

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING HELD IN THE MILFORD PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2018**

***MDL 152/18 MEMBERS PRESENT***

Cllr. Liam Blaney  
Cllr. Ciaran Brogan  
Cllr. Adrian Glackin  
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh  
Cllr. James Pat McDaid  
Cllr. Michael McBride  
Cllr. Ian McGarvey  
Cllr. Gerry McMonagle  
Cllr. Dessie Shiels

***MDL153/18 OFFICIALS PRESENT***

Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation  
Martin McDermott, Executive Planner  
Joe Ferry, Senior Executive Scientist, County Laboratory  
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate & Housing Services  
Linda McCann, Senior Staff Officer  
Christina O'Donnell, Development Officer  
Liam Ward, Director of Service

The meeting was chaired by Mayor, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh.

***MDL154/18 APOLOGIES***

Cllr. John O'Donnell

***MDL155/18 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018***

On the proposal of Cllr. Ian McGarvey and seconded by Cllr. Michael McBride, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 were adopted.

***MDL156/18 OLIVER PLUNKETT ROAD***

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

*(a) That this Council put some sort of physical speed restriction measure at the top of Oliver Plunkett Street leading off the Main Street of Letterkenny to prevent the ongoing practice of certain drivers turning off the main street and then immediately rapidly speeding up as they travel down Oliver Plunkett Street to the Pearse Road as there was likely to be a serious accident soon at this location given its busy location next to the County Library, Social Welfare Offices, bus stop and various*

*other commercial properties and (b) that the Council also consider putting a form of pedestrian crossing at the busy junction of Oliver Plunkett Street with the Main Street.*

Members were advised that:

*Given the description of the apparent speeding activity taking place down Oliver Plunkett Road, it was considered that a physical restraint at the top of the Oliver Plunkett Road would not have the desired effect referred to in the motion, and that details on these occurrences should be referred to the Gardaí. Oliver Plunkett Road was Urban and within the 50kph Speed Limit, and extensive physical measures for the length of the road, would cause other problems for large vehicles and emergency vehicles. There had been no records of accident at the junction between Main Street and Oliver Plunkett Road. Roads Department would consider the appropriateness or otherwise of an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing at this location.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels read the motion and asked that in the interest of safety that speed bumps be installed.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey supported the motion.

Fergal Doherty advised that in urban areas the practice was to minimise ramps and agreed to forward the request for an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing to the Roads Design for assessment.

***MDL157/18    BERNARD MCGLINCHEY TOWN PARK***

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

*That this Council consider what could be done to reassure members of the public that the Bernard McGlinchey Town Park in Letterkenny was safe for use and that various incidents of concern in recent years were being taken seriously and whether more CCTV camera coverage was needed and/or a park supervisor.*

The Members were advised that:

*An extensive and bespoke CCTV system was installed in 2017 and covers all main public thoroughfares within the Town Park. In addition, Orbit Security carry out routine security checks on the park after hours. Also there was regular attendance of staff at the park during the day in the course of implementing maintenance works at the park. The high daily usage of the Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Park, was not suggestive of a public perception that the park was unsafe. All public order issues should be reported to An Garda Siochana.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels read the motion and asked that a contact telephone number sign be erected around the Park for the public to call if needed should a caretaker not be in place. Cllr. Shiels asked that a Caretaker was put in place as negative publicity on the park was putting people off using it.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey supported the motion and asked that signs would be erected giving the contact number for An Garda Síochána. Cllr. McGarvey warned of the impact of negative publicity about incidents in the Park.

Fergal Doherty advised that an extensive CCTV system was installed in the Park in 2017 and recordings were available to An Garda Síochána if requested. Any criminal activity in the Park should be referred to the Gardai and at present there was no budget in place for a Caretaker, however if set aside in the Budget going forward a Caretaker could be considered.

***MDL158/18*** **PROPOSED JOE BONNER ROAD**

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

*In the context of the imminent construction and completion of the new Joe Bonner Road which would exit onto the already very busy Neil T Blaney Road on the approach section leading immediately to the Polestar Roundabout in Letterkenny, that this Council consider the proper layout and road markings of this section of the Neil T Blaney Road leading to the Polestar Roundabout in order that traffic tailbacks could be better dealt with and traffic movements improved.*

The Members were advised that:

*It was currently proposed to include for the installation of traffic lights at the junction of Neil T Blaney Road/Joe Bonner Road and these would regulate access/egress at this junction. While markings would be reviewed, the Polestar Roundabout was above capacity at present and any solution to this would be outside the remit of the Joe Bonner Project. The Council was currently reviewing options with respect to improving the junction layout at Polestar Roundabout and solutions shall be discussed with MDL once same were sufficiently developed.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels read the motion and asked that serious consideration be given to putting a roundabout at this junction due to the large volumes of traffic and projected future growth of the town.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey supported the motion.

**MDL159/18 TRAFFIC CALMING AT ACRES HOUSING ESTATE, RAMELTON**

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

*That this Council investigates the possibility of putting in place traffic calming measures in the Acres Housing Estate in Tullymountain Ramelton as currently there was none and cars are driving through at a fast rate, and there had already been incidents in this area.*

The Members were advised that:

*This was a private estate not in the charge of Donegal County Council and over which the Council have no remit to carry out any works.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin asked that the Council revisit this request as there was no road running through the estate as the estate was on the main road which had three entrances into the estate. Cllr. Glackin said there was an issue with speed on the road from Milford and Ramelton sides and residents request that speed signs be erected and traffic calming measures be put in place.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle supported the motion.

Fergal Doherty agreed to look at this matter.

**MDL160/18 UPGRADE AT BALLYMAGOWAN JUNCTION**

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

*That this Council investigates the possibility of conducting upgrade works at the Ballymagowan Junction on the Main Kerrykeel to Portsalon Road. Traffic coming from Rosnakill had to stop at this junction which was on a hill and with lights on (even dips) it could be blinding to traffic coming from Kerrykeel direction – mainly due to them sitting on this incline which leaves lights slightly raised. The junction itself was very dangerous even at daytime as it had a blind spot for traffic coming from Rosnakill to see backwards towards Portsalon for oncoming traffic. Could some kind of re-alignment done at this junction so that traffic could be coming out onto main road more “square-on”.*

The Members were advised that:

*Due to the vertical and horizontal alignments of both roads at this junction, modification would require major civil works to realign this junction both vertically and horizontally. This would be referred to Road Design, but due to the extensive nature of the works that would be required and without identified current funding,*

*it was not anticipated that any realignment works would be carried out in the short to medium term.*

On proposing the Motion Cllr. Glackin asked that funding was sought and that this would be addressed in the short to medium term.

On seconding the Motion Cllr. McMonagle supported the motion and asked if mirrors and hedgecutting could be done in the interim.

***MDL161/18 FOOTBALL PITCH AT OLDTOWN, LETTERKENNY***

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

*That this MD develop the football pitch at Oldtown to Donegal League Standards with Dressing Rooms and a Regulation size Football Pitch.*

The Members were advised that:

*Under the current structures, the Council did not have a direct role in developing playing facilities for any sport. The Council had assisted many sporting clubs to develop and improve their facilities through the Development Fund Initiative and other funding programmes. The main source of funding for sporting clubs to develop their facilities was the Sports Capital Programme and the Council had in the past assisted clubs in making applications under this programme.*

*Should the Council develop a role in the provision, maintenance and operation of sports fields directly, this would require significant budgetary provision and the necessary structures to manage same.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle asked that the Council seek funding to develop the existing pitch on lands owned by the Council in order that football clubs in the town could use the facility. Cllr. McMonagle asked that this motion was seriously considered, a report prepared on the cost of necessary works and funding streams available.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Glackin fully supported the motion and said the pitch had been used by the Letterkenny Schoolboys District League.

Liam Ward acknowledged the motion which was also at presented at Plenary level and would have a significant budgetary requirement and could be considered as part of next years budgetary process. He agreed to explore the options that were available to the Council.

**MDL162/18 FOOTPATH AT CURRELEAGHS ROAD TO GLEN PARK/FOXHILLS**

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

*That this MD block off the track from Curreleaghs Road to Glen Park/Foxhills to traffic and install a Footpath.*

The Member were advised that:

*The track referred to was in private ownership over which the Council had no remit.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle said this was raised before and the area is becoming a dumping ground. Cllr. McMonagle asked that this is closed off to prevent traffic driving through it as it is used as a walkway to the local shop.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Glackin supported the motion.

Martin McDermott agreed to look into the Planning Permission granted for this estate and to look at the entrance in line with enforcement and report back to Cllr. McMonagle.

**MDL163/18 RESURFACING WORKS AT GLENCAR IRISH /DR Mc GINLEY ROAD**

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

*That this MD would carry out resurfacing works at Glencar Irish/Dr Mc Ginley Road estate as the road in the estate was in a terrible condition.*

The Members were advised that:

*Letterkenny Roads have tendering out Patching work on the Glencar Irish Road as per the agreed RI Programme, with work to be completed on appointment of successful contractor.*

*Roads within Dr Mc Ginley Road were not on the RI Programme. Minor repair works would be addressed by our patching crew.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle asked that this would be resurfaced as patching was carried out in 2013 and now condition of the road is very bad. Cllr. McMonagle said the roads were deteriorating badly in Letterkenny and that Letterkenny was losing out on roads funding since the abolishing of the Town Council, there was a lack of investment and Irish Water carrying out works.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Glackin supported the motion.

Fergal Doherty advised that if additional monies became available for Restoration Improvement this would be reassessed along with the other requests. Money was allocated on a per Km basis on countywide basis and there was no Block grant for Letterkenny.

**MDL164/18 DEVELOPMENT OF A RIVER WALK FOR LETTERKENNY**

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. James Pat McDaid, the following motion was adopted:

*That the Council liaise with the Office of Public Works regarding the feasibility of developing a river walk for Letterkenny.*

The Members were advised that:

*Some preparatory work had already been initiated regarding this proposed walk and Donegal County Council met with Office of Public works to discuss some relevant issues including access for maintenance of the river embankment and the back channels. Discussions had also taken place with a local community group who have expressed an interest in advancing the proposal including seeking funding from LEADER to commence a feasibility study on the project. Should funding be secured for a feasibility study then land owners would be consulted as part of this process.*

*In light of the anticipated publication soon of the C FRAMS Report by the Office of Public Works, Donegal County Council would now arrange another meeting with OPW representatives and we proposed to arrange a site meeting with representatives of the interested community & voluntary groups to see if a dedicated project committee could be formed to advance an agreed project.*

*Initial feed-back from OPW stated that a walk could only be developed along the more tidal sections of the river Swilly in conjunction with anticipated major permanent flood prevention measures that would be required.*

*A project along the non-tidal section out towards New Mills would be more likely to be advanced however land-owner consent will be required.*

*We would now explore the possibility of accessing LEADER funding for a complete feasibility study through a dedicated committee or agreement would be sought to use an existing community group and this would be the next step after the site visit has been facilitated.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh asked that all Groups would come together to agree the best routes and access funding.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McDaid fully supported the motion and asked that everyone worked together to get the best outcome. Cllr. McDaid asked that the Council bring the Groups together and identify funding streams.

Christina O'Donnell advised that Francis Conaghan would contact the OPW to arrange site meetings with the Groups and walk both routes. One Group has sought funding and the Council would provide the necessary support to this Group.

***MDL165/18*** **LETTERKENNY ROADS NEED FOR INVESTMENT**

On the proposal of Cllr. James Pat McDaid and seconded by Cllr. Dessie Shiels, the following motion was adopted:

*That this Council prepare a report to highlight the need for huge investment in the Letterkenny town roads. There were many roads being dug up at the moment due to the replacement of water mains and sewers through out the town. We do not have the budget to cope with the roads deteriorating and we need to get funding from central Council or the Department of Transport to deal with this ongoing issue as a matter of urgency.*

The Members were advised that:

*As per recent workshop and previous motions, the LUTS report remained valid and identified the measures needed throughout and around Letterkenny for which huge investment was required, and in relation to which members recently met Government Ministers, and through which some projects were part funded this year. Design work continued in the Road Design section to progress the concepts as set out in the LUTS report, for further applications.*

*In relation to IW works throughout the town, the reinstatement of road surfacing by IW to the specifications of the DOT's "Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads" was an integral part of the road opening licences that were issued to implement these works, and their full implementation was monitored and enforced by Roads. There were a number of locations around Letterkenny where IW had recently carried out works, which were currently temporarily surfaced, pending the installation of the permanent surface*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McDaid highlighted the need for significant funding for roads in Letterkenny due to the high volume of traffic and the works ongoing by Irish Water. Cllr. McDaid asked that Roads Central submit an appeal to the Department.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Shiels fully supported the motion.

Fergal Doherty advised that money was allocated on a per Km basis on countywide basis and only members can change this.

**MDL166/18 S.I.HOUSING**

On the proposal of Cllr. James Pat McDaid and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney, the following motion was adopted:

*That this Council discuss the need for S.I. houses in rural areas through out this MD. There was a huge demand for S.I. houses but people were being told no that we could not provide at the moment and people in rural areas were being driven into the larger towns as the only chance of Council accommodation. This was leading to rural decline in many ways including shortages in school numbers for 1 and 2 teacher schools and causing overcrowding in Letterkenny schools.*

The Members were advised that:

*The provision of Specific Instance (SI) dwellings was considered in the context of the policy which was approved by the Council in 2016, and which took effect from 1st November 2016. The policy was developed and agreed having regard to previous experience of delivering, maintaining and re-letting such dwellings.*

*When an applicant was approved for social housing support, the most suitable option for meeting their housing need was examined. This included the provision of an SI house where an applicant had indicated that they had a site. This was then considered in the context of the policy. Other relevant considerations included whether the Council was planning to construct a scheme locally, whether there were options to acquire suitable dwellings in the locality, as examples. A number of such applications were at an advanced stage of processing and it was expected that the Part 8 process would be progressed shortly in respect of a number of such dwellings across the County.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McDaid highlighted the need for housing in rural areas in order to support communities in rural areas. Cllr. McDaid said people were being forced to put Letterkenny as an area of choice because of lack of supply in their own area.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney said people should be allowed to stay in their own area and SI applications should be encouraged and spoke of an applicant who felt they were being persuaded not to apply for SI and asked that Senior Management be advised that this was not acceptable.

Eunan Kelly advised that no funding was available from 2011 until 2016. Housing Application Forms had been amended to include SI as a form of housing support. All options were discussed with applicants at the time of assessment.

Cllr. Blaney asked that housing approached was reviewed as the Council had not purchased properties outside of Letterkenny and there had been no SI's developed in the area.

**MDL167/18 MANSE CROSS ROAD, TRENTAGH**

On the proposal of Cllr. James Pat McDaid and seconded by Cllr. Michael McBride, the following motion was adopted:

That this Council again apply to the Department for funding for flood prevention measures and the raising of the road from the Manse Cross Roads in Trentagh to Kilmacrennan?

The Members were advised that:

*The raising of the road between the Manse Cross Roads in Trentagh and Kilmacrennan, represented a multimillion Euro scheme and did not fit the current qualification criteria for the OPW Minor Flood Mitigation Works. Funding was previously sought for this scheme to no avail.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McDaid asked that the Council highlight the need for funding with the Department of Transport.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride fully supported the motion.

Fergal Doherty advised that funding had been sought in the past from the Department of Transport who referred the request to the OPW. Funding was sought to raise the road however it did not meet the criteria. Mr. Doherty agreed to submit a further application for a shorter section however was not hopeful of receiving funding based on the assessment criteria used.

The Members welcomed this and asked that the application highlight Pearl Water on the River Lennon and therefore raising the road was the only option available.

**MDL168/18 DUNDOAN, DOWNINGS**

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

*That Land Category at Dundoan, Downings be amended to allow planning permission be granted.*

The Members were advised that:

*The request to re-designate lands at Dundoan, Downings could only be properly considered through the consideration of the Draft County Development Plan process. Members considered a range submissions made through the public consultation period that cumulated in the presentation of a Chief Executive's Report to Members for consideration at the latter part of 2017 and for discussion at the Plenary meeting that took place on 13th December 2017. Members resolved to make the Plan subject to the publication of certain Material Alterations that had in*

*themselves been the subject of further public consultation. The Chief Executive's Report in relation to consultation on these Material Alterations had been circulated to Members during the week of 2nd April. The area indicated by the motion was not considered as part of the consultations on Material Alterations proposed in December. The area proposed by this motion would in all likelihood be a material change to the Plan and, having regard to the provisions of the legislation, could not be considered at this stage of the process. It may, however, be possible to review the matter during future statutory reviews of the Development Plan. It was also worth noting that the area in question had a range of considerations beyond the amenity designations in the County Development Plan, including those designations associated with European Habitats and directives that were also material considerations in the assessment of any development that had or was proposed to be undertaken in the area. Members were advised that such designations were matters that a Plan must have account of and that it was not within the local authority's powers to amend or materially alter any such designations or the conservation objectives upon which they were based.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey expressed sympathy for the family involved and asked that the Council not proceed with the legal course of action that was under way. Family had already removed 36 units from the site and 16 units remained

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney fully supported the motion and stated that family had requested that the land be removed from the EHA and were not aware that the category had changed..

Liam Ward advised that the motion was answered and that the matter was before the courts and the executive was not in a position to make a comment.

Martin McDermott advised as outlined in the response that *“The area proposed by this motion would in all likelihood be a material change to the Plan and, having regard to the provisions of the legislation, could not be considered at this stage of the process. It may, however, be possible to review the matter during future statutory reviews of the Development Plan.”*

The Members gave unanimous support to the motion that the land category was amended and for something to be done to resolve that matter before the Court Case in May.

#### **MDL169/18 WATER & SEWAGE MAINS – GRANT AID**

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

*To introduce grant aid to allow extensions to existing Water & Sewage mains in our M.D & County.*

The Members were advised that:

*There was an existing process in place for grant funding applications to allow extensions to existing water and sewerage group schemes. Grant funding applications were issued to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government through Donegal County Councils Rural Water Section. The current Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2016-2018 expired at the end of this year. Donegal County Council would have an opportunity to apply for new grant funding applications to the Department before the next Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme commences in 2019.*

*See attached details of the Rural Water Programme ( Appendix 1).*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey outlined the difficulties for rural areas and the need for improvement in grant funding.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Shiels fully supported the motion.

***MDL170/18 RAMELTON & TOWNS / VILLAGES IN MD***

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

*That this M.D. recognises the need for addressing the many issues of neglect in Ramelton and other Towns and Villages within our M.D*

The Members were advised that:

*The Council continued to work with property owners to resolve issues relating to neglected properties across the County including providing assistance to owners when applying for grants through the Built Heritage Investment Scheme & the Structures at Risk Scheme that were announced each year. For 2018 €109,000 was awarded to assist in restoration and other heritage projects across the County. 4no. properties were successful in accessing grant assistance within the Municipal District of Letterkenny. A total of 13 awards were made under these two schemes across the County. The Planning Service would continue to engage with property owners to maximise the use available resources and opportunities.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey asked that the Council would be proactive in supporting towns and businesses in rural areas.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Shiels supported the motion.

***MDL171/18 MAYORS BUSINESS***

Cllr. Kavanagh advised that he had attended the following in the past month:

1. Pan Celtic Festival Opening on 3<sup>rd</sup> April
2. Busking Competition
3. McDonald's Fun Day on 5<sup>th</sup> April

Cllr. Kavanagh gave an account of his recent trip with Cllr. Michael McBride to Rudolstadt, Germany for St. Patrick's Day celebrations. This trip was organised by Karl Kerrane and came about following discussions at Christmas with the Mayor of Rudolstadt regarding the possible twinning Letterkenny and Rudolstadt. The town had a population of 23,000 and has three large cities close by. They arrived in Rudolstadt on 16<sup>th</sup> March and had guided tours of the town on the 17<sup>th</sup> March visiting a porcelain factory and fire station. . They attended the St. Patrick's Day Parade and committed to twinning at a formal event held on the 19<sup>th</sup> March. Mary Daly made a presentation and they circulated and presented on Donegal Tourism Brochure and met the Rotary Club who expressed an interest in visiting Letterkenny. They also met the Photography Club who also expressed an interest in visiting Letterkenny. There was also an interest shown in education exchanges. The twinning would open East Germany to visit Donegal. Cllr. Kavanagh thanked the organising committee, musicians and Cllr. McBride for attending also.

Cllr. McBride said that it was a very worthwhile trip and that a possible student exchange was raised at an LYIT Board meeting and LYIT expressed an interest in getting involved in a student exchange trip.

Cllr. Kavanagh asked that the formal twinning would be advanced.

Liam Ward advised that this was a reserved function at Plenary level and agreed to discuss with Joe Peoples, Director of Service.

***MDL172/18    CORRESPONDENCE***

There was no correspondence.

***MDL173/18    PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT***

The Members noted the content of the Planning Report circulated with the Agenda which included:

1. Summary of planning applications for the District
2. Enforcement
3. Upcoming Month Schedule
4. Central Planning Unit Updates

Martin McDermott advised that the next planning clinic would be held on 18<sup>th</sup> April and the summer schedule was available on the Council's website.

Cllr. Blaney asked that the Council liaise with Architects/Agents in relation to invalid applications. Martin McDermott advised that the Council was considering holding a Workshop which would benefit all parties involved.

#### **173.4.1 - County Development Plan Review Update**

A Plenary Workshop would be held on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> April at 2:00 p.m. and Special Plenary Council meeting would be held on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00 a.m.

#### **173.4.2 - Letterkenny Local Area Plan**

A workshop with the Letterkenny Members was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and work was ongoing.

#### **173.4.3 - Proposed Additions to Record of Protected Structures**

The Chief Executive Report on Proposed Additions to the Record of Protected Structures was circulated with the Agenda. On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Michael McBride the Members agreed to 3 structures as circulated, House/former shop at Carrickart, House at Carrickart and Church and Graveyard at Killydonnel Friary, Ramelton be added and that the Council proceed to public consultation commencing on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.

#### **173.4.4 – Conservation Grant Schemes**

Martin McDermott advised that the Letterkenny MD had received €43,000 under the Conservation Grant Schemes to include €30,000 for Rathmullan Abbey, €2,500 for Warehouse Mall, Ramelton, €4,000 for Church Lane, Letterkenny and €6,500 for Convoy Cottage, Ramelton.

Cllr. Blaney asked the Members be notified directly when funding was received for projects rather than hearing it through the media.

Cllr. Brogan and Cllr. McBride expressed disappointment that the Old Abbey in Kilmacrennan did not receive funding and asked that the safety concerns were raised again and funding sought.

#### **173.4.5 – Hericoast Project**

Donegal County Council were hosting the Hericoast Workshop and meetings with the International partners from the 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.

### ***MDL174/18*** **ENVIRONMENT**

The Members considered the report circulated with the Agenda on the following:

- Environmental Awareness
- Waste / Litter Enforcement
- Coastal Management

The Members welcomed the report.

The Members commended the work of Martin Roarty and Noel O'Donnell in assisting community groups with clean ups. Cllr McBride stated that campaign against people littering needs to be increased to try and eradicate the problem.

Cllr. McMonagle informed the Committee of the launch of the Cleaner Community Campaign with guest speaker Duncan Stewart in An Grianan Theatre. He suggested organising a seminar with retailers about changing their practices and reducing the amount of plastic bottles/packaging and littering.

#### **174.01 Official Opening of Rathmullan Toilet Facilities.**

It was agreed that the official opening by Cathaoirleach Gerry Mc Monagle and Mayor Jimmy Kavanagh would take place on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 to coincide with the blessing of the boats – this was to be confirmed with the Rathmullan Way Forward Community Group.

### ***MDL175/18 COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES***

The Members noted the content of a report circulated with the Agenda.

- Social Enterprise Building
- Fanad Lighthouse
- The International Pan Celtic Festival
- CLAR funding
- Rural Development Programme / LEADER
- Healthy Ireland – Intergenerational Project and Letterkenny Town Park Outdoor Gym
- Donegal Walks & Trails
- Marine Tourism Marketing & Development
- Donegal Tourism

The Members welcomed the report.

#### **175.1 International Pan Celtic Festival**

The Members congratulated and complimented the great work of Christina O'Donnell and Council staff on the successful Pan Celtic Festival.

#### **175.2 Upcoming Receptions / Official Openings**

**Fanad Light House** – Official Opening of the new Failte Ireland Building, toilet facilities, car park and Pod would take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 2:00 p.m. Cllr Blaney acknowledged the Councils support to Fanad Lighthouse

**Mayor's Receptions** – First to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 7:00 p.m. and second to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> May at 7:00 p.m. both in Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

**Tadhg Culbert Car Park** would be officially opened on 4<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon.

Cllr Mc Bride advised that the LAMA Conference with over 300 delegates had taken place the previous weekend in Donegal Town and was a great success.

***MDL176/18*** **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

The Members noted the content of the Roads report circulated with the Agenda.

**176.1 Community Involvement Schemes (CIS)**

Members were advised in a report circulated with the Agenda that over 70 expressions of interest were received with MD of Letterkenny out of a total of 180 amounting to an overall estimated cost of €3.9 m.

Cllr. Blaney asked that priority was given to MD of Letterkenny over areas that had not made submissions and asked that funding was divided based on percentage of the number of applications submitted by MDs similar to LIS,. Cllr. McGarvey supported Cllr. Blaney on this request.

Fergal Doherty advised that he understood CIS applications to central government were on the basis of approx equal number of schemes per MD and not as a percentage of the number of applications made.

**176.2 Tadhg Culbert Carpark**

Members were advised that the Tadhg Culbert Carpark was completed and the official opening would be held on 4<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon.

**176.3 Rathmullan One Way Public Information Evening**

Members were advised that the Public Consultation evening took place on 28<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr. Blaney raised concerns on the direction of the proposed one-way system and the negative impact this may have for businesses and the Pier in the town as traffic was directed away from this area when coming from Ramelton direction. Fergal Doherty advised that the public consultation process was an opportunity for the community to make submissions, Road Design would consider the submission received and Members would make the final decision. The current system maximised traffic flow. Members were advised that they could accept or reject the Part 8 proposal as presented at full Council meeting, but changes could not be made in the course of accepting a proposal.

Cllr. Blaney asked that a workshop be held for Members on this and that time was taken to consider the best system for the town. Fergal Doherty advised that he would arrange a workshop such that members could discuss the pro's and con's of options and allow full discussion prior to the Part 8 going before Plenary Council

**176.4 Disposal of Land at Trimeragh – Estate of John Doherty**

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan seconded by Cllr Blaney the members agreed to put this matter to Plenary Council for consideration.

**176.5 Cllr. McBride withdrawn Motion that funding allocation to Churchill Brae in 2018 be transferred to roads at Drumcavney and at Churchill Station.**

Cllr. McBride advised the meeting that he had withdrawn a Motion to the meeting asking that funding allocation to Churchill Brae in 2018 be transferred to roads at Drumcavney and at Churchill Station.

Fergal Doherty advised that this could be looked at but that R.I. was different from R.M. and that MDL approval required to change the programme.

Following discussion the Members agreed to hold a Special meeting in Lifford at 2 p.m. on 16th April to discuss and agree or not to amend the previously agreed RI/RM Roadworks Programmes in accordance with the motion raised by Cllr. McBride.

The Members would consider that funding allocation to Gartan Bridge towards Churchill” under the agreed RM programme, approximately 750m, be used to surface dress 100m only at Gartan Bridge, and the remaining to be reallocated to surface dress 150m at Keeloges (L-1482-1) and implement full Restoration Improvement works for 500m at Drumcavany (L-1522-2), with remaining works at Gartan Bridge to Churchill, deferred to 2019 in order to address the serious deterioration of the roads at Drumcavney and Churchill Station.”

Members were advised at the meeting that this was not possible due to the fact that:

- the rate/m<sup>2</sup> on the RM (Surface Dressing) programme was much less than the rate/m<sup>2</sup> for the RI programme as these were different types of work, and as such areas would not transfer across to equivalent areas of a different type of work. (It is estimated that an amount of money under the RM programme would enable less than 3 times the area under the RI programme.) Accordingly if full reassignment of the allocated €24,750 for R251/5 “Gartan Bridge Towards Churchill” (notwithstanding that the proposal is less than that) were to be spent on Improvements works at Drumcavney, it would just enable completion of half the required works.
- The proposal for three different areas to be repaired instead of one, would result in two additional transportations of the ‘Surface Dressing Train’, at an estimated €4k each, thus further reducing the monies available for roadworks.

In addition:

- The location “Gartan Bridge towards Churchill” is already showing signs of disintegration such that surface dressing this year will seal it and prevent further deterioration. Engineers are of the opinion that if not sealed this year it may well be beyond sealing next year and will require more extensive treatment under the RI programme, thus representing poor value for money.
- The Cllrs proposal is for the redistribution of agreed funding on a busy Regional road to a less trafficked local road which is not recommended by the executive.
- The proposed surfacing of two locations of 100m and 150m each greatly

increased the rate /m2 beyond that allocated by Central Government thus representing poor value for money.

- Circular RW 1/2018 does not permit for the reallocation of RM monies to RI monies. There is no record of previous permissions having been got for such reassignment.
- The proposed reallocation also results in a transfer of funding from one RSS area to another thus representing an inequality in the agreed allocations.

Fergal Doherty Area Manager agreed to seek alternative options for presentation at this Special meeting,

### **175.7 Suspension of Standing Orders**

On the proposal of Cllr G McMonagle seconded by Cllr C. Brogan it was agreed to extend meeting beyond 6.00 p.m.

## ***MDL177/18 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES***

The Members noted a progress report circulated with the Agenda on Housing and Corporate Services which included updates on the following:

- HAP
- Casual Vacancies/Offer of Accommodation
- Extensions
- Grants
- Loans
- Social Housing Investment Programme – SHIP 2015 – 2020 / Rebuilding Ireland 2021 including Turnkey, Social Housing, Acquisitions & C.A.S.

### **177.01 Retirement of Eunan Kelly**

Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, announced that he was retiring from the Council in May and that this was his last MDL Meeting. He thanked members and staff for their cooperation and assistance and wished them well in the future

The Members expressed their shock at the announcement and congratulated Eunan on his distinguished service to the organisation. The Members thanked him for his support, cooperation and assistance and wished Eunan, his wife Jenny and their family well in his retirement.

Liam Ward and other staff present also wished Eunan well on his retirement.

### **Questions**

## ***MDL178/18 RATHMULLAN PLAYGROUND***

In answer to his question on what could this Council do to alleviate the ongoing problem of sand deposits at the Rathmullan Playground which was causing

repetitive closing down of the playground including during the recent St Patrick's Day Bank Holiday where the problem seemed to be a danger of sand damaging the playground surface and where a lot of council staff time was being wasted cleaning sand and where some kind of timber hoarding up to a certain height might be a relatively inexpensive and effective way to resolve the problem, Cllr D. Shiels was advised that :-

*“Donegal County Council was aware of the recent weather events resulting in large accumulations of sand in the Rathmullan Playground over the last number of months. Donegal County Council was currently considering options to reduce the volume of sand landing within the playground in a certain storm conditions. (High winds in certain direction).*

*Given its close proximity to the beach, it was very difficult to keep the playground free of sand.”*

**MDL179/18 IRISH WATER PROGRAMME IN LETTERKENNY**

In answer to his question on whether the Council could confirm what sections of road in Letterkenny had Irish Water indicated to this Council would be dug up in the next 24 months and could the Council provide details of the estimated times for those works and what the nature of those works would be at each particular section of road, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that:

*“A list of sections of road where IW would be installing Sewerage and Water Mains improvements over the next 2 years were in the Members Extranet. Details of the estimated times for those works and what the nature of those works would be at each particular section of road should be obtained from IW.”*

**MDL180/18 BALLYRAINE N.S.**

In answer to his question on following on from his previous motion to this Municipal Council, what progress was being made in relation to safety improvements at the Ballyraine Road, Letterkenny and in particular the Ballyraine School, Cllr D. Shiels was advised that:

*“Following a meeting with the School Board of Management, agreed identified measures in the Roads Safety Report previously circulated to Members, were carried out, including lining improvements and the installation of bollards to prevent the vision blockage that was identified as an issue.”*

**MDL181/18 SHORE ROAD, RAMELTON**

In answer to his question requesting that as he had had a motion passed before Christmas about getting the Shore Road in Ramelton lined, could he please ask when this would be completed, Cllr. A. Glackin was advised that:

*“The previously discussed line markings were scheduled to be completed on the first availability of the line marking sub-contractors, who had had to postpone due to poor weather. It was anticipated that this would be in the coming weeks weather permitting.”*

**MDL182/18 UPGRADING OF LECK ROAD**

In answer to his question on whether this Council had any response back from the Minister Shane Ross in relation to monies for upgrading of Leck Road, Cllr. G. McMonagle was advised that:

*“There had been no announcements in relation to monies for the upgrading of the Leck Road”*

**MDL183/18 OUTSIDE GYM AT BERNARD MCGLINCHEY TOWN PARK**

In answer to his question on when would the outside gym in Bernard Mc Glinchey Park be open to the public, Cllr. G. McMonagle was advised that:

*“All works were due to be completed in mid April and it would be opened soon thereafter.”*

**MDL184/18 RIVER WALKS ALONG RIVER SWILLY**

In answer to his question on whether this Council could get an update on the many proposed River Walks along the Swilly where were they at, what difficulties had been encountered and was there a Timeline and route selected, Cllr G. McMonagle was advised that:

*“Some preparatory work had already been initiated regarding this proposed walk and Donegal County Council met with Office of Public works to discuss some relevant issues including access for maintenance of the river embankment and the back channels. Discussions had also taken place with a local community group who had expressed an interest in advancing the proposal including seeking funding from LEADER to commence a feasibility study on the project. Should funding be secured for a feasibility study then land owners would be consulted as part of this process.*

*In light of the anticipated publication soon of the C RAMS Report by the Office of Public Works, Donegal County Council would now arrange another meeting with OPW representatives and we proposed to arrange a site meeting with representatives of the interested community & voluntary groups to see if a dedicated project committee could be formed to advance an agreed project.*

*Initial feed-back from OPW stated that a walk could only be developed along the more tidal sections of the River Swilly in conjunction with anticipated major permanent flood prevention measures that would be required.*

*A project along the non-tidal section out towards New Mills would be more likely to be advanced however land-owner consent would be required. We would now explore the possibility of accessing LEADER funding for a complete feasibility study through a dedicated committee or agreement would be sought to use an existing community group and this would be the next step after the site visit had been facilitated.”*

**MDL185/18 LINING AT CIRCULAR ROAD & HOSPITAL ROUNDABOUTS**

In answer to his question on whether the Council could refresh the lining on Circular Road and at the Hospital Roundabout as it is badly faded, Cllr J. Kavanagh was advised that:

*“An Irish Waters Sewer Contract which included deep excavation along the Circular Road was to be carried out this year after which time extensive new lining of the Circular Road and Hospital Roundabout would be carried out, however pending completion of these works, maintenance only of the existing configuration was envisaged.”*

**MDL186/18 TOILET FACILITIES AT RATHMULLAN**

In answer to his question on when was it proposed to open the new toilets and showering facilities in Rathmullan, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that:

*“The Rathmullan Public Conveniences, Changing Rooms and Information Hub were now in their final phase of construction. Unfortunately there were delays associated with inclement weather however the roof was complete, windows and plumbing were installed, painting and finishes were currently ongoing. Fencing was being arranged to allow the Sailing School return on-site and operate from their base, as before. Outdoor shower and provision of a power point for an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which would be added separately by the local Community.*

*As requested by Letterkenny MD Members, waste waters were to be tankered off-site. This had involved a significant modification to the design and installation of mechanical and electrical equipment for wastewater servicing of the facility which would involve a minor but necessary delay of the final construction phase. The conclusion of that element remained outstanding but the Contractor anticipated having that work completed in this month. However, we would endeavour to ensure the facility would be open to the public ahead of the Bathing Season.*

*We would continue to keep the members and local community informed.”*

**MDL187/18 RATHMULLAN TO BUNCRANA CAR FERRY**

In answer to his question on when it was proposed that the Car Ferry service would begin operating from Rathmullan to Buncrana, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that:

*“The contract arrangements with the Ferry Operator provided that the Ferry would operate from the June Bank Holiday weekend to September (13 week period). The Council was satisfied that arrangements were in place to allow this to happen from 1st June 2018.”*

**MDL188/18 ONE WAY SYSTEM IN RATHMULLAN**

In answer to his question on what was the next step with the one way system in Rathmullan and whether he could please have a time frame for implementing same, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that:

*“Following the completion of the Part 8 public consultation, a report would be brought before members for consideration, and adoption or refusal of proposal.*

*To date, there was no funding identified for the implementation of the system in the event that it was adopted, in which case Roads would seek funding and seek to implement under various programmes. Given the uncertainties, it was currently not possible to put a definite time frame on when the system would be in operation.”*

**MDL189/18 TOILET FACILITIES AT RATHMULLAN**

In answer to his question on when could the Council expect the Rathmullan Public Toilets and Changing Rooms to be open to the public, Cllr. J.P. McDaid was advised that:

*“The Rathmullan Public Conveniences, Changing Rooms and Information Hub were now in their final phase of construction. Unfortunately there were delays associated with inclement weather however the roof was complete, windows and plumbing were installed, painting and finishes were currently ongoing. Fencing was being arranged to allow the Sailing School return on-site and operate from their base, as before. Outdoor shower and provision of a power point for an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which would be added separately by the local Community.*

*As requested by Letterkenny MD Members, waste waters were to be tankered off-site. This had involved a significant modification to the design and installation of mechanical and electrical equipment for wastewater servicing of the facility which would involve a minor but necessary delay of the final construction phase. The conclusion of that element remained outstanding but the Contractor anticipated having that work completed in this month. However, we would endeavour to ensure the facility would be open to the public ahead of the Bathing Season.*

*We would continue to keep the members and local community informed”*

**MDL190/18 GLENKEERAGH – R250**

In answer to his question as to when the Council could expect the R250 road stretch in Glenkeeragh from the bottom of Ballynakilly to Foxhall to be tarred, Cllr. J.P. McDaid was advised that:

*“This section of the R251 was on the 2018 Restoration Improvement Programme and we expected to have the works completed by end of August 2018.”*

**MDL191/18 FUNDING FOR TRENTAGH ROAD**

In answer to his question on whether there was any update on Funding for the Trentagh Road from the Station Cross Roads to Drumcavany Bridge, Cllr. J. P. McDaid was advised that:

*“There had been no additional funding for RI or RM Programmes since previously raised.”*

**MDL192/18 MEETING WITH IRISH WATER**

In answer to his question on whether the Council had received any response from our numerous requests for Irish Water to come and meet with our Municipal District to discuss proposed improvement works and future infrastructure needs in our area, Cllr C Brogan was advised that:

*“Irish Water would arrange a meeting to brief MDL Members on proposed projects in the MDL.”*

**MDL193/18 IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT TOWN PARKS**

In answer to his question on when would improvement works be completed in our Town Park to include improvement for people with disabilities, Cllr. C Brogan was advised that:

*“The Council continued to make improvements in both parks where the need was identified and funding identified. Works were currently underway in the completion of the installation of additional recreational facilities in the McGlinchey Town Park.”*

**MDL194/18 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS - LETTERKENNY**

In answer to his question on whether the Council had had any correspondence from the Department of Transport in relation to our short term traffic management proposals put to the Minister back in November, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that:

*“The Department of Transport had not sent any correspondence to the Council regarding short-term traffic management proposals on foot of the November Delegation from Council.*

*The Department did provide a €25,000 allocation in January towards the Swilly Link Road and the Council had recently submitted a Specific Grant Application on foot of the Delegation.”*

**MDL195/18 WALKWAY FROM MILLBRIDGE SHOP TO BALLYBOE ROAD, KILMACRENNAN**

In answer to his question on what progress had been made since his Motion calling on a safe walkway for pedestrians coming from the Millbridge Shop in Kilmacrennan at the top of the Ballyboe Road, Cllr. J. O’Donnell was advised that:

*“This matter had been referred to the TII for funding, but no funding had been allocated for it yet.”*

**MDL196/18 BARRIER ON LOUGH SALT ROAD**

In answer to his question on what progress had been made since his Motion calling on a barrier to be erected at Jim Mc Daid’s corner on the Lough Salt Road, Cllr. J. O’Donnell was advised that:

*“No budget for the installation of the barrier had been identified since raised previously. The location had been referred for a cost estimate.”*

**MDL197/18 BOARDWALK AT DOWNINGS BEACH**

In answer to his on what progress had been made since his Motion calling on a boardwalk be constructed at the entrance to Downings beach to assist disabled people to access the beach, Cllr. J. O’Donnell was advised that:

*“Quotes were currently being sought for the construction of the boardwalk access to Downings beach.*

*Disabled access remained available to the beach, with An Taisce approval, via the vehicular path.”*

**MDL198/18 FISHING ON RIVERS SWILLY & LENNON**

In answer to his question on what had been the response to the question of return of fishing on the Rivers Swilly & Lennon, Cllr. I. McGarvey was advised that:

*“The development of the river network in the County was the responsibility of Inland Fisheries Ireland.*

*This group presented to the Councillors at our September 2017 meeting and committed to work with the Council to develop the potential of the river network.”*

**MDL199/18 ROAD AT KILTOY – TRAFFIC FLOW IN LETTERKENNY**

In answer to his question on what had been the benefit of the work carried out in the Kilty area of Letterkenny to Traffic, Cllr. I. McGarvey was advised that:

*“The Works carried out at the Kilty Roundabout were part of the infrastructure identified in the Land Use and Transport Study (LUTS) as required for the future development of Letterkenny ultimately to link up with the Letterkenny Relief Road (Bunagee Link) for which design monies had been allocated this year as part of the TEN-T. In the short term the completed works had regularised traffic movements and improved safety at the locus concerned, due to the removal of two sub-standard and hazardous T junctions.”*

**MDL200/18 PROPOSAL FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTRES**

In answer to his question on whether there was any plan for our elderly in the Letterkenny area for independent living going forward in view of the proposed increase in population or was it all talk, Cllr I. McGarvey was advised that:

*“The Plan for Letterkenny must have regard to the housing needs of it's citizens and respond to the range of needs and options that a growing and changing population had. To this end it was proposed that the review of the Plan for the area would include specific provision to respond to any such needs where they might arise within the Plan area and that the consultations and engagement with the public and agencies would inform emerging policies. Members would be kept informed of progress on all aspects of the Plan over the coming months.*

**MDL201/18 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 at Letterkenny Public Services Centre commencing at 2:00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Mayor

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Meetings Administrator