

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING HELD
IN THE MILFORD PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON
TUESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2018**

MDL436/18 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

MDL437/18 **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Liam Ward, Director of Service
Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Joe Ferry, A/Senior Executive Chemist
Graham Diamond, Executive Planner
Patricia McIntyre, Area Manager
Christina O'Donnell, Development Officer

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

MDL438/18 **APOLOGIES**

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan

MDL439/18 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of 9 October, 2018.

MDL440/18 **ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 9 OCTOBER, 2018**

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney and seconded by Cllr. John O'Donnell, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 9 October 2018, were adopted.

MDL441/18 **ISLE OF ROY CROSSROADS, DOWNINGS**

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

“Calling on this Council to investigate the sharp corner at the Isle of Roy Crossroads in Downings due a high number of accidents at this corner.”

The Members were advised:

“There are no reported or recorded records of accidents at this location, however in light of the Councillors concerns, Roads will review to establish if any improvements can be made to clarify the priorities at the junction.”

On proposing the motion, Cllr O’Donnell welcomed the reply and noted that the road was busy, particular during holiday season.

On seconding the motion, Cllr Blaney supported the motion.

MDL442/18 COPPERS ROAD, MILFORD TRAFFIC CALMING AND LIGHTING

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

“Calling on this Council to install a speed ramp and street light at the start of Coppers Road Milford to slow traffic and also light this area up at night.”

The Members were advised:

“This location will be added to the list for consideration under the next review of the 3 Year Public Lighting Programme with respect to public lighting. There are no reports of speeding or accidents at this location, however in light of the concerns raised, Roads will arrange for a speed survey to be carried out at this location. There is currently no funding identified to carry out any works.”

On proposing the motion, Cllr. O’Donnell welcomed the reply that a speed survey would be carried out at this location and advised that he would be amenable to allocating some funding from his own Member’s Development Fund Initiative if necessary to have these works completed

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Blaney supported the motion.

MDL443/18 OLD ABBEY GRAVEYARD KILMACRENNAN

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

“Calling on this Council to prioritise funding for the Old Abbey Graveyard in Kilmacrennan.”

The Members were advised :

"The Heritage Funding that is made available to the Council from Government is administered each year following public calls for expressions of interest. The Planning Service welcomes the interest and encourage the submission of applications for funding when these schemes are advertised. Prospective applicants are advised to contact the Council's Conservation Officer for further advice on available schemes and the making of funding applications".

On proposing the motion, Cllr. O'Donnell welcomed the response and noted that it is important to have the Old Abbey Graveyard reopened prior to the special anniversary of the graveyard and to facilitate family visiting the graves of their family members.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Blaney supported the motion and noted the heritage and cultural importance of the graveyard.

It was agreed that the Council would make contact with the Old Abbey Graveyard Committee to assist them in making an application to the Heritage Council.

MDL444/18 FOOTPATH LOWER ARD O'DONNELL

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

"Calling on the Council to repair the footpath outside number 9, Lower Ard O'Donnell."

The Members were advised:

"This section of footpath is included on the current maintenance schedule, and should be complete within the next few weeks"

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Kavanagh welcomed the reply and asked that if the full works could not be carried out within the next few weeks, then that the worse section of the footpath could be repaired immediately.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. McMonagle supported the motion.

MDL445/18 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

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

"That the Council provide a pedestrian crossing at the Ark Medical Centre to the Community Centre."

The Members were advised:

“There is a Signalised Junction proposed at the bottom of Justice Walsh subject to funding and Road designs studies”

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Kavanagh noted that the provision of a pedestrian crossing at the Ark Medical Centre to the Community Centre had been raised by a number of citizens recently due to the fast moving traffic on that road and their concerns at crossing the road.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. McMonagle supported the motion and the Members advised of similar representations that they had received also.

Fergal Doherty advised that colleagues in the Road Design Section were reviewing traffic management in the Town. Ducting has been laid to install a pedestrian crossing at Justice Walsh Road and it was unlikely that a second crossing would be provided at the Ark Medical Centre due to their proximity to each other. However, the concerns raised would be taken into consideration.

MDL446/18 ***SAFETY SIGNAGE ‘HIGH GLEN ROAD’***

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

“That extra safety signage be placed on the "High Glen Road" from Drummond National School to The Diamond in Ballyare warning of junction ahead, just before the junction at the diamond as the exit is on a crest and traffic who are unfamiliar with this area are in danger of exiting onto the road without realising the junction exists.”

The Members were advised:

“Roads will examine this location with a view to improving signage if deemed appropriate in due course”

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Glackin advised that he had witnessed and subsequently spoke with a motor cyclist who had failed to notice and stop at this junction. Cllr. Glackin welcomed the reply that the Roads Section would examine the location with a view to improving signage, if deemed appropriate.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. McMonagle supported the motion.

MDL447/18 ROAD DRAINAGE AT BRIDGEND RAMELTON

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

“That the Council investigates an issue in front of 260 and 261 Bridgend, Ramelton where during periods of heavy rain either due to an underground spring or a blocked drain, water is coming through the tarmac and running down to the main road. This has not only damaged the tarmac in the area but in periods of cold weather is turning into black ice which is providing a potential hazard for pedestrians and motorists.”

The Members were advised:

“This road is not a public road and as such, the Local Authority has no remit or authority to carry out any works”

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Glackin raised the issue of water running from this road onto the main road and causing a hazard, particularly in freezing weather conditions.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. McMonagle supported the motion.

While noting the reply, the Members expressed the view that water running onto a public road should be investigated.

It was noted that the issue will be raised with the Taking in Charge of Estates Unit.

MDL448/18 LANE FROM BOXING CLUB TO PORT ROAD

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

“That this Council undertakes work to clean up the area around the lane from the Port Road to the Boxing Club in Letterkenny including the steps and surrounding area.”

The Members were advised:

“This lane is scheduled for cleanup with works to be carried out in the near future.”

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Glackin welcomed the reply as the location was a potential slip hazard due to falling leaves and debris and expressed the hope that the works would be carried out shortly.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. McMonagle supported the motion.

MDL449/18 TREES AT GLENWOOD PARK

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

“That this Council take the necessary steps to make the trees at the back of houses number 17 - 21 Glenwood Park safe as they are giving concern to the residents.

The Members were advised:

“The Council will carry out an assessment of the trees to determine if any action can be taken.”

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McMonagle advised that trees which run along the back lane of the houses are a concern to residents and he welcomed the reply that an assessment would be carried out.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Glackin supported the motion.

MDL450/18 STREET LIGHTS MCGOVERN ROAD

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

“That this Council install two extra street lights at Mc Govern Road.

The Members were advised:

“The Town Engineer will assess the need, with a view to including in the next review of the 3 Year Public Lighting Programme.”

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McMonagle noted that there was a dark gap on a particular stretch of the road and he believed that the addition of two extra lamps would give sufficient light to the area.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Glackin supported the motion and the Members welcomed the response to the motion.

MDL451/18 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING OLIVER PLUNKETT ROAD / MAIN STREET

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

“That this Council install a Pedestrian Crossing at the top of Oliver Plunkett Road / Main Street in the interest of pedestrian safety.”

The Members were advised:

“Roads are investigating the installation of a 'Zebra' Crossing with flashing amber beacons at this location, necessitating the installation of underground ducting crossings, subject to funding. Civil works to be co-ordinated with the future sewer works to be installed through that junction in 2019. Members will be advised when further update available.”

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McMonagle welcomed the reply that the Roads Section are investigating the installation of a “Zebra” crossing at this location given the heavy traffic and the large number of school children who visit the library.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Glackin supported the motion and the members noted that they would be led by Roads as to the best location for the crossing.

MDL452/18 WATER MAIN NEW MILLS BRIDGE TO DRUMANAUGHT

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

“That this Council ask Irish Water to have water mains extension on the back road from New Mills Bridge heading towards Drumanaught.”

The Members were advised:

“In the event that this motion is adopted by Letterkenny Municipal District Committee, Donegal County Council will forward this submission to Irish Water (IW), and request that IW respond directly to Councillor McDaid with their response and copy it to the other Elected Members of Letterkenny Municipal District. Any response received by the Council will be passed on to Councillor McDaid.

There are a number of avenues available to the Elected Members to raise queries/questions with Irish Water which include:

- Use of the dedicated Local Representative telephone number.*
- IW has also provided a dedicated Local Representative Support Service email.*
- Arranging to meet with IW Staff at the Clinic for Elected Members available in the County House, Lifford prior to the County Council Plenary Meetings.”*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McDaid asked that the Council executive make a strong case to Irish Water for the extension of the water main as a commitment had been made for this extension prior to the establishment of Irish Water and to ensure that citizens have an adequate and reliable supply.

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

MDL453/18 INCLUSION ON WINTER MAINTENACE GRITTING ROUTES

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

“That this Council again assess if we have the equipment and capacity to include the route to Glendowan N.S and Rockhill and Bomany Road on the gritting plan”

The Members were advised that:

“Routes were assessed previously this year as per workshop with members, whereby no additional routes were added to the current programme. As agreement of routes takes place at County level, this matter should be referred to Plenary Council.”

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McDaid whilst noting the reply to the motion, requested that consideration would be given to providing any gritting on these route as the routes are busy and can be very dangerous in freezing weather conditions

On seconding the motion, Cllr. McBride supported the motion and the Members also requested that sand, salt or grit would be made available to motorists on the approach to steep hills.

MDL454/18 PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT IN BERNARD MCGLINCHEY TOWN PARK

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

“That this Council assess the playground equipment in the play area in the Bernard McGlinchey Town Park, it is currently in need of painting.”

The Members were advised:

“An independent ROSPA inspection has recently been carried out on all playgrounds in the County including the Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Park. Donegal County Council is currently reviewing the contents of the inspection report to determine the works required to the playground equipment within the park. All works required will be included in the 2018 / 2019 playground maintenance tender which will be issued to contractors before the end of November for pricing.

All works tendered will be expected to be complete in early 2019.”

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McDaid welcomed the response as the play park is widely used and the issue had been raised by a number of parents.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Kavanagh supported the motion.

MDL455/18 **ROAD DRAINAGE N56 TERMON**

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

"That the Council repair the drainage problem at the gate of the home of Paul and Anne Gallen on the N56 on the Barnes side of Termon."

The Members were advised:

"This appears to be on private property over which the Council have no remit. Further clarification in relation to the exact problem is required."

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McBride noted that the owners of the property nearby had not approached him on this matter but rather he was highlighting the issue as he believed it to be a hazard to users of the public road

On seconding the motion, Cllr. O'Donnell supported the motion.

It was agreed that the Roads Engineer would meet with Cllr. McBride on site to assess the matter and to determine the source of the water

MDL456/18 **ROAD SIGNAGE**

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

"That the Kilmacrennan sign on the Milford side of the village be replaced as it is bent and defaced."

The Members were advised:

"A replacement sign has been ordered and will be erected on receipt"

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McBride welcomed the reply and asked that a survey of all name signs would be carried out in the Municipal District and replaced if required.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. O'Donnell supported the motion.

MDL457/18 **REVIEW OF TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMS**

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael McBride and seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell, the following motion was adopted:

“That a full review of traffic control systems be carried out as a matter of urgency.”

The Members were advised that:

“Further clarification required in respect of request. Roads Central recently updated on the ongoing studies in relation to traffic management in Letterkenny Town.”

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McBride outlined issues being encountered with traffic light signals and long delays being encountered when the signals are not working properly. Cllr. McBride queried if sensors could be placed on the traffic lights, particularly during less busy periods, that would operate based on traffic queuing rather than operate for pre-defined durations irrespective if there is waiting traffic at either side.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. O’Donnell supported the motion and the Members supported the motion and expressed the hope that the advances in technology would permit the suggested option being implemented.

MDL458/18 UPGRADE STATUS OF MILFORD/LETTERKENNY ROAD

Cllr. Ian McGarvey proposed the following motion:

“That this M.D. request that the Milford / Letterkenny road be upgraded to National Status”

The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney subject to an amendment of the motion to read that:

“This MD request that the Milford/Letterkenny road by upgraded to a satisfactory standard to meet the demands of the volume of traffic on the road”.

The amended motion was adopted.

The Members were advised:

“Roads will assess the criteria with respect to the eligibility of the Milford /Letterkenny Road being upgraded to National Status, the decision for which will rest with the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.”

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McGarvey noted that this was the busiest road in the Municipal District and requested that all efforts be made to secure specific improvement funding for the route.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Blaney supported the motion subject to the amendment.

The Members requested a meeting with Minister Joe McHugh to highlight the importance of securing specific funding for this route and to brief the Minister of other priority projects in the Municipal District.

MDL459/18 N14 LIFFORD TO LETTERKENNY ROAD

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

“That this M.D. express to the Department of Transport the need for a start date for the N14 Letterkenny to Lifford as a matter of urgency.”

The Members were advised:

“Both TII and DTTAS , through funding and project appraisal resp., are assisting in the progression of the N14 Lifford to Letterkenny as part of the Ten-T priority Route improvement in Donegal.

The entire Ten-t project involves improvement of three vitally important sections of National road in Donegal

- *N15/N13 Ballybofey – Stranorlar Urban Area*
- *N56/N13/N14 Letterkenny to Manor Cunningham including the Dual Carriageway, Four Lane Road Letterkenny and Letterkenny Relief Road.*
- *N14 Manor Cunningham to Lifford Realignment Scheme including the link to A5 WTC in Northern Ireland.*

The objectives of the three schemes are consistent with the National Planning Framework and its National Strategic outcomes and priorities as stated in the National Development Plan 2018 to 2027. The project is expected to be a key element in the North and Western Regional Assembly’s Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

The Ten-t project is currently at route selection phase. The preferred routes for the scheme will be adopted by Donegal County Council as amendments to the County Development Plan and Local Area Plans in 2019. This will be followed by CPO/EIS. Each stage must be completed before the project can advance to construction.”

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McGarvey noted the reply and that the Ten-t project is currently at route selection phase.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Blaney supported the motion and the Members noted the importance of this project for the town of Letterkenny and noted that the project was highlighted as a priority by all Members at a recent deputation to the TII.

MDL460/18 **PUBLIC ROAD UMLAGH CARRIGART**

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

"That this Council consider listing the public road at Umlagh, Carrigart as a County Road."

The Members were advised:

"Further information required in relation to the request. All public roads in accordance with the Roads Act 1993, within Umlagh, are listed on the Roads Schedule."

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McGarvey noted that this road benefitted from funding under the community scheme some years ago. However, the standard of the road has dis-improved significantly since then. Cllr. McGarvey noted that a site location map had been submitted

On seconding the motion, Cllr. O'Donnell supported the motion.

However, Fergal Doherty noted that the particular road is not designated as a county road and, therefore, cannot be funded under the allocation from the roads budget.

MDL461/18 **MAYORS BUSINESS**

Cllr. Ian McGarvey advised that he attended a number of events recently and any event that he was asked to attend.

MDL462/18 **CORRESPONDENCE**

It was agreed to hold the Municipal District meetings in 2019 on the second Tuesday of each month with the following exceptions:

The January 2019 meeting would take place on the third Tuesday, 15th January.

There would be no meetings in August or December.

MDL463/18 **ENVIRONMENT**

The Members agreed to amend the sequence of presentations and Joe Ferry presented the Environment Report.

Joe presented the report as circulated to the Members and advised that the Local Authority Water and Communities Office (LACO) is arranging a public meeting on the 3rd December 2018 in the Mulroy Woods Hotel on implementation of the Water Frameworks Directive in the Lennon Catchment area. The public meeting is a means to collaborate with the local citizens to provide advice and guidance on how to comply with the Water Framework Directive. Members raised concerns that farmers

with small farm holdings may not be in a financial position to carry out any remedial works identified and highlighted difficulties being experienced in remaining compliant with the Directive at all times.

463.1 Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days

Cllr. Kavanagh requested that consideration be given to increasing the number of hazardous waste collection days given the success of the initiative.

463.2 Donegal Men's Shed Showcase

Cllr. McBride extended his congratulations to the Men's Shed movement on the successful Showcase event that took place last month.

463.3 Litter and Waste Statistics 2018

Cllr. McMonagle queried if the Council was satisfied that all refuse collectors in the County were fully compliant with their obligations in relation to waste management and requested that a status update report be circulated to the Members on the actions being taken to detect and deter illegal dumping. In reply, Joe advised that the Council had secured funding to employ additional staff in the waste enforcement area and these staff took up their positions recently. This will facilitate the Council undertaking more proactive audits of waste collectors. Joe advised that the Council is formulating a report to the EPA on illegal dumping and an update would be given to the Members at the same time.

MDL464/18 **COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES**

The Members noted the report as circulated with the agenda and the following issues were raised:

Chamber of Commerce Business Awards.

Liam Ward advised that he had tickets to the awards for any Member who would be attending.

464.1 Ulster Irish Dancing Championship 2018

Cllr. McGarvey attended this event in his role as Mayor of the Municipal District and complimented the staff involved in the organisation of the event which attracted large crowds to the Letterkenny.

464.2 Social Enterprise Centre

Cllr. McBride queried if the Enterprise Building was still on schedule to be completed in 2020.

Liam Ward advised that the Council had undertaken extensive consultations with local groups and a delay in the procurement of a design team, coupled with issues with the soil condition of the site has led to some slippage in the original timeframe. However, the Part 8 application is scheduled to be presented to the Plenary Council at the

March 2019 meeting but there will be a workshop with the Letterkenny Municipal District Members in advance of this. The funding of €1m allocated has to be drawn down by the end of 2020 and the Council is confident at this stage that this deadline will be met.

464.3 Fanad Lighthouse

Cllr. McBride raised an issue that grass/moss was growing between the pavers in the car park at Fanad Lighthouse and this might make the surface a slip hazard. Cllr. Blaney noted that visitor numbers to the Lighthouse had increased slightly on last year but that income had fallen slightly and he requested if a breakdown of the figures could be circulated to the Members. Members also queried if the Marketing Manager post had been filled.

In reply, it was noted that it may have been a condition of the planning permission granted for the car park that it would resemble a field to blend in with the environment but that this would be checked further. It was further noted that the Marketing Post, which is funded by Udaras, was interviewed but was not filled. The Members requested that the Council engage with Udaras on the filling of the post.

464.4 Buncrana-Rathmullan (Swilly) Ferry Service

The Members welcomed the report that the number of ferry users had increased from last year and requested that the dredging works take place well in advance of the new season next year.

***MDL465/18* ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

The Members noted the report as circulated with the agenda and the following issues were raised:

465.1 Joe Bonner Road

Cllr. McDaid noted that the project has been in the pipeline for some time and queried that if works commenced in January 2019 as planned will works continue uninterrupted until fully completed. In reply, Fergal Doherty advised that it was planned to commence works in January 2019, subject to Irish Water having completed their works and that the road works would continue then until completion.

465.2 Letterkenny Sewage Upgrade in Letterkenny Town

The Members requested that as far as possible, works would take place as night works to minimise disruption to road users and stressed the importance of keeping residents and road users updated on the restrictions and disruptions.

Cllr. Blaney queried if the road closure notice is in order given that the completion date has been extended on the New Line Road by approximately 1 month. In reply, Fergal Doherty advised that the Roads Section had no indication that the relevant road closure notices were not in order.

Cllr. Blaney requested that if the road at the Irish Martyrs had to be closed, that the works would be deferred until January 2019. In reply, Fergal Doherty advised that the carriageway is wide enough at this location to accommodate traffic movement during the course of the works.

465.3 Local Improvement Scheme.

The Members welcomed the further tranche of funding allocated recently. Cllr McBride queried if there is any additional funding opportunity that could be explored to secure funding to improve the 1km avenue at Gartan leading to the Colmcille Heritage Centre. Fergal Doherty advised that a workshop will be held in the first or second quarter of 2019 to agree the programme of LIS works.

465.4 Winter Maintenance Gritting

Cllr. McDaid queried if the public car park at Scally Place could be gritted/salted when required for the safety of the users.

Cllr. McGarvey expressed disappointment that Ramelton had been omitted from the gritting programme. Fergal Doherty explained that the gritting route had been agreed with the Members at a workshop earlier this year and that the inclusion of additional routes to the programme was dependent on resources being available, such as gritters, etc. However, in any event, the decision on the routes to be covered, based on the available resources, was a decision for the Members.

N56 Improvements – Bluebanks

Cllr. John O'Donnell queried when the Leitir Road is due to re-open and it was agreed that Cllr. O'Donnell would query this directly with the NRDO Team.

Traffic Signs

Cllr. Kavanagh requested that the pedestrian alerts on the traffic signs would be reviewed with a view to increasing the volume, particularly on the signs at LYIT and at Rehab/National Learning Network. Fergal Doherty agreed to raise this with the external company who service the signs.

Churchill Development Group

The Members requested if contact could be made with the Churchill Development Group to explore if a safety measure could be put in place along the public road to protect the recently developed playground that is adjacent to the public road.

MDL466/18 HOUSING AND CORPORATE SERVICES

The Members noted the report as circulated with the agenda and the following issues were raised:

Derelict Houses

Cllr. McMonagle noted that there is a large number of vacant and derelict houses in Letterkenny and queried if the Council is considering acquiring any of these properties for social housing and to regenerate the area. In reply, Patricia McIntyre advised that the Council is proactive in identifying and considering vacant properties to bring them into productive use through the mechanisms available, such as acquiring the property or the repair and lease scheme.

Rebuilding Ireland Loan Scheme

Cllr. McBride requested a summary report be circulated on the national and local uptake of the rebuilding Ireland loan scheme.

Staffing Resources

Cllr. Blaney queried if technical resources in the Housing Office in Letterkenny were adequate given the large volume of HAP inspections and high number of Council stock to maintain. In reply, Patricia McIntyre advised that staffing resources are kept under review in the Directorate and that the Housing Engineer does not carry out HAP inspections but is available to offer guidance when required.

466.1 Capital Programme

The Members welcomed progress being made in increasing the housing stock under the capital and voluntary housing programme. However, notwithstanding that the highest demand is in Letterkenny, the Member expressed the need to acquire and provide social housing outside of Letterkenny to ensure that the rest of the Municipal District did not fall behind Letterkenny and to meet the demand in these towns.

466.2 Proposal to Dispose of Plot of Ground at Croaghan, Ramelton

On the proposal of Cllr. Blaney, seconded by Cllr. O'Donnell approval was granted to issue the formal Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act,, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act,2001 to the full Council.

MDL467/18 **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Members noted the report as circulated with the agenda and the following issues were raised:

467.1 Letterkenny Local Area Plan

It was noted that a workshop will be held on Thursday 15th November at 2 pm in the Letterkenny PSC to present the main themes emerging from the outcome of the public consultation events held to date. The Members raised concern that the Plan would not be ready for adoption during the lifetime of the existing Council. In reply, Liam Ward advised that while every effort was made to progress the review of the Plan as expeditiously as possible, it had been indicated to Members at the last Municipal District meeting that the Plan would not be ready for adoption until the latter half of 2019.

467.2 Planning Clinics

The Members welcomed the reinstatement of 2 no. Planning clinics each month and noted that there is very positive feedback on the meetings. However, due to the Christmas period and the need to bring forward the decision making process to meet the statutory deadlines, there is only one clinic scheduled for December. However, Liam Ward advised that the Planning Service would make every effort to facilitate once off pre-planning meeting requests from applicants who were only in Donegal over the Christmas period and outside of the planning clinic date of the 5th December.

Cllr. McGarvey thanked the Members, staff and the media for their assistance and co-operation in 2018 and extended his best wishes to everyone for 2019.

Questions

***MDL468/18* FOOTPATH DOWNINGS**

In answer to his question on when work would commence on the footpath from Radharc Na Mara cottages to the school in Downings, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised:

"These works are programmed to be carried out in 2019, with Roads currently completing ongoing road programmes and maintenance works for the remainder of the year."

***MDL469/18* RENAMING OF BANK LANE**

In answer to his question on when would the renaming of Bank Lane to Kinnear Lane be completed, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised:

"As previously advised, under the Local Government (Changing of Placenames) Regulations 1956 a plebiscite is required to be held. Arrangements will now be made to have a list prepared of qualified electors in the area together with the requirement of the advertisement of same that a list has been prepared and is available for inspection at the Council offices."

***MDL470/18* OLD COURTHOUSE BUILDING LETTERKENNY**

In answer to his question on whether there was any further update on the Old Courthouse building in Letterkenny, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

“The Council is engaging on an ongoing basis with the Court Service in relation to the transition of the facility to the Council. The Council plans to relocate staff that are currently in rented office accommodation in Letterkenny to the building.

In addition to this the Council has had a number of engagements with Failte Ireland in relation to developing potential Tourism uses in the Old Courthouse in Letterkenny. Failte Ireland is very positively disposed to exploring such options and in conjunction with Donegal County Council hosted a Workshop for local Tourism operators in Letterkenny and its environs to develop ideas and options in this regard. The feedback from this workshop is being considered and Donegal County Council will work closely with Failte Ireland in terms of brining these options forward for assessment and implementation.”

MDL471/18 MODIFICATION OF PARK RUN COURSE

In answer to his question on whether there was any further update on the modification of the Park Run course, as per his previous Motion, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

“Works were agreed with the Park Run organisers to widen a section of footpath near the bowling green. This work is programmed for early in 2019.”

MDL472/18 ROAD SIGNAGE MAGHERALASK, DRUMENNAN JUNCTION

In answer to his question on when would the signage indicating the junction at Magherlask, Drumennan, as per his Motion in February 2018 meeting, be erected, Cllr. Adrian Glackin was advised that:

“Roads will be erecting this sign along with other signs in the M.D. whenever the roadworks programmes are completed at the start of December 2018.”

MDL473/18 ROADS SAFETY SIGNAGE TULLY MOUNTAIN RAMELTON

In answer to his question on when would the safety signage entering the Acres housing estate in Tully Mountain, Ramelton, as per his Motion in April 2018, be erected, Cllr. Adrian Glackin was advised:

“As previously advised, this is a private estate over which the Council have no remit. In relation to the adjacent public road, the Council have recently resurfaced this road and erected chevrons. Reinstatement of road markings is to be carried out in the coming weeks.”

MDL474/18 SIGNAGE AT RADHARC NA CILLE, MILFORD

In answer to his question on when would the "no through road" signage at the entrance to Radharc na Cille housing estate in Milford, as per his motion earlier this year, be erected, Cllr. Adrian Glackin was advised:

"It is envisaged that these signs will be erected in December/January, following the completion of the various roads programmes that are ongoing."

MDL475/18 RESEVOIR AND PUMPING STATION ARD O'DONNELL

In answer to his question on whether any progress had been made in relation to his Motion calling on Irish Water to secure the Reservoir and Pumping Station at Ard O'Donnell, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

"Irish Water staff have engaged with staff from Donegal County Council's Water Services Section with a view to resolving this matter. The Council's Housing Section has also been consulted on this matter and is currently investigating a fencing option. An update on this will issue in due course."

MDL476/18 MCGOVERN ROAD/GLENCAR ROAD JUNCTION

In answer to his question on whether there were any plans to create a new junction at the McGovern Road/ Glencar Road Junction now that a further 40 houses were to be built at the Elms, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

"No planning permission received to date in relation to question. This will be reviewed/assessed in the course of any planning permission that may be lodged."

MDL477/18 TRAFFIC ALLEVIATION LECK ROAD AND OLDTOWN

In answer to his question requesting an update on the Leck Road and Oldtown traffic alleviation plans, Cllr. James Pat McDaid was advised:

"Southern Relief Road Project update :

Further to the public consultation on the emerging preferred route for the southern relief road on the 21st June 2018, the following tasks have been undertaken by Donegal County Council to progress the project :

- 1. Archaeological assessment has been completed*
- 2. Environmental Screening Assessment has been completed*
- 3. The outcome report of the Environmental Screening Assessment was then issued to the NWPS for consideration and approval to determine the appropriate planning process for this project under the Planning and Development Act.*

4. Procurement of a consultant (specialist) to complete a flood assessment for the route has been undertaken and a consultant has now been appointed to complete the task by December 2018
5. Procurement of a consultant to complete the mandatory design stage 1 safety audit requirement has been undertaken and a consultant has now been appointed to complete the task by December 2018
6. Procurement of a consultant to complete the peer review of the project and to complete the retaining wall structures at the properties affected is currently being progressed - once the tender process is completed and the designs are finalized, the project (main line section) will be ready for final route public consultation and PART 8 planning process.

In parallel, Donegal County Council has also completed the tender documents for a consultant to take the project from its current status, through the EIS Planning processes, CPO, detailed design, contractor procurement and site management stages to close out. These documents have been issued to the DTTAS along with the preliminary appraisal for consideration of the project by both DTTAS and DPER for funding - a budget of €40million has been sought. DTTAS and DPER are currently reviewing said appraisal and discussions are ongoing regarding the construction mechanism for such a large scale project.

Landowner discussions as requested continue to be facilitated.

A route Selection Report will be finalized on completion of the ongoing assessments and design work and same will be presented to LK MD prior to the public consultation on same.

Letterkenny Traffic Management Plans update:

A Council Delegation met with the Department of Transport previously seeking funding of €2.5 million to design and install a traffic signal and control system connecting the main junctions in Letterkenny to maximise the capacity and coordination of traffic flows. Transport Infrastructure Ireland has indicated that they will assist with co-funding the parts that are on their national routes. It is proposed that Donegal County Council Budget 2019 makes a provision of €50,000 from Council Own Resources to develop the solution for the Letterkenny Junctions.

To date, Donegal County Council undertook traffic counts around Letterkenny town at all key junctions (October 2017) to verify the traffic volumes and confirm the validity of the ILUTS report.

Surveys were completed of the main junctions and preliminary designs reviewed. Research has been undertaken on existing systems installed in Galway/Sligo/Dublin/Cork and tender documents have been prepared to procure a suitable specialist traffic consultant to detail the specification of the appropriate system to maximize the capacity of the existing Letterkenny main junctions, to co-ordinate traffic flows and to allow for integration of new junctions as the town

develops and grows - this will then be tendered for procurement of the system, installation and maintenance.

A letter was issued to DTTAS in October 2018 seeking approval of the consultant tender documents. The Council has been advised that it must issue a preliminary appraisal for the project (estimated at €2.5million) for consideration by DTTAS and DPER - same shall be finalized and issued by mid November 2018. It is proposed to issue the consultants tender documents to TII for comment prior to tendering."

MDL478/18 SCENIC ROUTE TO GLENVEAGH NATIONAL PARK

In answer to his question on whether, following his previous motion, this Council had any negotiations with Bord Failte regarding a scenic route to Glenveagh National Park via Letterkenny to Churchill route, Cllr. James Pat McDaid was advised:

"The creation of such loop is primarily community driven and the Council is happy to support the local community in this initiative."

MDL479/18 RIVER WALKWAY

In answer to his question requesting an update on his previous motion regarding a River Walk Way from Letterkenny to New Mills Corn Flax, Cllr. James Pat McDaid was advised:

"Inter-agency meetings have been held with Office of Public Works and National Parks & Wildlife Service's regarding a proposed river walk from Letterkenny to Newmills and Donegal County Council is currently establishing land ownership along the route and will be holding follow-up meetings with the relevant agencies in the coming month,."

An application was made under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2018 back in July for some initial funding to advance the project however no funding has been received to date but the Council is in conversation with the Dept Community & Rural Affairs regarding funding opportunities.

Over the Winter months land ownership will be established and contact made with these land-owners to look at possible route options.

The Members will be updated through the Municipal District reports and kept informed of any consultations required to advance the project."

MDL480/18 FOOTPATHS ROSSNAKILL

In answer to his question whether now that funding had been sourced for the footpaths in Rossnakill, when was it expected to have them completed, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

"It is planned that works will be carried out in February 2019."

MDL481/18 FOOTPATH TO DOWNINGS SCHOOL

In answer to his question on when it was expected to have the new footpath completed to the school in Downings, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

"These works are programmed to be carried out in 2019, with Roads currently completing ongoing road programmes and maintenance works for the remainder of the year."

MDL482/18 LIGHTING SHORE ROAD RAMELTON

In answer to his question on what has been done about his representation on poor lighting at Shore Road, Ramelton, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

"As per recent workshop, a County wide upgrading of public lighting by replacing existing with LED's is being rolled out. Following that, any identified deficiencies will be considered under the 3 Year Public Lighting Programme."

MDL483/18 SEWAGE DISCHARGE TO RAMELTON ESTUARY

In answer to his question on what was the view in Planning where it was proposed to bring the Sewage from three Towns to Ramelton Estuary for discharge, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

"The Planning Authority is aware of Irish Waters proposal for a combined wastewater treatment plant to serve the settlements of Ramelton/Milford/Rathmullan, which is currently at pre-planning stage and which will require full planning permission."

In the absence of a final detailed design for the proposed development, the Planning Authority is not in a position to comment any further."

MDL484/18 SEWAGE TREATMENT GLEN VILLAGE

In answer to his question on whether it was acceptable that there is no sewage treatment for Glen Village or did they know of its existence, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

"There is no municipal wastewater treatment plant in Glen Village under the control of Irish Water. Donegal County Council in conjunction with the Local Authority Water Communities Office (LAWCO) have been engaging with the Glen Development Community Group with a view to identifying a technical and funding mechanism for the provision of a wastewater treatment facility for Glen village. The Community group

made an application for funding for a scoping study through LAWCO's Community Water Fund, which was recently approved. A consultant has been appointed by the Group with a view to producing a feasibility study and optimal solution to meet the needs of the village, including the 3 businesses, 3 local authority houses and all other residential properties on the existing collection network. The study will focus on an Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) solution, designed for minimal operating costs and its potential as a community amenity, similar to the ICW serving Glaslough village in Co. Monaghan. Once the study is completed, it is hoped to identify a suitable funding programme through which to progress the project to completion."

MDL485/18 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 15th January 2019 at the Letterkenny PSC commencing at 2:00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor

Meetings Administrator