

**MINUTES OF THE INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE, CARNDONAGH ON TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018 AT 1.00pm**

**Councillors Present:**

Cllrs Paul Canning, Albert Doherty, Nicholas Crossan, Martin McDermott, Martin Farren, Bernard McGuinness, Rena Donaghey and Cllr Michael Doherty.

**Officials Present:**

John McLaughlin, Director of Service, Roads & Transportation, Seamus Hopkins, Area Manager, Roads and Transportation, Paddy Doherty, Divisional Manager, Community and Enterprise, Aideen Doherty, Area Manager Housing & Corporate, Donna Callaghan, Assistant Planner, Mathew Byrne, Waste Regulation Officer, Fiona Doherty, Development Officer, Community and Enterprise and Una Cresswell, A/Senior Staff Officer.

**Reports Presented:**

Roads & Transportation  
Community & Enterprise  
Housing, Corporate & Cultural Service  
Planning Services  
Environment Services

**18.64 Consideration of the Minutes of the Meeting of Inishowen Municipal District held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 1.00pm.**

On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey and seconded by Cllr Paul Canning, the minutes of the September meeting of the Inishowen Municipal District meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were agreed.

**18.64.01 Correction to Minutes**

Re Minute 18.61.10, Mathew Byrne, Waste Regulation pointed out that Waste Enforcement Officers would be appointed by the end of October.

**18.64.02 Budget Meeting**

Cllr Martin Farren, reminded the members that the 2019 Inishowen Municipal District Budget meeting would take place at 3.00pm on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in the County House, Lifford.

**18.65 ENVIRONMENT**

The Environment Report was considered as read.

**18.65.01 Hazardous Waste Collection**

Mathew Byrne, Waste Regulation Officer, referred to the free hazardous waste collection taking place at the Recycling Centre in Carndonagh on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018 between 8.30am and 11.30am as detailed in the Environment Report. Cllr Albert Doherty said that the free event was very welcome in Carndonagh.

**18.65.02 Mattress Amnesty**

Mathew Byrne also referred to the mattress amnesty that was taking place. Over one thousand mattresses were collected for recycling during six Mattress Amnesty Days in Donegal during August and September 2018 in what was a very successful national initiative. Cllr Nicholas Crossan

commended the Environment Section on its free schemes and initiatives but stated that there was still too much fly tipping in the peninsula that had to be addressed.

#### **18.65.03 Waste Collections in County Donegal**

The statistics on the tonnage of waste collected was noted by the members.

#### **18.65.04 Litter Fines, Inspections and Enforcements**

Statistics on litter fines, inspections and enforcement action were noted by the members.

#### **18.65.05 October Re use Month and Launch of Bikes 4 Africa Campaign**

Mathew Byrne advised that the Month of October is National Reuse Month and everyone is being encouraged to reuse everyday at home, at work and at play, Donegal County Council is supporting Letterkenny Rotary Club and Bryson Recycling on the 'Bikes 4 Africa' campaign where people are being encouraged to donate their old bikes to the Bike 4 Africa campaign by leaving them at any of the six Recycling Centres in Letterkenny, Dungloe, Milford, Carndonagh, Stranorlar, Laghey during opening hours during the month of October.

#### **18.65.06 Binbane Study -Survey on Lagg/Ballyliffen**

Cllr Martin McDermott thanked Mathew Byrne for his report. He requested that an update on the timeframe for a report being provided on the Binbane Ballyliffen/ Malin Survey as this has been taking place for some time.

#### **18.65.07 Illegal Dumping**

Cllr McDermott referred to the illegal dumping on the Hill Road, Glengad and Malin Head. Cllr Albert Doherty said he believed fly tipping was rampant and it was requested that an update and clarity on what is accepted, volumes, and pricing at Waste Transfer Station in Carndonagh be provided. It was suggested that the costs to deposit items at the recycling centre were high and that this was encouraging people to fly tip as an alternative. Cllr Paul Canning stated that there was a lot of fly tipping in the border areas and those additional patrols were required. He asked where the new Enforcement Officer would be based. Mathew Byrne stated that three Enforcement Officers will be based in Letterkenny but will be covering all areas in the county.

It was acknowledged that the Inishowen Litter Warden was doing an excellent job but requires additional assistance urgently. Cllr Mickey Doherty stated that it was unfortunate that people still dump waste items even when there are free schemes available

#### **18.65.08 Discharge from Waste Treatment Centres**

Cllr Paul Canning asked is Donegal County Council monitoring the discharge from the Waste Treatment Centres or is it Irish Water who is responsible?

#### **18.65.09 Scheme at Three Trees, Quigley's Point and Muff**

Cllr Mickey Doherty questioned the status with the scheme at Three Trees Quigley's point to Muff Cllr Doherty expressed his concerns regarding water supply post Brexit.

#### **18.65.10 Request for Michael McGarvey, Director of Water and Environment to attend Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting.**

Members requested that Michael McGarvey attend the next meeting of Inishowen Electoral area to discuss issues

#### **18.65.11 Lagan Construction**

Cllr Albert Doherty referred to the folding up of the Lagan construction company and the impact on the works that were to be done along the Foyle in Greencastle. Donegal County council had

forwarded a query to Irish water in this regard and Cllr Doherty was wondering how the works can be delivered as nothing was happening and no information was being provided.

Cllr Martin Farren stated that this project was a €5.8 million project and was initially supposed to finish by the close of 2018. He said he had been in touch with Irish Water recently and that only a further 500 metres of pipe line was required along with a station at Fullerton Pollan Dam to finish it off. He stated that Irish Water were confident that this could be completed in 2019. Cllr Farren said he believed waters should be available from Fullerton Pollan Dam and he is committed to this.

#### **18.65.12 Water Mains Burst in Buncrana and Carrigans**

Cllr Rena Donaghey stated that there was a huge water burst in Buncrana that affected as far as Carrigans last Saturday and that businesses were very angry. She stated that water from Fullerton, Pollan Dam needs to go to Inishowen before it goes to Letterkenny as she believed that two thirds of Inishowen did not have enough water.

#### **18.65.13 Tidy Towns Initiative**

Cllr Rena Donaghey congratulated the Tidy Towns Committees for all their efforts and congratulated them on their successful achievements. Buncrana achieved a gold medal and Malin a bronze medal. All participating towns had received increased marks and Donegal County Council had been very supportive. She suggested a line in the 2019 Budget should be included for funding to help Tidy Towns Committees. Cllr Martin Farren stated that he wished to be associated with these comments as Tidy Towns had done a fantastic job, Mathew Byrne congratulated all the Tidy Towns committees for their efforts and on obtaining extra points in the national competition.

#### **18.65.14 Water Hydrants**

Cllr Albert Doherty questioned whether safety checks are carried out on water hydrants as to ensure that they can be opened at all times should they be required. Cllr Nicholas Crossan advised that he had brought this matter up at a plenary Council meeting two years ago. Mathew Byrne said he would follow up on this with the relevant Council officials and come back to the members.

### **18.66 PLANNING**

Donna Callaghan, Assistant Planner presented the Planning Report to the members.

#### **18.66.01 Planning Clinic, Carndonagh PSC**

Donna Callaghan, Assistant Planner advised that a planning clinic was taking place on 7<sup>th</sup> November in Carndonagh PSC. Donna advised that this was an advisory service and that the public can drop in. Cllr Paul Canning suggested that a planner should make a decision at clinic level and not have to refer back up the line as he believes sometimes advice given is not followed through

#### **18.66.02 Seven Strategic Local Area Plans**

Donna Callaghan advised that the seven Local Area Plans in the county were operational since the end of August and any new applications were subject to the new plans. Cllr Rena Donaghey asked when the Buncrana plan be started, Donna Callaghan said she would refer back with a reply.

#### **18.66.03. Planning Staff In Inishowen**

Cllr Bernard McGuinness reiterated his request for planning staff in Inishowen and said this request could be backed up by the level of applications in Inishowen. Cllr McDermott said he agreed that there should be a planning services in Inishowen and Cllr Mickey Doherty and Cllr Farren also agreed saying he will continue to keep the request for a planning service in Inishowen on the agenda.

#### **18.66.04 Delays in Planning Applications**

Cllr Bernard McGuinness expressed his frustration on the detailed requirements on planning applications such as the need to do traffic surveys for example, on some applications. He said some applications were being drawn out for over a year and it was ridiculous.

#### **19.66 05 Taking in Charge of Estates**

Cllr Martin McDermott requested that an update on the takeover of estates be provided by Frank Sweeny, Executive planner at the December meeting of Inishowen MD

### **18.67 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES**

#### **18.67.01 Housing Report**

The Housing Report was taken as read.

#### **18.67.02 Construction Projects**

Aideen Doherty, Area Manager, Housing and Corporate advised the members that the three construction projects in Newtowncunningham, Manorcunningham and Carndonagh were near completion

#### **18.67.03 Housing need in Inishowen**

It was requested that details of the housing need in Inishowen be provided to the members . Aideen Doherty agreed to provide this information along with the number of houses purchased by the council in Inishowen

#### **18.67.03 Rural Housing**

Cllr Bernard McGuinness expressed his concern that requests for turnkey developments did not include Culdaff. Also, Cllr Martin McDermott proposed and Cllr seconded that SI houses be promoted for rural dwellers so that they would have the option to be housed on their own town lands and in their own communities. It was suggested at a separate SI application form be used. He suggested that rural areas were being depopulated as they could not get housing in their own areas and consequently, school numbers were falling in rural schools. Some discussion took place. It was noted that there had been few SI houses built in the last few years.

#### **18.67.04 Sewers in Housing Estates**

Cllr Paul Canning stated that there were infrastructure issues and wondered if the Housing Service was negotiating with Irish Water regarding Sewers as in many cases sewers were at full capacity.

#### **18.67.05 Electoral Roll**

Cllr Paul Canning questioned if information was passed regarding change of addresses so that the electoral roll is up to date and asked was this being looked after? Aideen Doherty, Area Manager stated that there were data protection issues passing information.

#### **18.67.06 Mica Redress Scheme**

Cllr Albert Doherty referred to the Mica Redress Scheme which affected private property owners and DCC housing stock and suggested that Donegal County Council should be at the forefront in leading the way. Cllr Nicholas Crossan stated that he wished to congratulate all involved in prompting and securing the Mica Redress Programme . Cllr Mickey Doherty stated that the efforts of the Mica Action Group were to be praised and the opportunity of meeting Minister McHugh and the Taoiseach at the official opening of Cockhill Bridge had been a useful opportunity to discuss the Mica issue

There was a suggestion that those affected by Mica should be exempt from property tax in the same way that people who had pirate in their homes were.

#### **18.67.07 Request for Increase in Budget for Building and Acquisitions in Inishowen MD**

An increase in budget is required for building and acquisitions in Inishowen MD where necessary, stated Cllr Albert Doherty. He stated that in the National Budget it was planned that there would be 10,000 new social homes in Ireland in 2019 and questioned how many new homes would be in Donegal and in Inishowen Municipal District. He referred to the total housing need in Inishowen and how housing requirements cannot be delivered. He requested that updates be provided on the Homeless Action Plan

#### **18.67.08 Vacant Properties/ Properties on Reserve**

Cllr Albert Doherty requested information on properties that the Council might have in reserve for use in emergencies such as in cases of where accommodation is required for emergencies such as the fire last week.

#### **18.67.09 Homeless Awareness Campaign**

Cllr Albert Doherty commended Carndonagh Community School Transition Year students on their recent homelessness awareness campaign

#### **18.67.10 Back Yards in Clos Phadraig**

Cllr Albert Doherty requested an update on the proposed works on the back yards of properties in Clos Phadraig.

#### **18.67 .11 Ambulance Service in Inishowen**

A discussion took place on the ambulance service in Inishowen. Cllr Martin McDermott referred to a case in whereby a patient had to wait for up to two and a half hours for an ambulance. Other examples were provided by the members and the consensus of the members was that waiting times were not acceptable and an additional ambulance should be provided so that a twenty four hour service with two ambulances was present in Inishowen. It was agreed that North Inishowen was particularly badly affected by the lack of cover. Cllr Rena Donaghey stated that she agreed with her fellow members. She said that Inishowen had a quarter of the County's population and only had one full day service ambulance and one night service ambulance based in Carndonagh and when the ambulance is out, there is limited cover. She referred to the requirements of three nursing homes in the peninsula. She added that Buncrana are getting a base for a day crew in Buncrana in 2019 and that a Rapid Response Service is commencing in Buncrana in two weeks time.

It was proposed by Cllr McGuinness and seconded by Cllr Martin McDermott that the Director of the Ambulance Service be invited to meet with the Inishowen Municipal District members.

#### **18.67.12 Appointment of Joe McHugh TD as Minister for Education and Skills**

Cllr Rena Donaghey said she wished to congratulate Joe McHugh TD on his recent appointment as Minister for Education and Skills which had a huge portfolio,

#### **18.68 COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE**

Paddy Doherty, Divisional Manager presented the Community and Enterprise Report to the members.

#### **18.68.01 Report on Statistics for Foyle and Swilly Ferries**

Fiona Doherty, Development Officer for Community and Enterprise presented a report on statistics for the two Inishowen Ferry Services. It was noted that there was an increase in traffic in both the Foyle and Swilly Ferries including cars and camper vans using the service. It was noted there had been some difficulties over the summer. Subvention for both ferries should be reviewed it was noted and the possibility of extending the ferries be looked at., Cllr Nicholas Crossan said it was great to see the ferries running. He asked if the Ferry companies were making profits and if the subvention from Donegal County Council was too much particularly for Foyle Ferries. Value for Money was paramount he added so facts and figures should be reviewed. Cllr Martin Farren suggested that it was unfortunate that Causeway Glens and Coast Council did not provide funding. It was proposed by Cllr Albert Doherty and seconded by Cllr Rena Donaghey that the Mayor and Chief Executive of Causeway Coast and Glens be invited to meet with the Inishowen elected members to discuss marketing the whole North West Region and for collaboration in general .

#### **19.68.02 Malin Head Project**

Cllr Martin McDermott requested an update on the Malin Head project be provided at next meeting and that it be highlighted by Donegal Tourism in all their publicity in the same way as Sliabh Liag and Fanad Lighthouse as Malin Head is the most visited site in Donegal. Fiona Doherty stated that there had been a successful tender and legal matters were being attended to at this point by the Council's solicitors.

#### **18.68.03 Invitation for IDP to attend next Municipal District Meeting**

It was agreed that Inishowen Development Partnership would attend the next Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting in December,

#### **18.68.03 Community Enhancement Programme**

The members were advised that under the Community Enhancement Programme,€600,000 had been allocated to the county and that these funds would be split between the five municipal districts.

#### **18.68 04 Donegal Happiness Survey**

Cllr Martin McDermott stated that Donegal County Council are conducting a Happiness Survey which will look at issues specific to living in Donegal and it is hoped that the DCC council members will promote this survey, This survey will be useful providing information going forward , Paddy Doherty stated that Donegal was a deprived county in Ireland and that the survey would take place annually

#### **18.68.05 Buncrana Festival Park**

Cllr Rena Donaghey stated that the surface at Buncrana Festival Park was wearing down and required attention.

#### **18.68 06 Playgrounds**

Members requested that additional funding be allocated to playgrounds in the county and that they get an opportunity to discuss the annual inspections report. Cllr Bernard McGuinness suggested that a budget for Inishowen playgrounds be provided and questioned the autonomy that the elected members of the Inishowen District had on funding issues.

#### **19.68 07 Carndonagh Bridge St Refurbishment**

Cllr Albert Doherty asked whether Carndonagh Bridge St Scheme will be wheelchair accessible.

#### **19.68 08 .Slina Slainte**

Cllr Albert Doherty suggested that Frances Conaghan, Walks and Trails Officer consider the walk connecting the Circular Road to Donagh Park and Convent Road and to look at costings

#### **18.68.09 Three School Campus**

Cllr Albert Doherty sought clarification on the status of the proposed Three School Campus and whether a site had been secured or not, Cllr Rena Donaghey advised that she was Chair of the ETB and was requesting a meeting with the new Minister for Education and Skills', Joe McHugh. Cllr Mickey Doherty stated that he believes there is land available for the campus and the project should move on without delay.

### **18.69 ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION**

#### **18. 69.01 Draft Restoration Works Moville to Greencastle Village**

Seamus Hopkins advised that works at Ballylawn arte delayed to 2019 and are being replaced with Drung where works are ongoing

#### **18.69.02. Malin Town**

Seamus Hopkins advised that works at Malin Town have also been deferred to 2019

#### **18.69.03 Rockfeild Terrace**

Seamus Hopkins advised that works at Rockfeild Terrace, Buncrana has been deferred to 2019 as the weather was unsuitable

#### **18.69.04 Malin St Carndonagh**

It was noted that works had commenced in Malin St, Carndonagh

#### **18.69 05 Lighting Ballyliffen to Clonmany**

Provision of the lighting Programme between Clonmany and Ballyliffen has been completed it was noted.

#### **18.69 .06 Drainage Programme**

Seamus Hopkins updated the members on the Drainage Programme up until the end of the year

#### **18.69 07 Carrowmore, Malin**

Cllr Martin McDermott stated that works were completed at Carrowmore, Malin only a couple of months ago and that water was running down the road and needed to be looked at as he had received complaints.

#### **18.69 .08 Donagh Park River Walk**

Cllr McDermott requested an update on works necessary at Donagh Park River Walk.

#### **18.69 .09 Lights at Gleneely**

Cllr McDermott requested an update on the installation of lights at Gleneely

#### **18.69.10 Rivers**

Cllr Martin McDermott reiterated his query from previous meetings asking if the Council had any responsibility for rivers. John McLaughlin, Director of Service, referred to previous discussions where it was clarified that DCC do not have any responsibility apart from a few of the main rivers. He added that there were not specific budgets for this purpose. Mr Mc Laughlin added that there were strong

concerns regarding dredging rivers as there are serious environmental impacts in doing so. Seamus Hopkins advised that from an Area Roads perspective, the responsibility only extends to protecting the road network where road structure is affected. Cllr Mc. Guinness stated the Inishowen MD requires its own budget for this purpose so that the Inishowen MD can decide to help with flooding and rivers.

#### **18.69 11 Junction at Quigley's Point Derry Road**

Cllr Mickey Doherty referred to the increased speed limit at the junction at Quigley's Point onto the Derry Road which in his opinion is a potentially very dangerous junction.

#### **18.69. 12 Traffic Calming at Newtowncunningham**

Cllr Paul Canning stated that traffic calming measures at Newtowncunningham were working exceptionally well and should have been done years ago. He suggested that Bridgend should be looked at now as cars were travelling very fast on this stretch of road. He added that traffic calming measures should be considered for other areas using the Newtowncunningham example.

#### **18.69.13 Road Design Planning Issue**

Cllr Paul Canning suggested that the Planning Service should be in discussions with Road Design regarding floor levels. He stated that the roads service often add six inches of tar to the road surface which in turn affect the level of the houses .

#### **18.69.14 Fahan**

Cllr Rena Donaghey said that there had recently been an accident at Fahan and requested if this area could be looked at as this was, in her opinion, a potential black spot.

#### **18.69 15 Derry to Bridgend**

Cllr Mickey Doherty expressed his concerns about the speed limit on the Derry to Bridgend Road suggesting that it should be brought down from 100km per hour to 60 per hour. Cllr Paul Canning stated that he was advised that this could not happen.

#### **18.69 16 Merville Centre**

Cllr Martin Farren said that traffic calming measures in the centre of Merville should be looked at and also the possibility of the installation of a pedestrian crossing be considered.

#### **18.69.17 Bridges**

Cllr Mickey Doherty queried the possibility of funding for bridges such as Mill Bridge, Brochan Bridge and Westbrook. Seamus Hopkins advised that funding for bridges was outside the annual budget.

#### **18.69.18 Redcastle Village – Merville Road**

Seamus Hopkins agreed to update the members on proposed design for the road at Redcastle.

#### **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

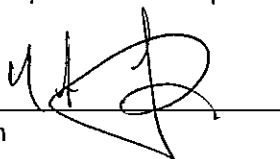
It was noted that the next meeting was to be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 1.00pm

#### **Workshops were also agreed as follows:**

North West Greenways 1.00pm 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Roads Workshop 2.00pm 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Certified: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach



Date 12/2/2019