

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING HELD IN THE
LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 10TH JULY, 2018**

MDL 292/18 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. Liam Blaney
Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
Cllr. Adrian Glackin
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr. James Pat McDaid
Cllr. Ian McGarvey
Cllr. Gerry McMonagle
Cllr. John O'Donnell

MDL293/18 OFFICIALS PRESENT

Liam Ward, Director of Service
Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Suzanne Bogan, Waste Awareness Officer
Martin McDermott, Executive Planner
Sinead McCauley, Executive Planner
Patricia McIntyre, Area Manager
Christina O'Donnell, Development Officer

The meeting was chaired by Mayor, Cllr. Ian McGarvey.

At the outset of the meeting, the Members extended the very best of good wishes to Cllr. Ian McGarvey who is due to celebrate his birthday shortly.

MDL294/18 APOLOGIES

Cllr. Dessie Shiels
Cllr. Michael McBride
Linda McCann, Senior Staff Officer

MDL295/18 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 12TH JUNE, 2018

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. John O'Donnell, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 12th June, 2018 were adopted.

MDL296/18 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL AGM MEETING HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2018

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh the Minutes of MDL AGM Meeting held on 12th June, 2018 were adopted.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

MDL 262/18 CUL NA CILLE, RAMELTON

At the request for an update from the Members, Patricia McIntyre advised that the painting of a number of O.P.Ds and apartment block at Cul Na Cille had been submitted for inclusion in a countywide tender. Patricia advised the Members that she would update them on timelines when this became known.

MDL 269/18 REINSTATEMENT OF THE ROAD AT LOUGH KEEL

The Members requested a contact name in Irish Water who they could contact for updates on the reinstatement of roads after pipe laying works. Members expressed concern at the delay in carrying out reinstatement works which was leaving the road in a poor state of repair for a period and this was affecting road users.

MDL 278.2 CIS (COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEME) ALLOCATIONS

Cllr. Blaney expressed disappointment that despite the holding of a workshop to discuss the countywide allocation of funding under the Community Involvement Scheme, the allocation to the Letterkenny MD was not increased from that previously notified and thus the effort made by communities, Elected Members and Council staff was not recognised nor rewarded. Cllr. Blaney advised that he sought sight of the allocation policy and was not aware that such a policy existed.

Liam Ward advised that the method of distribution of monies allocated is a matter for the Elected Members and acknowledged the challenge of obtaining agreement that is satisfactory to all Members.

ORDER OF REPORTS ON THE AGENDA

At the request of the Members, it was agreed that the order of the service reports on the agenda would be rotated from September 2018 going forward.

LETTERKENNY LOCAL AREA PLAN

With the agreement of the Members, the update report on the Letterkenny Local Area Plan was brought forward on the agenda and the update was provided by Sinead McCauley. Sinead advised that the initial period of open consultations completed on the 29th June and the consultation exercises were well attended and solution focused. The next step is the preparation of a report for the consideration of the Elected Members to collate the outputs of the various consultation exercises which will identify the emerging themes. Sinead highlighted that some of the emerging themes identified included the vision of Letterkenny growing to small city status; Transportation; Town Centre and Housing lands. It was agreed that a workshop will be held from **11am – 1pm on the 11th September 2018 in the Milford P.S.C.** to consider the report and that the report will be circulated to the Members in advance of the workshop.

The Members welcomed the engagement and participation from members of the public on the revision of the Letterkenny Local Area Plan and acknowledged the work of the planning staff in the process. Cllr. Ciaran Brogan requested that priority be given to identifying additional land for graveyards over the lifetime of the Plan.

MDL297/18 BRIDGE AT MEENAROY, GLENSWILLY

On the proposal of Cllr. James Pat McDaid and seconded by Cllr. O'Donnell the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council request funding from Central Council and the Department of Transport to widen the Bridges at the bottom of Meenaroy in Glenswilly (R250)”.

The Members were advised that:

“Due to the height difference between road level and stream invert level, replacement or widening of either or both bridges will be very costly and due to the poor alignment through this area, neither are likely to be funded on their own.

Bridge replacement is only likely to take place as part of an overall re-alignment of this section of road. Request for design of an alignment has been referred to Road Design”.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McDaid noted that the reply was not favourable to funding becoming available to carry out the necessary works to the bridge. Cllr. McDaid appealed to the Council to continue to keep the project on the agenda and carry out the works should funding become available. In the interim, Cllr. McDaid requested extra signage to be placed on each side of the bridge.

On seconding the motion Cllr. O'Donnell highlighted the problems for vehicles, particularly large trucks, manoeuvring the bridge. Cllr. O'Donnell requested the Council continue to lobby the Department for funding for bridge works and to include necessary works at Meenaroy Bridge also. Cllr. McGarvey also added his support to the motion.

MDL298/18 FOOTPATH TO CONWAL GRAVEYARD

On the proposal of Cllr. James Pat McDaid and seconded by Cllr. John O'Donnell, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council prioritise the footpath out to Conwal Graveyard from future footpath or CIS funding. The footpath is a health hazard for runners and walkers and is too narrow”.

The Members were advised that:

“The footpath is one of many discussed by Members at a workshop. A further workshop is required to prioritise the listed requests. It is intended that this workshop will take place in September”.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McDaid welcomed the reply to the motion. Cllr. McDaid expressed concern that the existing footpath is a trip hazard and appealed to the Council to prioritise works to the footpath.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. O’Donnell supported the inclusion of the footpath on the priority list and that consideration should be given to extending the footpath.

It was agreed that a workshop with the Members would be held from **10am – 11am on September 11th 2018 in the Milford P.S.C.** to agree a priority list for the footpath works programme.

Fergal Doherty clarified that any allocation to the footpath works programme which is not spent in year 1 is rolled over into subsequent years and that the Council does recruit outdoor/seasonal staff for additional assistance when such programme of works are being carried out, if required.

MDL299/18 SCENIC ROUTE TO GLENVEAGH NATIONAL PARK

On the proposal of Cllr. James Pat McDaid and seconded by Cllr. John O’Donnell, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council negotiate with the OPW and Bord Failte to have a scenic route to Glenveagh National Park via New Mills, Churchill and Gartan”.

The Members were advised that:

“Given the success of the Wild Atlantic Way, the creation of a scenic route (WAW loop) to Glenveagh would be a significant additional tourism attraction in this area. The creation of such loop is primarily community driven and the Council is happy to support the local community in this initiative”.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McDaid welcomed the response and paid tribute to the hard working local community groups who were actively promoting tourism related product development in the area.

On seconding the motion Cllr. O’Donnell welcomed the positive response and complimented the work of the local community groups in this area.

MDL300/18 DRIVER TESTERS LETTERKENNY MD

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

“That this Municipal District write to Shane Ross, Minister for Transport and highlight the immediate need for more full time Driver Testers in the District as the current levels of backlog are unacceptable”.

The Members were advised that:

“The motion is noted and Corporate Services will arrange to make contact with the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, should the motion be adopted by the Members”.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin expressed disappointment that it was taking 3/4 months for applicants to receive a date for their driving test. Cllr. Glackin highlighted the cost implication for the learner driver to continue to pay for driving lessons while awaiting a test date and that it is imperative that the backlog is addressed before the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill comes into force, which will put additional requirements on a learner driver.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle requested that when contact is being made with the Minister that the Minister be requested to address the high level of insurance costs facing young people.

MDL301/18 CLEARING WATER TABLES

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

“That this Council acts in a pro active manner and clear water tables in low laying areas and other areas that are susceptible to flooding in our Municipal District, as in the past few years the county has been subjected to severe flooding. This work could save a lot of money and damage to properties.”

The Members were advised that:

“The Council continue to clear water tables and install drainage improvements as an integral element of road improvements carried out throughout the year”.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin welcomed the response and paid tribute to the response of staff during the recent flooding incident in Glenswilly. Cllr. Glackin requested that the Council target areas susceptible to flooding and have these areas cleared on a regular basis.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle welcomed the response and supported the comments made by Cllr. Glackin.

Fergal Doherty advised that every overseer undertakes remedial works on local known areas susceptible to flooding on a continuous basis, and that most blockages occur from debris washed down in the course of a flood.

MDL302/18 REPAIRS TO ROAD AT PRUCKLISH

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

“That this Council carries out some urgent repair work on the road in Prucklish from behind Byrne's bar to the junction at Breenagh as it is currently in a serious state of disrepair”.

The Members were advised that:

“There is a section of this road on this year's restoration programme which will be done in September 2018 between the Seacor Crossroads and Prucklish”.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin welcomed the response and queried if a further section of the road just off the Breenagh junction could be repaired at the same time.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle welcomed the response.

Fergal Doherty advised that consideration would be given to the request from Cllr. Glackin subject to funding being available.

MDL303/18 DIFFING DURING DONEGAL INTERNATIONAL RALLY

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

“That this Council discuss the use of Private Lands by Private Operators for Diffing and other car activities during the weekend of the Donegal International Rally.”

The Members were advised that;

“This matter has been raised on successive years at various locations in an around Letterkenny. Notwithstanding the evident nuisance created by these activities, the limited extent of the activities (ie one or two days in a year) does not materially change the use of the lands to the point that they would require the benefit of a planning permission under the Act. On that basis there is little or no scope to

address the matter under the Planning & Development legislation as an unauthorised development”.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle expressed concern at the diffing activities carried out on private sites on the weekend of the Donegal International Rally which was causing concern for local residents. Cllr. McMonagle stressed the importance of the Donegal International Rally to the Donegal economy and that this type of activity was taking away from the positive response to the Rally. Cllr. McMonagle strongly believed that there is an onus on the Council to address this issue and the need to impose a regulation on this type of activity in advance of the International Rally next year and highlighted in particular, the need for appropriate health and safety plans and traffic management plans.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Glackin supported the comments made by Cllr. McMonagle and highlighted the social disturbance being experienced by residents in the affected areas.

Cllr. John O’Donnell advised that as a competitor in the Rally, he believed that diffing activity on private property was being held in a controlled environment and that the necessary health and safety plans and insurance would be in place by the operators.

Cllr. C Brogan condemned the diffing activity that is taking place on the fringes of the Donegal International Rally but is in no way being organised or associated with the Donegal International Rally or the Donegal Motor Club. Cllr. Brogan paid tribute to An Garda Siochana who made every effort during the recent Rally to address this problem but believes that there is a duty and responsibility on the property owners involved to address the concerns.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh advised that he had been contacted also by concerned members of the public about this activity.

Liam Ward advised that the matter was raised at the Joint Policing Committee and that the Planning Service was willing to participate in any meeting that may be arranged in the future to consider this issue.

MDL304/18 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT AURA SPORTS COMPLEX

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

“That this Council install a Signalised Pedestrian Crossing at the Aura Sports Complex in the interests of Pedestrian safety”.

The Members were advised that:

“As per March 2017, a count study of the location at the time indicated that the number of pedestrians crossing the road were well below figures that justified the installation of a controlled crossing. In addition, space restrictions on the footpath side further prohibited the installation of controlled crossing traffic lights. An uncontrolled pedestrian crossing is already in place at the Aura”.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle expressed disappointment at the response and expressed the wish for a signalised pedestrian crossing at the Aura Sports Complex in the interest of pedestrian safety and believed there was justification for the crossing on the basis of the volume of vehicle traffic and pedestrians using the facility.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Adrian Glackin supported the motion from Cllr. McMonagle. Cllr. Ciaran Brogan supported the motion also.

Fergal Doherty advised that a count study was carried out at this location March 2017 and the number of pedestrians crossing the road did not justify the installation of a signalised pedestrian crossing in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. However, Fergal Doherty agreed to reconsider the request

MDL305/18 TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES AT THE OLDTOWN ROAD

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

“That this Council install Traffic Calming Measures at the Oldtown Road adjacent to James Larkin Court and Charlie Collins Tce to allow local residents access local amenities safely”.

The Members were advised that:

“The roads section have agreed to install drop kerbs/uncontrolled pedestrian crossing at James Larkin Court which will be done when patching is complete. Roads are not aware of speeding on this road and do not advocate ramps or rumble strips due to the noise for road side residents and the fact that this is a main route into the town centre”.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle advocated the installation of a traffic island as a traffic calming measure in the interest of the safety of people crossing the road at this location and given the fact that the Council own the majority of the houses off this road. Cllr. McMonagle noted that he had not advocated ramps or rumble strips to be provided at this location.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Adrian Glackin supported the motion from Cllr. McMonagle.

Fergal Doherty advised that an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing with dropped kerbs, lining and advance signing were to be installed at this location. There is insufficient room to install a median traffic island to required specification at this location.

MDL306/18 LANDSCAPING AT KILTOY ROUNDABOUT

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

“That this Council carries out some landscaping at the new roundabout at Kilty”.

The Members were advised that:

“The Kilty Roundabout is currently being maintained as grass pending the completion of outstanding ESB / Eircom works.

TII instructed that no additional landscaping can be considered until said ESB and Eircom work are completed, as there are a significant amount of Fibre optic and power lines under the site.

Parks and Open Space's are currently developing a landscaped design for this roundabout, which will be presented to the Councillors in coming months. It is anticipated that landscaping will be programmed for Autumn 2018 subject to approval and funding”.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh welcomed the response and queried the timeframe for the completion of the ESB/Eircom works. Cllr. Kavanagh expressed the hope that the works would be carried out as soon as possible for the sponsors Optum.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle supported the motion.

Fergal Doherty advised that he would continue to liaise with the ESB/Eircom in relation to the completion of the outstanding works and that it was intended to circulate a concept design for this roundabout at the September MDL meeting for the information of the Members. The Members agreed that if the ESB/Eircom works had completed in advance of the September MDL meeting, the Council should proceed with the landscaping works, and it was not necessary for Members to review/sanction the proposed design.

MDL307/18 SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AT ERRIGAL VIEW, LETTERKENNY

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

“That this Council acts immediately to remedy the situation at Errigal View, Letterkenny where the Sewerage Treatment Plant is not operating”.

The Members were advised that:

“There is no security bond associated with the Errigal View development. There are 2 no. aspects within the development that requires attention prior to taking in charge of the estate – these relate to the foul pump station and the lack of a wearing course on the estate road. The planning authority will make an application to the Department of Housing Planning & Local Government for financial assistance to address the deficiencies in the water service infrastructure while DCC will need to address the road infrastructural deficiencies. In the mean time DCC Environment Section is emptying the sump associated with the foul pump station”.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney updated the Members on the problems being experienced by residents which was ongoing for 4/5 years and expressed the hope that there would be a solution to the issue in the near future. Cllr. Blaney acknowledged the swift action taken by the Council recently to empty the sump associated with the foul pump station.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey reiterated the concerns of the residents in this estate and in the Meadowvale and Lennon Grove estates in Ramelton.

Liam Ward clarified that funding had previously been sought and allocated by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to address deficiencies in unfinished estates. However, this estate was not allocated funding at that time but that a further submission for funding was being made that would include funding for this estate.

It was agreed that Frank Sweeney would be requested to attend the October 2018 MDL to provide an update to the Members on progress being made to address the deficiencies in unfinished estates in the Letterkenny MD.

MDL308/18 LETTERKENNY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - ORTHOPAEDIC

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

“That this M.D. demand that the necessary beds are provided at Letterkenny University Hospital to deal with waiting list for our orthopaedic patients”.

The Members were advised that:

“The motion is noted and Corporate Services will arrange to make contact with the Health Service Executive should the motion be adopted by the Members”.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey noted the response and expressed concern at the long waiting time being experienced by patients due to the fact that a number of beds in the orthopaedic unit have not been opened at the hospital.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Ciaran Brogan advised that it was his understanding that an application for funding of €1.8m to open the unit was with the Minister and that this issue had been raised by the Regional Health Forum West.

MDL309/18 LETTERKENNY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL – EYE CLINICS

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

“That this M.D. demand that facilities be provided at St. Conal's for our eye patients who are forced to travel elsewhere”.

The Members were advised that:

“The motion is noted and Corporate Services will arrange to make contact with the Health Service Executive should the motion be adopted by the Members”.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey expressed concern that patients in Donegal had to travel a long journey to Sligo or Galway to access eye services.

On seconding the motion Cllr. C. Brogan supported the concerns raised by Cllr. McGarvey and proposed that a letter is issued to the Minister highlighting these concerns.

MDL310/18 SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS IN ESTATES

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

“That this M.D. deal with the sewage problems in the following Estates - Errigal View, Letterkenny, Meadowvale, & Lennon Grove, Ramelton”.

The Members were advised that:

“The planning authority is currently engaging with a private individual with an interest in some of the properties within the Lennon Grove estate and is currently developing a site resolution plan to address the unfinished aspects within the estate. Any upgrade in the water service infrastructure will be designed to address the problems with the Meadowvale development”.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey updated the Members on the problems being experienced by residents in these estates.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney reiterated the concerns noted by Cllr. McGarvey.

It was agreed that Frank Sweeney would be requested to attend the October 2018 MDL to provide an update to the Members on progress being made to address the deficiencies in unfinished estates in the Letterkenny MD.

MDL311/18 FUNDING FOR N56 ROADWORKS AT DOONWELL JUNCTION

On the proposal of Cllr. John O'Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney the following motion was adopted:

“Calling on this Council to write to the TII to request funding for the N56 roadworks from the Doonwell Junction to the Letterfad Road, Termon as a matter of urgency”.

The Members were advised that:

“TII allocations over and above the annual allocations announced at the start of the year, are based on the Geo App system, which is a Data Collection tool used by Area Engineers to register identified needs on the National Roads. The location from Doonwell to Letterfad Road will be assessed accordingly and registered on Geo APP”.

On proposing the motion Cllr. O'Donnell noted the response and stressed the importance of ensuring that an application for funding to carry out works on this part of the N56 was made in any future delegation to the TII.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney expressed concern that the work must be assessed and registered on the Geo APP despite the fact that this issue had been raised quite frequently in the past.

Fergal Doherty acknowledged that the issue had been raised in the past and clarified that the road will be re-registered on the Geo APP, as it has been previously.

MDL312/18 FOOTPATH AT GLENVEAGH JUNCTION

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

“Calling on this Council to finish the footpath at the Glenveagh Junction in Termon with tar or concrete as a matter of urgency”.

The Members were advised that:

“Members will be aware from previous motions on this matter, that the works in this area were finished to the extent originally funded by the TII, and that additional requests for funding of a 52m footpath were not successful. The works carried out here were constructed under a TII funded safety scheme to narrow the junction by installing kerbs only. Notwithstanding above, Roads will endeavour to surface a footpath width behind the installed kerbs in the coming weeks”.

On proposing the motion Cllr. O’Donnell welcomed the response received.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Liam Blaney welcomed the response and suggested that the condition of the footpath currently was a safety hazard as users could not use the footpath and had to step onto the road.

MDL313/18 INFORMATION ON NEW BOUNDARY CHANGES

On the proposal of Cllr. John O’Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney the following motion was adopted:

“Calling on this Council to furnish each Member of this Municipal District with a clear map or maps of the new boundary changes and a full set of Register for each boundary both Letterkenny and Milford”.

The Members were advised that:

“The Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee No 1 reported to Minister John Paul Phelan in June of this year making recommendations on the establishment of two additional Local Electoral Areas in the County together with a number of recommendations in relation to electoral area boundary changes. A map detailing the proposed changes will be forwarded to Members, together with a list of the Electoral Divisions contained therein. However, it must be noted that the changes proposed are currently a recommendation to the Minister and the changes recommended will not take effect for election purposes pending the Minister's decision.

Members can be provided with the Register of Electors for the proposed revised electoral areas”.

On proposing the motion Cllr. O’Donnell welcomed the response received and requested the map be provided in a size that clearly shows the boundary lines.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Liam Blaney supported the motion and sought a copy of the Rural Housing Policy Map to be sent to all Members also.

MDL314/18 **MAYORS BUSINESS**

Cllr. McGarvey advised that he had attended a number of events in the last month, including the following:

- Animal Sanctuary;
- Launch of Fr. Tony's "Walk While You Can" Challenge;
- Launch of Brigidin's Carr new bilingual book in the Donegal County Library.

MDL315/18 **CORRESPONDENCE**

This is a standing item on the agenda but there was no correspondence to note at this meeting.

MDL316/18 **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 the 18th July 2018.

316.1 Unfinished Estates

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle it was agreed to hold a special workshop to discuss progress made in dealing with deficiencies in unfinished estates in the Letterkenny MD on **Monday 10th September 2018 at 2 pm in the Milford P.S.C.** (this supersedes earlier agreement to invite Frank Sweeney to the October MDL meeting to provide an update). It was further agreed that if members wished to highlight or identify particular estates where an update is sought, these should be forwarded to Martin McDermott or Frank Sweeney in advance of the workshop.

MDL317/18 **ENVIRONMENT**

Suzanne Bogan presented the Environment Report and particularly highlighted the following points to Members:

- WEEE Collection Days 2018 and these will be advertised in the local media also.
- Extended opening hours in the Recycling Centre on a Tuesday and Wednesday from 8.30 am to 5 pm.

- The litter fines issued figures for June and July will be provided at the next meeting.

317.1 Rathmullan Public Conveniences

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh queried if the snag list had been completed yet on the Rathmullan Public conveniences. Suzanne Bogan agreed to check the position and revert to Cllr. Kavanagh.

317.2 Beech wheelchairs

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh queried if sponsorship to provide beach wheelchairs at other locations in the County could be explored.

317.3 Bottle Banks at Simpson's Centra

Cllr Brogan stated that the bottle banks at Simpson's Centra, Letterkenny were being emptied from the residents side rather than the shop car park as before and asked for this to be resolved.

317.4 Grass and Hedge Cuttings

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle queried if grass cuttings could be brought to the recycling centres and Suzanne Bogan agreed to check and revert to Cllr. McMonagle.

MDL318/18 COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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

- Social Enterprise Building
- Fanad Lighthouse
- Outdoor Fitness Gym – Letterkenny Town Park
- Pride of Place 2018
- Donegal Youth Council
- Donegal Tourism – Promotional Shows
- Donegal Gathering Project
- Rural Development Programme/LEADER

The Members welcomed the report.

MDL319/18 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

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

319.1 Rockhill Road Hedge Cutting

Cllr. James Pat McDaid requested that the hedges along the Rockhill Road would be cut back to facilitate the Danny McDaid 15k and Donegal Marathon which will be taking place shortly.

319.2 Pipe Replacement on the Carland Road, Kerrykeel

Cllr. Liam Blaney noted the reply to the question and in particular that the contractor is contractually obliged to complete the Carland Road Scheme first. Cllr. Blaney advised that it was his understanding that works were commencing to lay pipe in Falcarragh/Gorkahort and he sought clarification on this in light of the contractual obligation on the contractor to complete the Carland Road scheme first.

319.3 Meeting/workshop with Irish Water

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan expressed concern that despite a request by the MDL for a meeting/workshop with Irish Water some 6 or 7 months ago, there has been no response from Irish Water and Cllr. Brogan requested that the Mayor raise this at the highest level in Irish Water if the meeting does not proceed. The Members agreed that if Irish Water can facilitate a meeting/workshop, a full team who can deal with the various queries should be present. In the absence of Irish Water facilitating a meeting/workshop, the Members sought the attendance of the Director of Water and Environment to attend the next meeting to deal with specific queries from Members.

Liam Ward advised that following the discussion on this item at a previous meeting, he did bring the request to the attention of the Director of Water and Environment who in turn was to bring the request to Irish Water.

MDL320/18 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.
- Section 183 – Disposal of plot of ground in the townland of Rathmullan and Ballyboe

320.1 Section 183

On the proposal of Cllr. Ian McGarvey, seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney the Members approved formal notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 be brought to the full Council.

320.2 Social Housing Investment Programme

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh queried if the Council had purchased property at Oran Hill and were the properties now occupied. Patricia McIntyre advised that the Council

received approval from the Department to acquire 9 no. dwellings at Oran Hill, Letterkenny and that the matter raised would be clarified for Cllr. Kavanagh.

Cllr. Liam Blaney queried when the Council had received notification of a €3m allocation to purchase properties in Carrigart and he sought this clarification as soon as possible.

320.3 Housing Grants

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh queried the high level of housing adaptation grants being sought and queried if new builds were trying to eliminate the need for adaptations to be sought. Patricia McIntyre advised that due to the age of some housing stock, adaptations were necessary but design standards for new houses being built or acquired in the main overcame the need for such adaptations.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey sought further information on the housing grants figures. Patricia McIntyre agreed to provide a more detailed report for the next meeting.

320.4 H.A.P

Cllr. L Blaney raised the difficulty of sourcing suitable accommodation to avail of H.A.P. Cllr. Blaney advised that for clients in receipt of H.A.P, the rent are still too high in some cases and was causing financial hardship for them.

Patricia McIntyre advised that the Council does have limited flexibility to exceed the rent limits on a case by case basis.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle queried if the Council had a H.A.P register and if the Council provide deposits to tenants, which can be in the region of €1,200 - €1,500 in some cases. Patricia McIntyre agreed to clarify and revert to Cllr. McMonagle.

320.4 Social Housing Support

Cllr. L Blaney advised that clients approved for social housing support were not including their true first preference as they believed there was not a realistic chance of their preference being accommodated.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle queried if the Council's responsibility to a tenant was negated once they became a tenant in an Approved Housing Body property.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle queried the delay in allocating the vacant properties at Rann Mor Way.

Patricia McIntyre advised that she would bring a report to the next meeting showing a breakdown of the demand per location and that she was happy to work with the Members to refine this report further.

320.5 Remedial Works to Housing Stock

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle queried the turnaround time to relet properties and queried if the Council's tendering processes were too strict. Cllr. Ciaran Brogan raised this matter also and queried if additional maintenance staff were required in the Section.

Patricia McIntyre advised that the Council was subject to procurement rules and that there was a tender list in place from which contractors were drawn. When houses were become vacant, the Council had to employ a registered electrician to sign off on the electrical condition of the property and took the opportunity at this stage to carry out any other major works required to the property to ensure the housing stock was being maintained. Patricia McIntyre noted that routine and general maintenance works required by tenants were carried out by the housing maintenance team.

320.6 Housing Loans

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle queried the low take up of housing loans.

Patricia McIntyre advised that the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan is subject to compliance with the Credit Policy and that as soon as a valid application is received, a meeting is arranged with the potential borrower to assess the application and to offer guidance on other available options if the loan option is not feasible. Patricia McIntyre noted that loan applications are considered by the Credit Committee.

320.7 Pilot Project – Assessment of Accommodation

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan advised that he suggested a number of years ago that a pilot project be undertaken in conjunction with the HSE to assess the suitability of current social housing for existing tenants and he believed this would be a very worthwhile exercise to carry out.

Questions

MDL321/18 SURFACE DRESS ROCKHILL ROAD

In an answer to his question requesting when the Rockhill Road would be surfaced dress, Cllr. McDaid was advised:

“Roads are proposing to get the Rockhill Road surface dressed in Mid July 2018”.

MDL322/18 KILLAMASNEY ROAD, GLENSWILLY

In an answer to his question requesting when will the Killamasney Road in Glenswilly be tarred, Cllr. McDaid was advised:

“The Druminaught to Killymasney road will be surfaced by the middle of September 2018”.

MDL323/18 MAHERLASK ROAD

In an answer to his question requesting that the Maherlask (L59942) Road be patched and included for future Road Programmes as it is starting to deteriorate rapidly, Cllr. McDaid was advised:

“This road is to be patched in the near future, and will be listed for consideration by members with respect to the 2019 RI programme”.

MDL324/18 FAIRGREEN HILL ESTATE

In an answer to his question requesting a timeframe for the works at the green area in Fairgreen Hill to be completed, Cllr. McMonagle was advised:

“The Executive Engineer is currently in discussions with the contractor who is to carry out the works at the green area in Fairgreen Hill with a view to having the works completed in the coming weeks”.

MDL325/18 UPGRADING OF OLDTOWN FOOTBALL PITCH

In an answer to his question asking had work been done yet in assessing the costs for Upgrading the Oldtown Football Pitch, Cllr. McMonagle was advised:

“Arrangements will be made to finalise costings for the upgrading of the Oldtown football pitch shortly. One issue which may impact on this proposal is the direction of the new inner relief road”.

MDL326/18 CARRAIG CRAOBH ESTATE , LETTERKENNY

In an answer to his question requesting an update on what steps or works are needed for the Council to Take in Charge of Carraig Craobh estate in Letterkenny, Cllr. McMonagle was advised:

“Once the structural integrity of the retaining walls within the estate has been assessed the Planning Authority will be in a position to advise Members on the taking in charge of the Carraig Craiobh development”.

MDL327/18 SIGNS FOR LISNENNAN

In an answer to his question on when will the Council erect a sign for Lisnennan at the new roundabout as agreed at a previous meeting, Cllr. Kavanagh was advised:

“The signs have been ordered and are due for delivery within the next two weeks after which time they will be erected”.

MDL328/18 PARK RUN ROUTE, BERNARD MCGLINCHEY TOWN PARK

In an answer to his question requesting if there had been any progress on his previous motion requesting a change to the route of the park run to avoid bottlenecks on the course, Cllr. Kavanagh was advised:

“Council Officials met with representatives from the Park run at the Town Park in May 2018. It was agreed to widen the footpath close to the Bowling Green to facilitate the increase in runners. It is intended to carry out this work in the autumn 2018 once summer demands reduce”.

MDL329/18 OLD LETTERKENNY COURTHOUSE

In an answer to his question requesting an update on the Council takeover of the Old Courthouse, Cllr. Kavanagh was advised:

“There are ongoing discussions with representatives of the Courts Service in relation to the arrangements for the handover of the former Courthouse building. Work is continuing in the building to relocate files /records etc to the New Court Service building”.

MDL330/18 PIPE REPLACEMENT AT CARLAND ROAD, KERRYKEEL

In an answer to his question requesting had Irish Water confirmed a start date and a completion date for the pipe replacement on the Carland Road, Kerrykeel as this road has to be tarred this year, Cllr. Blaney was advised:

“DCC CaPO await confirmation from Irish Water on the imminent appointment of the contractor to the Donegal Countywide Watermain Rehabilitation Contract which includes the watermain on the Carland Road, Kerrykeel. The procurement phase of the project has been completed with the most economically advantageous tender recommended to Irish Water. DCC CaPO has also secured budget approval from Irish Water to commence construction of the works.

Once appointed DCC will seek a proposed programme of works to provide clarity on the commencement and completion dates for the scheme. It should be noted that the contractor is contractually obliged to complete the Carland Road Scheme first.

It is also my understanding that Irish Water will be releasing a communications pack to all Elected Members once the contractor has been appointed to the scheme”.

MDL331/18 FISHING OPPORTUNITIES ON RIVERS SWILLY & LENNON

In an answer to his question requesting had a response on the fishing opportunities on The River Swilly & Lennon been received, Cllr. McGarvey was advised:

“The development of the river network in the County is 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”.

MDL332/18 SPAWNING BEDS ON RIVERS SWILLY & LENNON

In an answer to his question requesting was there any plan to improve the Spawning Beds on River Swilly & River Lennon, Cllr. McGarvey was advised:

“Dr. Milton Matthews, Director, Inland Fisheries Ireland- Ballyshannon has provided the following response to the question raised.

Gravel production in a river forms the spawning beds within the confines of the channel itself. It is an ongoing dynamic natural process of erosion and deposition and the volume of gravel generated is driven primarily by catchment characteristics such as geology, land use, rainfall and instream physical attributes.

Natural rivers have their own optimum gravel content and improvements such as introduction of additional gravel generally has minimal benefit to the system, unless there is a specific need for such intervention (e.g. stream alteration/diversion due to an overriding need, usually for infrastructural development and/or safety reasons). Both the Rivers Swilly and Leannan have ample spawning grounds and sufficient gravel deposits to accommodate returning salmon and sea trout for annual spawning and for that reason there are no current plans for spawning bed improvement to either river.

As one of the largest salmon rivers in the region, the River Leannan is subject to an annual programme of catchment wide electrofishing to assess the levels of juvenile salmonid stock arising from the previous winter’s spawning. These electrofishing surveys have confirmed a steady improvement in River Leannan salmon stocks, which permitted reopening of the River Leannan for ‘catch and release’ angling in 2015, despite the widespread decline in Atlantic salmon stocks over recent years which has resulted in large part due to the fall in marine survival experienced across North Atlantic stocks.

The Council may also wish to know that Inland Fisheries Ireland recently announced a further round of funding (€550,000) under the National Strategic for Angling Development (NSAD), which together with the Salmon Conservation Fund, offers angling clubs, community groups and other stakeholders the opportunity to submit applications for angling development and habitat enhancement projects on their local fisheries. Details can be found at www.fisheriesireland.ie”.

MDL333/18 COMMUNITY NURSING HOMES

In an answer to his question requesting was there a guarantee that the three Nursing Homes will be retained and improved, Cllr. McGarvey was advised:

“This query has been referred to the local HSE Communications Office for a reply”.

MDL334/18 FOOTPATH AT GLENVEAGH JUNCTION

In an answer to his question requesting an update on the plan to finish the footpath at the junction of the N56 and the Glenveagh Road as Pedestrians are now being forced to use the road due to the rough surface and the fresh growth, Cllr. McBride was advised:

“Members will be aware from previous motions on this matter that the works in this area were finished to the extent originally funded by the TII, and that additional requests for funding of a 52m footpath were not successful. The works carried out here were constructed under a TII funded safety scheme to narrow the junction by installing kerbs only. Notwithstanding above, Roads will endeavour to surface a footpath width behind the installed kerbs in the coming weeks”.

MDL335/18 ROAD MARKINGS BETWEEN ST EUNAN’S COLLEGE AND GAEL SCOIL

In an answer to his question requesting had Donegal County Council any plans to replace the road markings between St. Eunan's College and the Gael Scoil (National) in Glencar, Cllr. McBride was advised:

“The section of the Glencar Road L1006-4 is affected by the Irish Water Sewer Contract which is expected to commence in the coming months. Full lining will be programmed when IW works are completed”.

MDL336/18 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 11th September, 2018 at Milford Public Services Centre commencing at 2:00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor

Meetings Administrator