to the Town centre is difficult at this location. He asked that this be looked at again. Ramps have been provided in areas throughout the Town for this purpose and they have never hindered the emergency services. This should be reviewed in the interests of safety of walkers and Residents.

David McIlwaine advised that there is an issue with providing ramps on Regional Roads that are feeder roads to Towns. They do cause problems for emergency services. He will however progress the matter of widening footpaths.

Cllr. McMonagle noted that this is an accident waiting to happen with overgrown grass and shrubbery in the area. There is a need to raise awareness of the crossing. This area is within the confines of the Town. There are a lot of houses on this road with the Ballymacool Estate and the Kirkstown area. This should be looked at differently in the interests of safety of those using the crossing. He urged Roads to look at this again.

**MDL414/21 WORK WITH COMMUNITY /RESIDENT GROUPS AND TIDY TOWNS**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Kevin Bradley, the following motion was adopted:

**“That the Litter/Environmental section work more closely and in Partnership with Community/Residents Groups and Tidy Towns in relation to the Picking Up of Rubbish and Grass cuttings after they do their estate clean up as was the practice before.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“It is important to recognise and thank the 5,500 volunteers in community groups and Tidy Towns Committees across the county who work tirelessly in collaboration with the Council in our journey to ensuring that Donegal is the cleanest and greenest county in Ireland. We will continue to work very closely with local groups and continue to provide litter picking materials, equipment, information and collect the litter collected from community clean ups.***

***Donegal County Council also subsidises a bulky goods recycling event for specific dates in the summer months at our recycling centres. The service at the Letterkenny recycling centre was very well attended and a lot of bulky goods were brought in as a result. This initiative is part funded by the Anti Dumping Initiative.***

***The Environment Section do not provide a grass collection service but there are facilities within Letterkenny that will accept the grass for a fee, some collectors will also provide a bin for garden waste, however, the majority the grass is composted at source.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle recognised the work done by the Environment Section supporting local groups and running campaigns. Local Resident Associations and the Tidy Towns Committee have been in contact with him in relation to the Council not collecting grass cuttings etc. as this is causing problems for them. The local CDP have voluntary workers going around cleaning up and now they are being expected to pay for the disposal of the rubbish collected. In the Town Council days this was done. The Council need to revert back to that policy. These groups are saving the Council money by cutting grass etc. Bags left sitting are getting torn which defeats the purpose of the collections. It is not a big task to collect this rubbish.

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan supported what had been said by Cllr. McMonagle. Bags have been lying for weeks in areas. A special Workshop is required for this. The good work being done is deteriorating and the heart is gone out of it. A cross division meeting is needed between Roads and Environment. At a time there were over 90 Residents Associations in the Town.

Patricia McIntyre noted comments made advising that a Workshop with Roads and Environment is to be arranged in relation to provision of bins (previously requested by Cllr. Brogan). She advised that she could include this item on the agenda for the Workshop.

Cllr. McMonagle agreed to this stating that this service needs to be returned. Letterkenny received a Tidy Towns award a number of years ago. Leaving the grass lying is not working.

**MDL415/21 REPLACE CRASH BARRIER AT THE NOUSE IN MANORCUNNINGHAM AND ROAD LININGS FOR JUNCTIONS**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, the following motion was adopted:

**“That we Replace the Crash Barrier at the bottom of the Nouse in Manorcunningham and carry out Road Linings at the Junctions in the Village.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The Road lining at the Junctions within Manorcunningham have been completed. The Area Team will carry out an Assessment of the Crash Barrier and will consider it for prioritising for funding opportunities.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle noted that the lining had been done during the week and that the crossing is now in place. Main Street now looks shabby and would need to be relined. He thanked the Roads team for the work done and welcomed the response in relation to assessment of the crash barrier.

On the proposal of Cllr. Ian McGarvey and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney, the following motion was adopted:

**“That the Councillors get authority to Question the validity of an application before Grant of Planning permission on sensitive Sites.”**

Members were advised that:

***“The validity of a planning application is guided by the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the associated provisions of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) wherein the obligations placed on prospective applicants in the making of an application to a planning authority are set out formally. The checking of an application in relation to its technical validity is a function of the executive. The legislation makes specific provision under Article 29 of the Planning and Development Regulations to enable submissions or observations to be made in relation to a planning application and, through Section 64 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended), elected members are enabled in the making of representations in relation to a particular case as a reserved function. No further provision in relation to questioning the validity of an application exists at this time.”***

On proposing this motion Cllr. McGarvey noted his disappointment with the advice provided by Planning. He referred to a number of cases he felt have not been dealt with properly. He referred to boulders at the entrance to the path at the Great Arch. An Bord Pleanála have not accepted this and the boulders should be removed. He will bring this to the Plenary Council Meeting. There are the 3 girders at Bridgend, Ramelton for which there is no authority. He has asked for them to be removed but has received no response. He referred to the mast approved in Drumonaghan Wood which will pose risks for users of the Wood. Planning have ignored the rights of the people to walk there and no consideration has been given to the local Residents. He referred to the RMR Sewage proposal which could damage fish life. He has appealed this decision to An Bord Pleanála.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney noted the issues which Cllr. McGarvey has raised over the years and noted his frustration with the projects. This is a National process and changes are needed. He noted that anyone can make submissions in relation to applications in the first 5 weeks but that they may feel they are not being listened to. They have the opportunity to appeal to An Bord Pleanála. People may not be happy with this but have to accept decisions made.

Patricia McIntyre noted that there is a process in place to deal with submissions. In relation to the boulders she advised that this is being followed up and she advised that she will get an update on this. In relation to Drumonaghan Wood she noted that a number of motions have been raised in relation to this and replies have been given and the situation remains the

same. She noted that Cllr. McGarvey's presence is noted at meetings and advised that officials do their best to respond to queries raised.

Cllr. McGarvey advised that he appreciated what had been said. He noted that a letter was sent to Cignal in April in relation to the mast but they have not responded. He received a response from An Bord Pleanála in relation to his objection to the RMR proposals stating that this is being investigated. His appeal in relation to the mast application was 1 day late. This has been raised in the Senate.

#### **MDL417/21    PROJECTS TO DEPARTMENT FOR APPROVAL**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ian McGarvey and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney, the following motion was adopted:

**“That Roads progress the list of 13 Projects going to Department for approval in our Municipal District.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The Priority list for the 5 year Specific Improvement schemes was agreed by the members at Municipal District Level at a Workshop on the 14th of July 2020. At a subsequent Plenary Workshop a County Wide Priority list was agreed. In September 2020 applications were submitted for the schemes that had been prioritised for year 1 to the Department of Transport. As of yet there has been no notification of any funding for these schemes.”***

On proposing this motion Cllr. McGarvey noted that he had met a delegation from Fanad in relation to road projects. The Letterkenny/Milford Road has been left to the 4<sup>th</sup> year. There is 3 years left to do the work which is costing €20 million over 5 years. He noted the response that no information has been received in relation to funding. He referred to the removal of authority from local Members including the health service.

#### **MDL418/21    DISPOSAL OF DEMOLISHED HOUSES**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ian McGarvey and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney, the following motion was adopted:

**“That Roads provide information on where it may be possible to dispose of any houses that may have to be demolished in our Municipal District.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“A wide variety of materials will arise should a property be demolished and some of these materials may have a beneficial use for the re-construction of a replacement property on site. There are a number of disposal routes that are available depending on the materials type to be disposed of; therefore, segregation of materials at the demolition stage is encouraged so that the optimum solution can be selected for each material type. Surplus materials***

***that are to be disposed of must be removed by a collector licenced by the National Waste Collection Permit Office to transport those materials. Materials must be brought to a facility that has the appropriate authorisation for that material such as a Certificate of Registration, Waste Facility Permit or EPA Licence.***

***Donegal County Council has engaged with the Regional Waste Management Planning Offices to ensure that all avenues for beneficial use of surplus materials are explored.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey noted his concerns over treatment of homeowners affected by MICA in relation to cost of rebuilding and not being able to sell their houses. They need to know what they can do when they have to demolish their dwellings. The Council are buying materials to fill holes. Why can this rubble not be used for this purpose. A list of sites where it can be dumped is needed. He noted that he was not happy with the response given.

**MDL419/21 RUMBLE STRIPS AT JUNCTION OF LECK /CULLION ROAD**

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Coyle and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney, the following motion was adopted:

***“That this Council install Rumble Strips at the junction of the Leck/Cullion Road at Readymix.”***

**Members were advised that:**

***“Rumble strips would not be permitted under current road safety guidelines, Letterkenny Area Roads are in the process of procuring anti skid material for this junction.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle referred to previous motions raised in relation to this junction. Work has been done including signage and lights. There have been a few near misses at this junction. There were rumble strips there in the past but the road was concreted and they didn't last. He noted the response that they are not permitted and asked if Members could be given a copy of the road safety guidelines for future reference as to what is or isn't allowed. He noted that the Council are procuring anti skid material for the road but feels that rumble strips would be better to alert drivers.

David McIlwaine advised that there is a problem with skid resistance on rumble strips and they also pose a problem for motorcyclists. They have been identified as a hazard. They are not appropriate in this case and are only allowed in limited cases. He agreed to provide a copy of the guidelines to the Members.

**MDL420/21 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN AT OLDTOWN**

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Coyle and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney, the following motion was adopted:

**“That this Council draw up and put in place a Traffic Management Plan at Oldtown from the Snug Bar to the Oldtown Bridge.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“This area will be included as part of the Southern Relief Road and will be included in the Design if funding is received from the Department of Transport. Therefore it may be premature to proceed with a separate plan until the outcome of this is fully established.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle noted that in the past there were only houses and a factory on this road but now there are NowDoc premises, businesses, shops, a pub and more houses on the road with only a narrow footpath. Residents are finding it difficult to cross the road safely. Sometimes the road is quiet and at other times it is a free for all with speed involved. This needs to be looked at now as the Southern Relief Road is years down the road.

Cllr. Coyle noted that Cllr. Bradley had raised a similar motion under Item No. 24. It was agreed to discuss both motions together.

Cllr. Bradley noted that Residents had been in touch with him in relation to the freeflow of traffic on the road. There are no footpaths on parts of the road. This is a similar problem to the one at the Aura Leisure Centre as raised by Cllr. McMonagle. The Southern Relief Road is years down the road, something needs to be done now.

David McIlwaine noted that there is an issue there and noted the comments made. He undertook to carry out a more detailed assessment of the road with Road Design team.

Cllr. Coyle and Cllr. Bradley thanked David for his response.

**MDL421/21    REINSTATEMENT OF RIGHT TURN ENTRANCE AND REMOVAL OF WHITE LINES PAINTED BLACK**

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Coyle and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney, the following motion was adopted:

**“That this Council would immediately seek the reinstatement of the Right Turn Entrance at the Starlite Business Park for the duration of the ongoing Road Works and also seek the complete erasure of the white lines that have been painted black on the N56 Four Lane Road.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“This motion was referred to the TII and they have advised the following. In respect to Right Turning provision we note both these matters were raised at our recent update meeting with our Site management Team, the Contractor the Chamber of Commerce and Councillors last week and acknowledge the***

***strong arguments made by councillors on the provision of permanent and temporary right turn access at this location.***

***We also acknowledge receipt of recent correspondence from Starlite Business Park and a response has been issued and circulated.***

***We do appreciate the concerns raised on the removal of right turning access both permanent and during the construction works. We are fully satisfied that the permanent works being carried out are the appropriate solution to the serious safety and operational issues on this section of road. As well as safety improvements the scheme will bring significant other benefits too to all businesses, commercial properties and residential areas along this section of road including new and improved pedestrian, cycle facilities, crossing points, lighting and pavement.***

***During construction, for the safety of both the public and workers, all right turns are also prohibited. It would not be appropriate for Donegal Co. Co. to instruct the Contractor in respect to his established site safety and traffic management. That said at that most recent Four Lane Road update meeting the concerns raised were strongly presented to the contractor who was in attendance. The ongoing safety and traffic management during the construction works is a matter for the Contractor and is under regular review and consideration.***

***The second query is in respect to the adequacy of the current line removal and other changes associated with the works. Again concerns were strongly and clearly voiced at our workshop on this matter. These echoed previous queries by the Donegal County Council Site management team to the contractor on the general maintenance and operation of the Traffic Management currently in place. The contractor is fully aware on the issue raised. He will be asked, as a matter of urgency, to review and amend where required how the existing lines have been covered to ensure that there is no confusion for road users and that the best safe function and operation is achieved and maintained during the works.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle advised that he was not happy with the outcome of the workshop held last week. He questioned why a right turn can be allowed for one business and not another. There are 5 businesses in this property which includes a takeaway/restaurant. There is no right turn access to the property but there is one for the property next door.

In relation to the white lines that have been blacked out, there is a reflection during the day when it is sunny and from lights at night. A lot of people are complaining about this. He noted that the contractor is to be contacted as a matter of urgency in relation to this.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney advised that he has received a letter from the businesses. There was a suggestion that an access be provided from the Cullion Road. There is single lane traffic at this location with a hatched area, could the hatched area not be moved back to allow access. He noted that he

was not happy with the meetings held with the TII. Access is only required for the lifetime of the works.

Cllr. Kavanagh noted that all Members have expressed concerns in relation to this.

Cllr. McMonagle noted he had also been contacted by the businesses. This is not acceptable. He asked if access from the Cullion Road is feasible.

David advised that he will raise this with TII and forward the Members concerns to them. The full plan of work would need to be known to understand the current layout. He will seek clarification from TII. There are gradient issues with the Cullion Road, a difference in levels, an issue with vision lines and third party lands involved. This would need further assessment to allow a proper response on that as it is not a simple solution.

Cllr. Kavanagh requested a further meeting and update on this as soon as possible.

Cllr. Coyle noted that he appreciated the support of the other Members.

#### **MDL422/21 LIGHTS AT BARRACK CROSSROADS IN GLENSWILLY**

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, the following motion was adopted:

**“That this Council ensure that the lights at Barrack Crossroads in Glenswilly are installed and completed before this year ending as promised please.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The installation and erection of these lights are programmed to be completed by the end of October 21.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kelly noted that he was happy with the response given that the lights would be installed before the end of October 2021. There is an outdoor playschool nearby and it is a safety issue for them.

#### **MDL423/21 LEFT TURNING LANE AT POLESTAR ROUNDABOUT**

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Kelly seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan the following motion was adopted:

**““That this Council take action to ensure that the new left turning/ third lane at the Polestar roundabout is completed and made operational as soon as possible please.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The civil works are complete; opening will require the traffic controls at the Neil T Blaney pedestrian crossing. Road Design are reviewing options to facilitate same. When we have more details of this the members will be advised.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kelly noted the response given. There is a need to push forward to get the lane opened. The Town came to a standstill recently with the works that are ongoing. Now that schools are back there is a lot of congestion. The traffic needs to be kept flowing.

**MDL424/21 PUBLIC TOILETS AND BANK LINK AT RETAIL PARK ON LINK ROAD**

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Donal Coyle, the following motion was adopted:

***“That this Council consider installing public toilets at the Retail Park on link road and a Bank link please.”***

**Members were advised that:**

***“Donegal County Council provides public conveniences at three locations in Letterkenny. These are in Bernard McGlinchey Town Park, Ballymacool Park and on Justice Walsh Road. There are no plans for any further public conveniences within the town given the range of facilities that are available in other premises. A number of the retail and food serving establishments in the Retail Park area provide toilet facilities for the use of customers and whilst access to these may have been restricted during the Covid-19 pandemic it is envisaged that access to these facilities will be restored in line with the reopening of society.***

***Donegal County Council does not provide bank link facilities. These are either provided directly by banks or through a commercial arrangement between retailers and ATM providers.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kelly noted the response given and added that none of the locations listed are convenient to the Retail Park. It is noted that businesses there are providing facilities and have been very accommodating but not every business has facilities available. There are elderly people, people with mobility issues, children and people with medical problems who need access to toilet facilities. People should be surveyed to get their opinions on this as people will want facilities there. Provision of facilities should be a condition of planning permissions for this type of development. This needs to be looked at seriously and there should be engagement with the people.

Cllr. Kelly added that he understood the response in relation to banklink facilities. This facility is badly needed there as people are charged every time they use their bank cards. He added that he would look into this himself.

Cllr. Coyle noted that this issue has been raised numerous times since this Retail Park was built. There would appear to be no appetite from the Council to provide a service there. The 3 facilities in the Town are not sufficient. Businesses cannot provide facilities for everyone. There is plenty of space there for a facility and the main sewer is there.

Cllr. O'Donnell added that he fully supports the motion. The Council could do more. He asked if the Council had received a reply to the letter sent to the Management Company. If not a further letter should be sent to them. This would not be a big cost to the Council and should be included as part of planning permission conditions. The Management Company should be contacted in relation to the provision of Banklink and toilet facilities.

Patricia McIntyre advised that a letter could be sent to the Management Company and noted that the views of the public should be sought. She added that this could be added to the Agenda for the workshop with Roads and Environment. This was agreed.

#### **MDL425/21 PAINTING IN HOUSING ESTATES IN KERRYKEEL**

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

**“That the Housing Estates in Kerrykeel that were selected as part of the Social Housing Painting Programme are completed immediately.”**

Members were advised that:

***“The motion is noted and the Council tendered the painting programme for this Municipal District in 2021 to include both Knockalla Close and Colmcille Close in Kerrykell. A contractor was appointed and is hoping to commence works shortly weather permitting.***

***The contractor has advised that that the estates in Kerrykeel are the next estates on his programme and he intends to commence works in the next week or so. Staff will be in touch with residents prior to that to agree the colour scheme.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney noted that he is happy with the response given.

#### **MDL426/21 IRISH LEGENDS GOLF TOURNAMENT FOR 2022**

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Donal Coyle, the following motion was adopted:

**“That this Municipal District works closely with Paul Mc Ginley and Fáilte Ireland to ensure that the Irish Legends Golf Tournament returns to this County in 2022.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“Donegal County Council supported the 2021 Irish Legends Golf event held at the Rosapenna Golf resort in August 2021 through its tourism marketing budget and delivered through the Economic development unit.***

***The objective of supporting events such as these is to add to the International recognition of the world class links golf product that exists in the County and is a critical element of the Councils plans in driving further added value tourists to the County in search of this world class golfing experience. Work is ongoing with the wider golfing sector in the County to maximise opportunities across the courses that wish to participate.***

***Due to Covid restrictions, the 2021 event had very limited access and was not attended by spectators in person. However, there was substantial media coverage including extended highlights on SkySports as well as specific golf platforms. The event itself was won by Thomas Bjorn and was acknowledged as being a superb event which showcased the links golf product in Donegal to great effect.***

***Agreement in principle is in place for the Council to support the 2022 event which is also planned for the Rosapenna Golf resort, which, public health advice permitting, is intended to be a spectator attended event. As part of this it is intended for a festival of events to be scheduled for the area for the duration of the event in August 2022.***

***Finally, it is important to acknowledge the support of Paul Mc Ginley & the Mc Ginley Foundation in supporting this event as part of the Ryder cup series and in continuing to showcase Donegal at every opportunity.***

***It is also important to acknowledge the investment and commitment of the Casey family at the Rosapenna for their continuing work in developing further world class golf products at their resort and in their pursuing Tour events such as the Irish Legends in 2021 and 2022.”***

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Blaney noted that efforts should be made to have this tournament in Downings again in 2022 as the whole of the Municipal District would benefit from it. He welcomed the work done this and noted that it was unfortunate that no spectators were allowed. A huge effort was made to get the tournament here. People will come a long way to see the Legends play. It is hoped to have a Festival lasting a full week next year. Everywhere from Letterkenny to there will benefit as accommodation will be needed etc. An annual event could be created from this. If possible the Irish Open could be brought to the area down the line. There are 3 golf courses in the Resort. He acknowledged the work done by the local Golf Club, their Members and Members of other clubs who had helped in running the tournament. He also acknowledged the financial support from Donegal County Council. He noted the response given that work is ongoing to have this event again in 2022. He referred to the Irish Open held in Ballyliffin and noted that Downings could do

this in a short number of years. He thanked Donegal County Council for the work done and hoped it would be a success again next year.

**MDL427/21 SIGNS ON HIGH ROAD FOR PORT ROAD – NO LEFT TURN**

On the proposal of Cllr. Kevin Bradley and seconded by Cllr. John O'Donnell, the following motion was adopted:

**“That this Council install a sign on the High Road to inform drivers not to turn left down the Port Road a massive problem all summer.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“There is insufficient space erect additional suitable signage at an appropriate location on the High Road. We will carry out a review of the traffic movements at this junction and establish any other suitable signage is required.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Bradley noted that there is no sign advising drivers that they cannot turn left. The response given is that there is not enough space, there would appear to be enough space there. The writing on the road has faded away.

David McIlwaine advised that there is not enough space for the location of an appropriate sign. There could be confusion with drivers thinking they cannot turn down Justice Walsh Road. A no entry sign could be put there that doesn't interfere with pedestrians.

Cllr. O'Donnell referred to a “K” sign that is used in other towns that might be a solution. If there is no traffic on the Port Road then drivers could turn down the road not knowing. A sign is also needed between the Four Lanterns and An Grianan Theatre advising drivers that they cannot turn left there.

Cllr. Bradley added that a sign is needed at this location as if there was an accident the Council would be responsible. He thanked Cllr. O'Donnell for supporting his motion.

**MDL428/21 CROSSING AT OLD DUNNES STORES AND CROSSING TO DEVLIN BRIDGE**

On the proposal of Cllr. Kevin Bradley and seconded by Cllr. John O'Donnell, the following motion was adopted:

**“That this Council engage with the design team to look at the crossing at the old Dunnes Stores, the crossing is in the wrong place & the crossing to the Devlin Bridge is almost gone elderly people are having problems crossing the road.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The crossing at Old Dunne’s stores (Oldtown Road) was installed as part of planning conditions for hotel development. The crossing was designed and constructed in accordance with standards of that time.***

***It can be confirmed that this pedestrian crossing is operating within normal parameters.***

***With regard to pedestrian crossing facilities at the mini roundabout Devlin Way, there are proposals to signalise this junction as part of a series of other junctions which would incorporate pedestrian phases, however this is subject to funding and the development of the widen Swilly relief road and southern relief road schemes.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Bradley noted the response given. There are blind spots at this location and pedestrians are stepping out on to the road. The crossing is gone and traffic is not stopping. Something needs to be done.

#### **MDL429/21 SPEED RAMP FOR OLDTOWN ROAD**

On the proposal of Cllr. Kevin Bradley and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

***“That this Council provide a speed ramp on the Oldtown Road near NowDoc as traffic is travelling too fast.”***

**Members were advised that:**

***“The locus being requested for ramps is within a built up area, is within the 50kph speed limit. The area is a mix of residential and general employment. More importantly the NOW Doc Services are accessed directly from this road.***

***As this is an route leads to the wider residential area of Rann, Lismonaghan and further on to the Leck Road. It would be important that this road remains a safe and unfettered access for emergency vehicles to the wider area.***

***Any such speeding complaints should be referred to An Gardaí Síochána in the first instance, as this is an enforcement issue.”***

It was noted that this motion was already dealt with along with Motion from Cllr. Donal Coyle – Minute No. MDL420/21.

#### **MDL430/21 SURVEY OF GULLYS AND SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Donal Kelly, the following motion was adopted:

**“That this Council carry out a survey on all the gully’s and surface water drainage in and around Letterkenny as a matter of urgency to deal with some of the recent flooding that has taken place recently in areas that hasn’t had this problem ever before to ensure we have the adequate drainage systems in place.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The Town Maintenance teams routinely survey and maintain gullies through the Urban Centre.***

***Gullies clearance and pipe jetting work is usually done both by own resources and under contract, routinely. Most of this work is done during the winter / spring period.***

***The instances of flooding encountered around the town in recent months are being investigated, but historically have been due to collapse of pipes / MHs through tear and tear or breakage by third party contractor for other services.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan noted that he has received representations in relation to this and has seen it firsthand. There is flooding now in areas where there wasn’t before. There are concerns that something has changed in the watercourse. A special workshop may be required for this. A proper system needs to be in place in the Town. The public need to be made aware of where there are challenges and where improvements can be made. The Environment Section should be involved in this and the OPW needs to be brought in to discuss this. With climate change and the River Swilly this needs to be brought to the top of the agenda.

Patricia McIntyre noted that she was to revert to the OPW this month and she will contact them in relation to updates. She added that this could also be added to the Agenda for the Roads and Environment Workshop.

Cllr. Brogan asked that someone from Irish Water attend as there are concerns over works not completed properly (trees replaced etc.) since new sewer was put in. Jim Bonner could attend the workshop as he is familiar with this.

#### **MDL431/21 REVIEW TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS AT PORTLEEN NATIONAL SCHOOL**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Donal Kelly, the following motion was adopted:

**“That the Roads Engineer engage with the Safety Officer to look at the traffic movements at Portleen N.S with a view to improvement of signage and highlight traffic movements.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“This will be forwarded to the Road Safety Engineer for Assessment and could possibly be considered as suitable for an application for measure 1 Clar funding.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan noted that he has spoken to the Area Manager about this. There is a need to improve traffic movements at this location. The Safety Officer should be asked to look at this.

## **MDL432/21   MAYORS BUSINESS**

### **432.1 Youth Angling Festival**

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh advised that he had attended the launch of the Youth Angling Festival in Rathmullan on 23<sup>rd</sup> July noting that other Members were also in attendance.

### **432.2 Busking Festival**

Cllr. Kavanagh noted that the Busking Festival held in Letterkenny on 31<sup>st</sup> July had been successful.

### **432.3 10K Presentation**

Cllr. Kavanagh advised that he had presented cheques to the No Barriers Foundation and Donegal Diabetes Parents Support Group from the Letterkenny 10K. He congratulated the Committee on the running of the 10K. The same charities will benefit next year.

### **432.4 Presentation of Prizes – Youth Angling Festival**

Cllr. Kavanagh attended the presentation of prizes for the Youth Angling Festival in the Station House Hotel. He congratulated all those involved and noted that other Members were in attendance.

### **432.5 Community Games**

Cllr. Kavanagh attended the presentation of prize medals for the Community Games on 27<sup>th</sup> August. He congratulated the Committee on keeping this going.

### **432.6 Donegal Half Marathon**

Cllr. Kavanagh attended the start of the Donegal Marathon on 28<sup>th</sup> August.

### **432.7 Irish UN Veterans Association Commemoration**

Cllr. Kavanagh attended the Commemoration at Conwal on Sunday last and he thanked the Association for the invitation.

### **432.8 Noah’s Bed Push**

Cllr. Kavanagh congratulated those involved noting that it had been a fantastic success and had received great coverage. A number of the Members had been present for the homecoming.

### **432.9 Volunteer Recognition Award**

Cllr. Kavanagh noted that he attended the presentation of the 2021 Volunteer Recognition Award from the Donegal Volunteer Centre to Pat McCarthy in early September. He is a proud Mayo man who was part of the All Ireland

winning Minor Team in 1985. He has made a great contribution to the association.

#### **432.10 Make Way Day**

Cllr. Kavanagh noted the Donegal County Council is supporting Make Way Day.

#### **432.11 Green Ribbon Month**

Cllr. Kavanagh noted that September is Green Ribbon Month for Mental Health awareness.

#### **432.12 Mayor of Islington**

Cllr. Kavanagh advised that he had an online meeting with Troy Gallagher, originally from Letterkenny who is now Mayor of Islington. He is hoping to have an Irish Festival there in February next year. Cllr. Brogan has also met with him.

### **MDL433/21 CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **433.1 West Dunbartonshire Council**

Correspondence has been received from West Dunbartonshire Council advising that they intend to visit in Quarter 2 of 2022.

#### **433.2 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Clydebank Blitz**

An invitation has been received for the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Clydebank Blitz in November.

Attendance was proposed by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey.

#### **433.3 Rudolstadt Delegation**

A delegation from Rudolstadt were due to visit in October this year. This has now been cancelled because of the uncertainty with the pandemic. They hope to visit next year. A group of 52 were to visit.

#### **433.4 Civic Reception**

A proposal has been received from Cllr. Michael McBride to have a Civic Reception for Letterkenny Cricket Club early in 2022 to to celebrate their victory over Sion Mills in the final of the Q2 T20 cup final.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle seconded this proposal.

#### **433.5 Ballymacool Park**

Correspondence has been received from the Parents & Toddlers Group seeking use of Ballymacool Park on a Friday for the next 3 weeks. This was approved.

Correspondence has been received from St. Eunan's College seeking permission to use the park for a Maths Trial in September/October. This was approved.

#### **433.6 Bernard McGlinchey Town Park**

Correspondence has been received from Bairbre Ni Cahill seeking permission to erect a marquee in the park in February for Foras na Gaeilge. This was approved.

#### **433.7 Workshop Dates**

Date proposed for Planning Workshop of 30<sup>th</sup> September. This did not suit and Patricia agreed to liaise with Planning in relation to another date.

Dates were suggested for the Joint Workshop with the Glenties MD on Greenways for early October. The 5<sup>th</sup> October was agreed for this online workshop.

Suggested dates for Budget Workshop and Budget Meeting are Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October commencing at 10am. These dates were agreed. It was suggested that the Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October might be held in the Chamber, restrictions permitting.

David McIlwaine advised that he is seeking an online workshop with the Members prior to the Joint Greenways Meeting with Glenties MD to get ideas and comments from the Members so that responses can be prepared for the Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October. It was agreed that this Meeting would take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> September commencing at 10am.

A workshop is to be held to prepare for the 3 year roads programme which has to be sent to the Department at the end of October. It was agreed to hold this meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October commencing at 11.30am.

Dates are also required for the deferred Housing Workshop and the Roads & Environment Workshop. It was suggested that they would be held on the morning of the next MD Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October starting at 10am. This was agreed.

Patricia advised that the Regeneration Workshop that was to be held this week has been postponed.

### **MDL434/21 ENVIRONMENT**

The contents of the Environment report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

Joe Ferry noted that there are a number of campaigns taking place and introduced a Graduate who would be working with Suzanne Bogan on marketing.

#### **434.1 Upcycle Challenge**

The closing date for the Upcycle Challenge is 15<sup>th</sup> October. Groups such as the Mens Shed may be interested in this.

#### **434.2 Bathing Water Season**

The Bathing Water Season has now passed.

### **434.3 Irish Water – Contact Numbers**

The final page of the report gives details of changed contact numbers for Irish Water.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey asked if Irish Water will review charges being imposed on people.

Joe advised that this can be raised with Irish Water and that the Regulator can be asked to investigate any complaints.

Cllr. McGarvey suggested that this MD considers approaching Irish Water to ask them to review charges. He also asked if people could pay on a phased basis.

Joe advised that there is a process for lodging complaints through the CRU.

## **MDL435/21 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, I.S. & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The contents of the Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

### **435.1 Buy Donegal Initiative**

This Initiative will be returning again in 2021. The initiative has been shortlisted for an award.

### **435.2 Community Hubs**

Further funding of €30,000 has been received from Community Hubs for this Municipal District. Donegal County Council has secured funding of €250,000 for BCP network development. Projects at Ray and Cranford have been completed.

### **435.3 Irish Legends Golf Tournament**

Ciaran congratulated Downings on the Irish Legends Golf Tournament which had been covered on Sky Golf. There has been positive feedback on the facility and the Council are working on this for next year again.

### **435.4 Ambition Programme**

This programme is being run by the Local Enterprise Office to support female entrepreneurs and has a closing date of 20<sup>th</sup> September.

### **435.5 Outdoor Seating Scheme**

The closing date for this Scheme is at the end of this month. There have been 300 applications for the scheme.

Ciaran Martin advised that there has been substantial input from around the County. The Consultants had offered the opportunity to make submissions online or one to one. This is now being finalised and feedback will be given to the Members hopefully at the next Meeting.

Cllr. Brogan thanked Ciaran for the report and acknowledged the huge amount of work done by the Economic Development Unit and the Staff in the past 18 months in supporting Businesses and Tourism.

Cllr. Brogan thanked the Casey Family and Paul McGinley for their input to the Irish Legends Golf Tournament and noted that hopefully the Irish Open may be there in the future. He had watched the tournament of Sky.

Cllr. Brogan welcomed the allocation of €137,000 to An Grianan Theatre for outdoor work by Fáilte Ireland.

Cllr. Brogan advised that he had met Troy Gallagher, Mayor of Islington, when he was home and he fully supports him in his promotion of Donegal.

### **MDL436/21 PLANNING SERVICE**

The contents of the Planning report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

#### **436.1 Planning Clinics**

Elaine advised that there are two Planning Clinics in September and two in October.

#### **436.2 Regeneration & Development**

The usual update is provided in the report. Paul Christie is looking for a date for a workshop on 30<sup>th</sup> September. This date does not suit and Patricia agreed to revert to the Members with an alternative date.

#### **436.3 Taking in Charge of Private Residential Estates**

Paddy Mullen advised that he has 4 estates in the Municipal District before the Members today seeking their approval to complete the Taking in Charge process. The estates are Ashleigh Close, Letterkenny, Willow Park, Letterkenny, The Acres, Ramelton and Orchard Close, Manorcunningham.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan the creation of a public right of way and the taking in charge of the estate at Ashleigh Close, Letterkenny was adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Donal Coyle the creation of a public right of way and the taking in charge of the estate at Willow Park, Letterkenny was adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey the creation of a public right of way and the taking in charge of the estate at The Acres, Tullymountain, Ramelton was adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan the creation of a public right of way and the taking in charge of the estate at Orchard Close, Manorcunningham was adopted.

## **MDL437/21 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

The contents of the Community Development Division report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

### **437.1 Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2021**

Francis Conaghan advised of an extension of the date for this scheme to Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September. A significant number of applications have been received and will be assessed in the coming weeks.

### **437.2 CLAR 2021**

An allocation of €50,000 has been given to Ray Community Centre, Milford which will provide a community garden and public allotments. A workshop will be arranged later to discuss programmes for next year.

Cllr. McMonagle asked if a workshop would be held in relation to the Social Enterprise Building advising Members as to where it is at and what the options are.

Francis confirmed that a workshop will be held.

## **MDL438/21 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

The contents of the Roads report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

### **438.1 Progress Report on 2021 Roads Programme**

An update on the 2021 Roads Programme is included in the report. A lot of work will be completed in the next 3 to 4 weeks. Then work will commence on the Active Travel and Climate Adaptation programmes.

### **438.2 LIS Funding**

Additional funding of €144,922 was received in July. This will allow for a further 6 projects from the reserve list to be done.

### **438.3 Bord Iascaigh Mhara Flag Funding**

Funding of almost €21K has been allocation for laybys along the access road to Melmore and work should be completed by the end of October 2021.

### **438.4 CLÁR 2021 Measure 1**

Funding of €45,000 has been allocated to the National School in Tawny with works having to be completed by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

- Cllr. Blaney acknowledged the work that has been done in the past two years considering that part of the year no work could be done. Good work has been done by the Engineers and the men on the ground and should be completed by end of the year. He thanked those involved.

- Cllr. Coyle acknowledged that some roads have been added to the Winter Gritting Programme.
- Cllr. McGarvey asked if there would be any increase in the LIS grants this year as there are a lot outstanding.
- David McIlwaine noted that there are 350 applications with funding received for 18.

## **MDL439/21 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES**

The contents of the Housing and Corporate Services report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

### **439.1 Housing for All Plan**

Patricia McIntyre referred to the Housing for All Plan which was announced the week before last. The Council will engage with the Members in relation to this as a Strategy has to be prepared.

### **439.2 Retirements and Appointments**

Patricia referred to the recent retirement of the Director, Joe Peoples, after 40 years service with a wealth of experience and knowledge. She wished him well and good health in his retirement.

Patricia advised that Patsy Lafferty is the new Acting Director and she wished him well in his new post.

Martina McBrearty is retiring after over 40 years of service next week. She has worked in many roles and has been in the Public Services Centre since it opened in 2002 and has been based in Housing since then. Patricia paid tribute to her and the great model she has been to other staff and wished her well in her retirement.

The Mayor and Members in turn wished Joe Peoples and Martina McBrearty good health and best wishes in their retirements. They welcomed Patsy Lafferty into his new role as Director.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle raised the following matters:-

- There is concern over the shortage of houses in the MD. When will the Respond Houses be allocated as the new tenants have given notice to their current landlords since April and are unsure as to when they will be allowed to move in? This needs to be resolved as soon as possible.
- There are a lot of applications for 4 bed dwellings but the Council are not looking at acquiring 4 beds. There are a lot of transfer requests for 4 beds and the list is growing.
- Only 15 dwellings have been tested for MICA in 6 months – what are the results of the tests? They are still being analysed. There is no update and this is unfair to residents. Members are not being kept up to date. There was a target of 150 per year and there is no hope of that being reached. This is causing anxiety for tenants.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey raised the following matters:-

- Vacant houses need to be filled as soon as possible.
- Houses should be purchased when available – construction of 33,000 equates to 1300 per Local Authority and 260 per MD. There is a lot of work to be done to acquire land and build houses. The Council needs to be proactive. An overhaul of the process is needed.

Cllr. Blaney raised the following matters:-

- Report need on MICA – are turnkey and purchased houses being tested – he has seen blocks delivered to a site 6 months ago that are far from acceptable. Concrete products should be tested before they are purchased.
- A different company should be used for testing to the one used in Buncrana as cracks appeared in the dwellings a year later.

Patricia thanked the Members for their kind comments about Joe Peoples and Martina McBrearty and advised that she would pass them on.

In relation to the matters raised Patricia advised as follows:-

- Respond Housing – efforts are being made to resolve the issue – she will forward an update to the Members.
- 30 Kasmor units – she will seek an update from the Housing Capital section.
- 4 Beds – Patricia acknowledged that there is a shortage of these dwellings and there are a number of applicants for them.
- MICA – Patricia will seek an update from Management on the Scheme.
- Maintenance and Survey – this will be addressed at the Workshop.
- Testing Company – Patricia advised that she would convey the request to Housing Construction.

## QUESTIONS

### **MDL440/21 NEW WATER SPORT FACILITIES IN DOWNINGS**

In answer to his question as to when will work commence on the new water sport facilities in Downings and what location are they being constructed in, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised:

*“This project is at a very early stage of development with the design and final location of the proposed building to be finalised in advance of the submission of a planning application. While consultation is ongoing with adjacent landowners, the project is likely to be located in the vicinity of the existing car park at Downings.*

*On formal receipt of confirmation of funding from Fáilte Ireland, the procurement of a consultant to finalise the design and location of the proposed building will be advanced and it is anticipated that construction works can commence in 2022, once the design is complete, planning permission obtained and the procurement of a contractor is finalised.”*

**MDL441/21 CAR PARK BESIDE NATIONAL SCHOOL IN MILFORD**

In answer to his question as to when will work commence on the carpark beside the national school in Milford as this was to be completed by end of August for start of new school year, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised:

*“Donegal County Council have not been notified of funding being available for the construction of a carpark at the school. As part of the Active Travel Scheme amendments can be made to the kerb layout along the frontage of the possible location of the car park to facilitate access. Donegal County Council are available to discuss this with the school when confirmation is received regarding available funding and the location of the car park.”*

**MDL442/21 FOOTPATH FROM CARRIGART TO DOWNINGS**

In answer to his question what stage is the footpath from Carrigart to Downings at now and when do we envisage work commencing on this project, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised:

*“The revised Natura Impact Statement was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in June 2021. The estimated date for a decision is the 25th of November 2021. Depending on the outcome of this decision consideration will be given to funding opportunities and a timeframe for construction.”*

**MDL443/21 FIRE HYDRANT FOR BROWNKNOWE NATIONAL SCHOOL**

In answer to his question could the Council contact Irish Water and the Fire Service about locating a fire hydrant at Brownknowe National School, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

*“A fire hydrant, on a small diameter main, is located on the Rathmelton side of Brownknowe National School, approximately 65 metres from the school entrance.”*

**MDL444/21 BINS AND DOG LITTER SIGNS FOR LONG LANE, LETTERKENNY**

In answer to his question could the Council please provide bins and dog litter signage on the long lane, Letterkenny, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

*“In keeping with our Any Bag, Any Bin policy signage will be erected at the location.”*

**MDL445/21 ROAD SAFETY MEASURES AT LOUGHNAGIN / GOLF COURSE ROAD / RAMELTON ROAD**

In answer to his question requesting an update update on his previous motion about road safety measures at Loughnagin/Golf Course Road/Ramelton Road

and any update on repairing the damaged barrier on Ramelton Road, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

*“The Contractor has been appointed to carryout repairs to the crash barrier and we are currently waiting on them to commence works. The safety Measures at Loughnagin /Golf Course Road is currently with Road Design for Assessment.”*

**MDL446/21 RAMPS FOR DR. MCGINLEY ROAD**

In answer to his question can Ramps be installed on the Road at Dr Mc Ginley into Kelly’s Farm in the interest of Pedestrian Safety, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

*“This Section of Road has recently being resurfaced. It would not be recommended that Speed ramps be introduced at this location until it is established that there is a speeding issue and that it is the appropriate solution. In the first instance it should be dealt with as an enforcement issue and if any speeding is identified the Gardaí Síochána should be contacted.”*

**MDL447/21 FOOTPATH TO WOODLANDS NATIONAL SCHOOL**

In answer to his question can the Footpath out to Woodlands NS be promoted through the Active Communities Fund, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

*“This proposed scheme is under consideration for prioritising for various funding schemes such as NTA Green Schools and Active Travel Schemes.”*

**MDL448/21 FOOTPATH AND LIGHTS FOR MANORCUNNINGHAM**

In answer to his question when will the Footpath and Lights be installed at Manorcunningham which we received the Active Travel monies for, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

*“These works are programmed to be completed by February 2022.”*

**MDL449/21 SECTION 104 MOTION**

In answer to his question can we as Members have the equivalent of the previous Section 104 Motion restored, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

*“The scope to amend Section 140 of the Local Government Act is a legislative matter for consideration by Government.”*

**MDL450/21 DERELICT PROPERTIES**

In answer to his question will this Council’s engagement with owners of Derelict Properties in our Municipal District be improved, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

*“Further to previous advice on this matter, there is limited capacity to prioritise the use of the provisions of the Derelict Sites legislation, and responsibility lies primarily with the owners of such properties. In this context, engagement with owners is likely to be the most constructive means of delivering resolutions to such cases.”*

**MDL451/21 REQUEST MINISTER & INLAND FISHERIES TO ATTEND A MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING**

In answer to his question can we ask the Minister & Inland Fisheries to attend our Municipal District to improve the development of Fishing on the Lennon & the River Swilly, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

*“The Inland Fisheries have attended workshop of the Municipal District in the past to discuss the development of fishing on the River Lennon and River Swilly and it was agreed that the Municipal District will arrange meetings with the Inland Fisheries on an annual basis. In this regard, the Council will make contact with the Inland Fisheries to request a meeting at an early date. The request for the Minister to attend will be noted in the communication to issue to Inland Fisheries.”*

**MDL452/21 MEENAROY BRIDGE**

In answer to his has there been any further progress made to secure funding to carry out the very much needed works on the Meenaroy Bridge and can I have a update on what stage its at please thanks, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

*“The widening and realignment of Meeniroy Bridge was ranked number 6 on the Countywide priority list for funding that was submitted to the Department of Transport in September 2020. We have received no update on the provision of this funding to date.”*

**MDL453/21 ROAD SAFETY BARRIERS IN CHURCHILL**

In answer to his question requesting an update on when the new road safety barriers will be installed in the two locations in Churchill which he previously had motions adopted for thanks, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

*“This section has been included in a Priority List seeking funding for barrier funding and replacement. We have not received any notification of funding being available for these works.”*

**MDL454/21 NEWMILLS BRIDGE**

In answer to his question requesting an update on when Newmills Bridge will be resurfaced as this is a matter of urgency especially before the winter sets in please thanks, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

*“The adjacent R250 Newmills Rashedoge Regional road is included in the 2022 Road Restoration programme. The surfacing of Newmills Bridge will be carried*

*out as part of this project. In addition to this bridge will be included in the revised Winter Maintenance programme this winter."*

**MDL455/21 SURVEY AT JUNCTION OF LIDL IN MILFORD**

In answer to his question requesting an update on his Motion about surveying the Junction at LIDL in Milford, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

*"This section has been referred to the Road Safety Engineer for Assessment and is being considered for prioritizing for Low Cost Accident funding."*

**MDL456/21 SURVEY ON MANHOLE COVERS IN MILFORD**

In answer to his question requesting an update on his Motion about surveying the man hole covers in Milford and getting the loose ones repaired, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

*"This is currently included in our programme of works. This survey will be carried out as soon as staff and resources become available."*

**MDL457/21 FOOTPATH TO PIER AND AT ST. BRIDGET'S TERRACE, KERRYKEEL**

In answer to his question when is the Footpath towards the Pier and the Footpath at St Bridget's Terrace, Kerrykeel going to be completed, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

*"These works are programmed to commence Mid September and be completed in mid November."*

**MDL458/21 UPDATE ON ACTIVE TRAVEL**

In answer to his question requesting an updated report on the Active Travel (footpath programme) and details on the timeframe for these works to be completed this year, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

*"Please see attached Spreadsheet giving an update on the current status of Active Travel Projects."*

**MDL459/21 UPDATE ON URDF PLANS**

In answer to his question requesting an updated progress report on our URDF plans and a timeframe for our next steps, and an updated report on the proposed parklets as agreed by this Council as he was of the understanding they would be in place for the summer holidays, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

*"A workshop is scheduled to take place with the Members of the Letterkenny/Milford Municipal District on Thursday 16th September 2021. At this workshop members will be fully updated on the progress of the Regeneration Strategy under the first strand of URDF funding. An update can be*

*provided at this workshop across all other items of the URDF/regeneration work programme in Letterkenny, however it is the intention of the Team at this meeting to seek further specific workshop dates with Members to deal with other substantive areas of regeneration work and in respect of which an update is necessary or requested.”*

**MDL460/21 UPDATE ON WALKWAYS AND TRAILS**

In answer to his question requesting an updated report on what steps have taken to develop local walkways and trails in the Letterkenny Municipal District following motions agreed by this Council, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

*“Donegal County Council endeavours to work with other agencies and community groups to support the development of walks and trails on a county-wide basis.*

*The Donegal Outdoor Recreation Strategy is currently under way which will provide a strategic approach to future development of walks and trails in the county and there will be consultation with the elected members on this strategy in due course.*

*A number of key projects are supported within the Letterkenny Milford MD including support for the Swilly River Walk committee as they work with local stake-holders to advance that project.*

*Works will be carried out at end of September on the Mountain Top trail and tenders have been drafted for works on the Leharden breakwater walk funded from the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2019.*

*Two more applications for funding under ORIS 2021 have been submitted for local walking infrastructure at Ray and Fanad.*

*We committed to materials for the Cholmcille Trail (Milford) with the local group organized the laying and placing of materials and in conjunction with roads department they managed to get the surface compacted and has turned out very successful.*

*The outdoor recreation officer has visited the Letterkenny town park and identified some areas that need improvements e.g. some way marker posts and signage and will work with the Roads section to address these issues.*

*The local Development committee in Churchill has a proposal on Coillte land for a trail leading off from the car park of the church but requires funding, DLDC, DCC and Coillte have all met on site earlier this year and the idea is welcomed by Coillte (land owners) subject to seeking funding it could be a popular asset.*

*Other local routes at Newmills are also being examined.*

*We are open to input from the elected members and local community groups to develop local walks and trails on a strategic basis within the MD and the new*

*county Donegal outdoor recreation strategy once adopted will guide these decisions.”*

**MDL461/21    DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 in a venue to be confirmed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

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Meetings Administrator