

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING HELD IN THE MILFORD PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2018**

***MDL 47/18***    **MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

***MDL48/18***    **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation  
Donna Callaghan, Executive Planner  
Joe Ferry, Senior Executive Scientist, County Laboratory  
David Friel, Coastal Officer  
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate & Housing Services  
Linda McCann, Senior Staff Officer  
Christina O'Donnell, Development Officer  
Cathal Sweeney, Marine Engineer Piers & Harbours  
Liam Ward, Director of Service

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

***MDL49/18***    **APOLOGIES**

Cllr. John O'Donnell  
Martin McDermott, Executive Planner

***MDL50/18***    **ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2018**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 were adopted.

***MDL51/18***    **COLLEGE FARM ROAD TAKE OVER**

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

*That the Council would take over the section of College Farm Road as previously discussed.*

The Members were advised that:

*This section of road would be considered in accordance with the adopted policy for take over of a public road.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh asked that consideration is given as a priority.

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

Fergal Doherty advised that a report would be presented at the next MDL Meeting.

***MDL52/18     PARK RUN – BERNARD MCGLINCHEY TOWN PARK***

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

*That the Council look at the possibility of creating a new path between the Old Church and the Bowling Green, so that the weekly Park Run can be all one way.*

The Members were advised that:

*The lands concerned were not within the Councils control. There was already a path in existence on the western side of the Old Church.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh said that the Park Run had recently celebrated two years and up to 70 people now take part every Saturday morning. This included walkers and runners and a bottleneck was becoming a problem in this area where walkers meet runners. Cllr. Kavanagh asked that the Council speak with the HSE in an effort to resolve this matter.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully supported the motion and asked that the Council speak with the HSE to resolve this matter.

Cllr.Kavanagh gave a map to Fergal Doherty on behalf of the Park Run organisers and Fergal Doherty agreed to speak with the HSE and report back to the Members.

***MDL53/18     OLD COURTHOUSE LETTERKENNY***

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

*That this Council discussed the future of the Old Courthouse in Letterkenny.*

The Members were advised that:

*The Court Service had been relocated to the New Courthouse building and the Council had been engaging with the Court Service with regard to the taking of charge of the former Courthouse building. The Court Service was currently in the process of transitioning to the new facility with some material yet to be transferred to the new location. It was expected that this would be completed by mid-year.*

*There had been a number of enquiries from a variety of organisations / groups interested in locating to the building. The Council must prioritise the use of the building in the context of its own business needs in the first instance. The facility presented an opportunity to consolidate a number of different service divisions that were currently accommodated in rented premises in the town.*

*The building layout had potential for exhibitions and for ceremonial events and could also be developed as a visitor attraction. The Council had committed to the construction of a Social Enterprise Centre on lands adjacent to the Public Service Centre and engaged extensively with all groups and organisations operating in this sector. This had afforded an opportunity similar to that set out in the motion.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh said he had attended the opening of the new Courthouse and had received expressions of interests from businesses and groups on the old Courthouse. Cllr. Kavanagh suspended Standing Orders to allow other Members speak on this motion as he was aware that Members were anxious that the right approach was taken into the future use of the old Courthouse and the benefit it should bring to improving the footfall into the Main Street. Cllr. Kavanagh said that the Diaspora/Genealogy Centre and Tourism type project would work well at this location. Cllr. Kavanagh asked that Artwork / Water feature would be considered at the front of the Courthouse to depict the history of immigration of the town.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Ciaran Brogan said he was pleased to learn that the Council had retained the building in public ownership. Cllr. Brogan asked that funding would be sought through Failte Ireland, etc. utilising the building for the public in area of tourism and cultural type projects.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle agreed with the Members and said it was important that the Council had an office outside of the Public Services Centre to benefit the businesses on the Main Street. Cllr. McMonagle expressed the importance of using the building to promote Letterkenny and Donegal as a whole and increasing jobs and footfall in the Town Centre.

Cllr. Michael McBride felt that the building was not suitable for community groups and suggested that the building was used as a satellite Tourist Office as existing office at the Polestar Roundabout had poor access due to the traffic congestion on the Neil T. Blaney Road.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey asked that Planning was consulted in the overall development of the Letterkenny Area Plan as the building would be important to the overall development of Letterkenny.

Liam Ward advised that it was expected that the building would be available in mid 2018 and that a number of enquiries were received. The Court House was in a very prominent location and the Council proposed to retain the building for its own use with a range of options being considered including the Tourism and Cultural potential of the building. Mr. Ward advised that he had visited the Courthouse with the Chief Executive and Director of Corporate, Housing & Cultural Services. Mr. Ward said there had been some engagement with Failte Ireland and that he would report back to Members as plans unfold. He further advised that the Council had received expressions of interest from a number of community / social enterprise groups operating in Letterkenny and was of the opinion that the development of the Social Enterprise Centre adjacent to the PSC was a significant commitment from the Council in terms of meeting these needs in the MD.

***MDL54/18     DRAINAGE WORKS AT MUCKISH AVENUE GREEN AREA***

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

*That the Council carried out the necessary Drainage Works at the Green Area at Muckish Avenue in front of the OPD as water was regularly running off the Green onto the Footpath in front of the Houses and was proving a Health and Safety risk for the senior citizens living there.*

The Members were advised that:

*Roads proposed to lay a land drain through this area to mitigate flooding, when current workloads permit. It was anticipated works would be carried out in March.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle welcomed the response and thanked the Roads office for their prompt response.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Glackin fully supported the motion and welcomed the response.

***MDL55/18     RESIDENT PARKING AT ORCHARD ROW***

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

*That this Council take the necessary actions to ensure that the Residents of Orchard Row adjacent to the New Courthouse can freely access and park their cars without hindrance outside their apartments and make the area a "Resident only" Parking Area.*

The Members were advised that:

*The Local Authority does not have the powers to specifically allocate parking spaces on a public road, to any specific individual or group of individuals. Significant numbers of parking spaces were provided for the residents of Orchard Crescent, within the courtyard that was private property.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle said he had been approached by a number of residents who were finding it difficult to get into and out of their parking bays since the new Courthouse opened. Cllr. McMonagle asked that the Council erect "Resident Only" parking signs at the entrance to John Mc Laughlin Way

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan fully supported the motion and asked that the Traffic Wardens play a role in creating awareness in this area. Cllr. Brogan said that there was sufficient parking available at An Grainan Carpark and residents should not be impacted. Cllr. Brogan said there was a lot of employment in this area.

Cllr. McMonagle asked that the Council write to Optum at Spencer House and An Garda Siochana requesting that they use the car parking facilities that were available in the area and not to park where residents of Orchard Row were impacted.

***MDL56/18 IDLE LAND IN LETTERKENNY FOR ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE***

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

*That this Council discussed lands currently laying idle in and around Letterkenny to identify those that would be strategically important for future infrastructure needs in line with our future growth predictions. These lands should be protected to incorporate a Transportation Hub and future Road Infrastructure for the Town.*

The Members were advised that:

*The identification of under utilised and strategically important lands in Letterkenny would form a central part of the work to prepare a Strategic Plan for Letterkenny. To date, initial preparatory work had commenced and, as an item within the Planning agenda, it was proposed that Members agreed a date for a workshop to progress initial discussions at MD level including discussion around consultation and identification of stakeholders.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle said that in considering the future projections for Letterkenny it was important that the Council meet landowners/shareholders in the town centre in order to meet the future infrastructure and amenity needs of the town. Cllr. McMonagle asked on the status

of a previous planning application at the former Oatfield site and welcomed the opportunity to have further discussions as part of the Letterkenny Area Plan.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Glackin fully supported the motion and said it was important in considering the projected growth for Letterkenny that infrastructure was in place.

Eunan Quinn advised the Members that the Council were in the process of drafting the Letterkenny Area Plan which was anticipated to be available in draft format by the end of 2018 and a fully adopted Plan available in mid 2019. The Members agreed to hold a Workshop on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in Letterkenny PSC.

Liam Ward advised that there were very ambitious plans for the growth of Letterkenny and agreed that engagement was needed with all stakeholders and that the Workshop on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March was the start of the process.

***MDL57/18***     ***WATER QUALITY – LETTERKENNY TOWN***

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

*That with a view to determining the real cause of the deteriorating taste of water taken from household taps in Letterkenny that this Council contact Irish Water and request that it carry out an examination of the pipe Network serving Letterkenny under the Main Letterkenny Water supply serving approximately 20,000 people by excavating a sample of pipes in various locations in Letterkenny and that Irish Water make arrangements with members of this Council to inspect the excavated sample sections of pipes and that all such works be carried out on a very precise and convenient basis so that no inconvenience was caused to water users in Letterkenny.*

The Members were advised:

*The query had been forwarded to Irish Water for a response.*

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle asked that Cllr. Shiels would consider amending his motion to read “that the Council Laboratory would carry out sampling at taps of households who have reported issues to Cllr. Shiels and not excavate sections of pipes” in order to avoid disruption and inconvenience that would occur when digging up pipes.

Cllr. Shiels said he did not disagree with the proposed amendment but would prefer to retain his motion as the amendment was a repetition of a motion submitted by Cllr. Shiels in January and read an excerpt from Minute MDL10/18 where it advised that “the provision of drinking water to the residents of Letterkenny now fell under the remit of Irish Water” and this was passed to Irish Water.

Joe Ferry advised that the process was that the Council Laboratory or HSE staff would take a sample at the property where complaints were made, however there were very few complaints received.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels said that the taste in the water was the symptom of the pipes in the ground. Cllr. Shiels identified a cluster of complaints in the Mountain Top, Ballymacool and Oldtown areas. Cllr. Shiels said that private tests carried out showed high iron levels 3 to 4 times higher than the recommended level and that the existing pipe network was outdated and not fit for purpose. Cllr. Shiels asked that sections of pipes would be excavated to establish the situation and determine if pipes required replacing. He has contacted Irish Water a number of times and was awaiting a reply.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey fully supported the motion and said the public were now buying bottled water and he expressed concern at the high level of chlorine in the water and said that water quality should be checked at no cost to the individual requesting this. The issue needs to be investigated and situation clarified.

Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh advised that he had not received any complaints and thought that a false impression was being given out about water quality.

Cllr. McMonagle opposed the motion based on the amendment he proposed. This was seconded by Cllr. Brogan.

On opposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle said that testing the quality of the water at the taps was a better way to avoid the disruption and cost of digging up pipes.

On seconding the opposition Cllr. Brogan said that Irish Water should meet the MDL members as a matter of urgency to address the issues in Letterkenny. Cllr. Brogan said the water quality was not as good in the Letterkenny South area and businesses and households had experienced damage to elements in kettles, etc due to the 'hard' nature of the water. He said that Irish Water should attend a meeting and advise the public exactly what the situation was.

Cllr. McMonagle asked how many complaints were received and how they affected the public's health.

Cllr. Blaney said that he could not oppose a motion if there was a fear on public health and these concerns should be investigated to put people's minds at rest. Cllr. Blaney asked that the Director of Water Services in the Council should answer these concerns.

Cllr. Glackin said that it was more effective to test the water first and if an issue was identified to fix it. Water should be tested in the areas highlighted and if quality was found to be poor then further investigations should take place.

Cllr. McBride welcomed the works at Goldrum and the new watermain proposed for Letterkenny and said that pipes should be replaced if required. Water quality was different due to two different supplies.

Joe Ferry advised that Irish Water would issue a response to the motion and that Laboratory staff would investigate all complaints and that he would also contact the HSE. He assured that everything was being done to ensure the health of the consumer.

Dr. Ferry said the areas raised by Cllr. Shiels were supplied with a mixed supply from the Boreholes which meets the legislation and that the aesthetics on hard-water was different including taste. Consumers could also purchase water softeners. Dr. Ferry said that there were bursts from time to time and that saddles and joints corroding were the main cause of bursts. Dr. Ferry said that the majority of the pipes in the Letterkenny supply had been replaced with plastic and that taste issues were rarely attributable to pipework and were mainly because of the source or the need to scour the network.

Dr. Ferry said that the Council had a laboratory in Stranorlar and were capable of doing bacteriological testing as was the HSE who could also test for metals and reiterated that there was no threat to the consumer. The H.S.E. which was acting as a watchdog and did a lot of monitoring had not reported any issues that he was aware of.

Joe Ferry said that any complaints should be lodged through the Irish Water reporting system so that statistics could be gathered by them. He encouraged anyone with concerns to report these to Irish Water. These requests would then be forwarded to the Council for investigation. There was no history of cryptosporidium in water mains and that precautions were being taken

Cllr. Shiels asked for the support to request Irish Water to examine the pipes and replace where needed.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh asked the Members to vote on Cllr. Shiels motion and Cllr. McMonagles opposing amendment.

Cllrs. Dessie Shiels, Michael McBride, Ian McGarvey and Liam Blaney voted in favour of Cllr. Shiels motion.

Cllrs. Gerry McMonagle, Adrian Glackin, Ciaran Brogan, Jimmy Kavanagh & James Pat McDaid voted in favour of Cllr. McMonagles amended motion.

As five Members voted in favour of Cllr. McMonagles amended motion “that the Council Laboratory would carry out sampling at taps of households who had reported issues to Cllr. Shiels and not excavate sections of pipes”, this motion was passed.

In response to Cllr. Shiels stating that that his motion has been passed, Liam Ward confirmed that it was evident that Cllr Mc Monagle's amendment had been accepted and therefore Cllr Shiels' motion was lost and that the record of the meeting would confirm this position. Irish Water was the body responsible and the Council did not have the power to direct Irish Water to carry out work.

**MDL58/18 PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON OLD COURTHOUSE BUILDING**

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

*That this Council commence a public consultation process inviting public submissions on what public uses the Old Letterkenny Courthouse Building can be most appropriately put to and inviting expressions of interest from interested groups to use the building.*

The Members were advised:

*The Court Service had relocated to the New Courthouse building and the Council had been engaging with the Court Service with regard to the taking of charge of the former Courthouse building. The Court Service was currently in the process of transitioning to the new facility with some material yet to be transferred to the new location. It was expected that this would be completed by mid-year.*

*There had been a number of enquiries from a variety of organisations /groups interested in locating to the building. The Council must prioritise the use of the building in the context of its own business needs in the first instance. The facility presents an opportunity to consolidate a number of different service divisions that are currently accommodated in rented premises in the town. The building layout also had potential for exhibitions and for ceremonial events and could also be developed as a visitor attraction. The Council had committed to the construction of a Social Enterprise Centre on lands adjacent to the Public Service Centre and had engaged extensively with all groups and organisations operating in this sector. This had afforded an opportunity similar to that set out in the motion.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels read the motion and referred to Cllr Kavanagh's motion said that the Members had given their views on the future use of the old Courthouse building and asked that the public would also be given an opportunity to give their views in line with the process used for the new Social Enterprise Centre. Cllr. Shiels asked that the Town Centre setting would be protected and that rooms upstairs in the building would be suitable for groups, one of which has expressed interest. Cllr. Shiels asked for clarification on why the Court Service had not vacated the building as they Courts were fully operational in the new Courthouse.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. McGarvey fully supported the motion.

Cllr. Brogan said that this matter had been discussed when Cllr Kavanagh's motion was considered and it was agreed that the Council retain the building for their own use including Cultural and Tourism uses and now saying it should go to public consultation was misleading the public.

Liam Ward advised that the Court Service had a lot of documents housed in the Old Courthouse which have to be relocated and have requested time to deal with this. Mr. Ward said that as outlined in the reply the Council were retaining the building for its own use and there was no proposal to go to public consultation and that the members had agreed with the proposal to retain the building for its own uses. He added that to undertake a public consultation process at this juncture would be unhelpful as the decision had already been taken to retain the building with a number of options being considered as confirmed earlier in the meeting. The Council would be proceeding as set out in the reply and as agreed by the members.

Cllr. Kavanagh confirmed that the answer given by the Executive was clear.

Cllr Shiels stated that his motion was passed to hold a public consultation which was not proceeding.

Liam Ward said that there would be consultation at MDL and Plenary Council and that the Council was not proposing to go to Public Consultation. Members had referenced a range of community groups and the Council had also dealt with them directly and this motion was opening up speculation. Mr Ward advised that the Council had met with groups looking for space and have been clear that no space was available. Mr. Ward reiterated that the answer to the motion was the proposed course of action and to retain the building.

***MDL59/18***     ***RESIDENT PARKING AT ARD O'DONNELL***

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

*That this Council consider what can be done to improve the availability of parking for residents outside their own homes at Ard O'Donnell, Letterkenny in circumstances where it was now often the case that residents are having to park long distances from their homes and that this Council considered allocating a fixed parking spot for each home if that was the only solution.*

The Members were advised that:

*The Council were shortly to open the High Road Carpark, which would contribute an additional 41 spaces to the town of Letterkenny. The Local Authority did not have the powers to specifically allocate parking spaces on a public road, to any specific individual or group of individuals.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels asked for clarity on who responded to the motion and referred to Dublin City Councils policy on resident parking permits and said the Council had the power to introduce resident permit parking in Ard O'Donnell. Cllr. Shiels said that there were a lot of elderly residents who deserved the right to park outside their homes.

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

Fergal Doherty advised that he wrote the response to the motion, and that Cllr Shiels references to parking permits in Dublin City Council, were in relation to Pay and Display locations. Fergal Doherty advised that only where there was Pay & Display in place, could a Local Authority introduce resident parking permits. There was no Pay & Display in Ard O'Donnell and therefore the Council did not have the power to allocate resident parking permits to individuals and that the Council did not intend to introduce Pay & Display in this area specifically such that residents parking permits could be issued On all public roads, specific parking allocations to individuals or specific house addresses, can not be implemented.

***MDL60/18*** **MAGHERALASK, DRUMENAN**

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

*That this Council considers putting 'concealed entrance' signage before the entrance to Magheralask, Drumenan on the main Letterkenny to Fintown road as it was currently a health and safety risk for vehicles exiting onto the Letterkenny road.*

The Members were advised that:

*The junction was on a straight section of road with good horizontal and vertical alignment, and visibility on both sides, and was not considered 'concealed'. Council would erect standard notification of junction.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin welcomed the response.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully supported the motion and welcomed the response.

***MDL61/18*** **RADHARC NA CILLE, MILFORD**

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

*That this Council erects a 'no through road', or' cul de sac' sign on the entrance to Radharc na Cille housing estate in Milford as currently there were large vehicles mistakenly using this entrance and getting into difficulty.*

The Members were advised that:

*Roads would arrange to have appropriate signage erected, and would monitor and review.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin welcomed the response.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully supported the motion and welcomed the response.

**MDL62/18 INTERNET SERVICE IN FANAD AREA**

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

*That this Council takes whatever steps necessary to improve Internet access and download speeds in the Fanad area for business and tourism, with an emphasis on Fanad Lighthouse and other amenities.*

The Members were advised that:

*Whilst Donegal County Council had no direct role in the provision of Broadband services, the Information Systems Department of the Council continued to work closely and liaise with both the Department of Communications Climate Action and Environment, and the Department of Rural and Community Development on the rollout of the National Broadband Plan and related telecommunications programmes.*

*Fanad Lighthouse, as a signature point on the Wild Atlantic Way and a strategic County tourism spot, had been identified as a priority location for rollout of high speed broadband in the National Broadband Programme.*

*Of the 3,313 premises on the Fanad peninsula, 571 had access to current High Speed broadband from existing commercial suppliers, 1,082 would be served by the Eir 300k Rural Fibre agreement during 2018, leaving 1661 to be served by the State subsidised National Broadband Plan.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin highlighted the support the Council was giving as the lack of internet services for guests and the inability to update their website at the Lighthouse was a huge concern for the Lighthouse. Broadband facilities were crucial to tourism and employment in rural areas.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle expressed concern with Eir withdrawing from the bidding process and the impact of this for rural areas in Donegal. Cllr. McMonagle asked that the Council continued to ensure that broadband was rolled out in Letterkenny.

***MDL63/18***     ***BOTTLE BANKS AT AN CRAOIBHIN, TERMON***

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

*That the Council provide bottle banks at Craoibhin, Currin, Termon.*

The Members were advised that:

*Staff would contact Cllr McBride to discuss the proposed site and carry out a risk assessment to determine if the site was suitable as a location for bottle banks.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride highlighted the Centre as a good location for bottle banks.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan fully supported the motion and acknowledged the great work of Litter Wardens in the areas.

***MDL64/18***     ***LOCKERS AT AURA LEISURE CENTRE***

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

*That this Council write to Aura asking them to repair the lockers which were broken for a long period of time at the Leisure Centre in Letterkenny.*

The Members were advised that:

*Aura had informed the Council that repairs were carried out to the lockers in the changing village in November and December resulting in over 90% of them now being usable. Arrangements were being made to replace the locks in the remainder.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride expressed concern at the overall maintenance and upkeep of the Leisure Centre. Cllr. McBride welcomed the response and acknowledged the great facility for the area.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan said that as a Member of the Board of Directors he acknowledged that the Centre worked closely with the Members to resolve issues as they arose. Cllr. Brogan said it was a very busy centre and successful facility.

***MDL65/18***     ***ROAD MARKINGS AT KILTOY ROUNDABOUT***

Cllr. McBride withdrew the following motion based on the response received from the Roads Department:

*That Council Engineers would review the new roundabout at the Old Unifi site in Letterkenny as I have had complaints that the road markings indicate that the two lanes leading from Kilty are through lanes to Gortlee while there is only one lane exiting the roundabout up Gortlee.*

The Members were advised that:

*The lane markings are correct, and the two lanes leading from Kilty were not marked as through lanes, as indicated in the motion.*

***MDL66/18***     ***LIBRARY SERVICE IN RAMELTON***

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

*That this M.D. support the restoration of an enhanced library / Citizens Advice in Ramelton.*

The Members were advised that:

*Library services would be developed as set out in the capital development programme. Should opportunities arise these would be explored. There were full time libraries in Milford and Letterkenny which were the nearest service points to Ramelton. Library members living in Ramelton could download free ebooks and emagazines to their homes, regardless of location, and in addition free online courses including language learning, and free reference materials were also available online from any location with internet access.*

*Donegal Citizen Information Services were also available in both the Letterkenny and Milford Public Service Centres where citizens could arrange personal consultations with staff. As with the library service the Citizen Information Service also provided a very comprehensive online service.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey asked that the Council did not ignore Ramelton and provide the services in Ramelton.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Shiels said the Council should invest in a public services building in Ramelton.

***MDL67/18***     ***DERELICT BUILDINGS IN RAMELTON***

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

*That this M.D. addressed the many Derelict Building issues in Ramelton to allow Tidy Towns make Ramelton what it could be.*

The Members were advised that:

*The Council would continue to engage with property owners to address issues of dereliction where it was appropriate to do so. The primary responsibility, however, to maintain and make safe derelict buildings remains the responsibility of the registered owners.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey asked that the Council identified the owners of the derelict buildings in Ramelton in an effort to restore them and ensure they were not dangerous. He mentioned a number of buildings that were in poor condition

On seconding the motion Cllr. Shiels asked if the Council had Derelict Sites Register and what was the Councils policy on dealing with same.

Liam Ward said that the Council held a register and agreed to forward same to Cllr. McGarvey.

***MDL68/18***    **BRIDGEND, RAMELTON**

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

*That this M.D. deal with the problem at Bridgend, Ramelton where their Property Entrance had been closed off by a Boulder the like never was seen in the Town.*

The Members were advised that:

*From examination of available records in Planning there was no evidence that this was an established Public Right of Way. As such there was no basis for intervening within the scope of the Planning and Development legislation.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey asked that the Council remove the boulder at Bridgend, Ramelton.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Shiels fully supported the motion and said that all public property should be accessible and protected.

***MDL69/18***    **BARRIER ON LOUGH SALT ROAD TO KILMACRENNAN**

The following motion was not considered as Cllr. O'Donnell was not in attendance:

*Calling on this Council to install a barrier on the Lough Salt Road to Kilmacrennan Road at Jim Mc Daid's junction.*

The Members were advised that:

*There was currently no identified budget for the installation of this barrier. In the meantime, Roads would assess and identify cost estimates.*

***MDL70/18***    **MAYORS BUSINESS**

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

1. Installation of Rev David Houlton at Conwall Parish Church
2. National Walks Day at the LYIT on 13<sup>th</sup> January in association with Operation Transformation.
3. Ordination of Rev. Moore in the Presbyterian Church.
4. St. Brigids Cross Making at the LCDP and Cathedral Quarter.
5. Launch of Read DL 2018 by Shay Given
6. Second Anniversary celebration of Park Run on 3<sup>rd</sup> February
7. Opening of the new Letterkenny Courthouse on 12<sup>th</sup> February

Cllr. Kavanagh asked for the support of the Members to hold two Mayor Receptions in April and May. On the proposal of Cllr. Michael McBride and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan this was agreed. Cllr. Kavanagh to present more details at the March MDL Meeting.

***MDL71/18***    **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Members agreed to receive a deputation from the Alcohol Forum at 1.30 p.m. on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 prior to the MD meeting.

Eunan Kelly advised that a Health Impact Assessment (H.I.A.) had been carried out by the HSE on the new Social Enterprise Centre and a presentation would be made at the March MDL Meeting.

***MDL72/18***    **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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

1. Summary of planning applications for the District
2. Enforcement
3. Upcoming Month Schedule

Cllr. Micheal McBride referred to a motion passed at the September 2017 MDL Meeting that the Council liaise with residents and businesses in Lower Main Street, Letterkenny and asked that the Council arrange a meeting as part of the consultation process on the Letterkenny Area Plan.

Liam Ward agreed to formally invite them to attend at 12 noon at the agreed workshop on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2018.

Donna Callaghan circulated advised that the next planning clinic details and advised that the Planners were now available to take calls from the public between 9 am and 10.30 am every day with the exception of Wednesdays. The Members welcomed this.

***MDL73/18***     ***ENVIRONMENT***

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

- Environmental Awareness
- Waste / Litter Enforcement
- Coastal Management

The Members welcomed the report.

Cllr. Blaney welcomed David Friel to the meeting and highlighted the following issues on coastal erosion and beach management in the area and asked that each case was investigated to establish the options available:

- Ballyherian Beach – erosion on the sand dunes
- Ballymastocker Bay / Warden Blue Flag Beach – Burn always straightened every 1 to 2 years by the Council to alleviate flooding and this had damaged the sand dunes.
- Portsalon Beach – timber bridge had been damaged with the tides and wind and visitors now accessing the beach using the golf course which was dangerous.
- Access Boardwalk to the Beach in Downings

David Friel said that erosion was a natural process that repairs itself without intervention and to interfere with this could have an effect in other areas. In 2014 and 2015 there were a lot of storms which caused damage in the Glenties area and this was not the same in the Letterkenny area. David Friel agreed to look into the issues raised and report back.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Michael McBride the Standing Orders were suspended in order that the meeting would extend past 6.00 p.m.

***MDL74/18***     ***COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES***

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

- Social Enterprise Building

- Fanad Lighthouse
- Donegal Youth Council
- Pan Celtic Festival
- Pride of Place
- Rural Development Programme / LEADER
- Regional Festivals & Participative Events Funding Programme
- Healthy Ireland – Intergenerational Project and Letterkenny Town Park Outdoor Gyn
- Donegal Tourism

The Members welcomed the report.

Christina O'Donnell advised that

- The Pan Celtic Festival would be held from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> April and on the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Michael McBride the Members agreed that the Market Square Bandstand could be used by the Festival.
- The Outdoor Gym in Bernard McGlinchey Town Park was progressing well.

***MDL75/18***    **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

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

**75.1**    The Members were circulated with a breakdown per MD and RSS area of the 2018 National, Regional and Local Road Grand Allocations as well as Parks and Open Spaces Allocations.

**75.2**    **RI and RM Roadworks Programmes for 2018**  
On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh the RI and RM Roadworks Programmes for 2018 were approved as circulated in the attached Appendix A. This represents the Roads Programme that the DCC Roads will repair in 2018

**75.3**    **High Road/Tadhg Culbert Carpark**  
Members were advised that the Carpark would be opened to the public in early March.

**75.4**    **Rathmullan One Way System**  
Members were advised that Part 8 consultation to commence and would be advertised in the weekend papers. Drawings would be available for inspection for a period of 4 weeks during which time submissions could be made in writing by the public.

The Members asked that a public meeting would be arranged on the proposed one-way system in Rathmullan.

### **75.5 Letterkenny Cathedral One Way System**

Members were advised that Part 8 consultation was ongoing and plans were available for inspection up to 19<sup>th</sup> February in Letterkenny PSC. The public were encouraged to make their submissions in writing before 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

### **75.6 Yield Configuration at the Tank Brae in Ramelton**

Members were advised that the Council proposed to implement a Yield configuration at the Tank Brae in Ramelton to ease the difficulty for large vehicles in manoeuvring the junction with oncoming traffic.

The Members expressed concern on this proposal.

### **75.7 Marine**

Cathal Sweeney attended the meeting to answer queries relating to the Marine Department. He advised that the priority at present in the MD was to develop Rathmullan as a strategic port and to provide a facility at Mevagh Pier for leisure crafts because of the natural sheltered inlet and the demand in the area which needed to be regularised. The Marine Department was also concentrating on safety and signage on all Piers.

Cllr. Liam Blaney raised the following queries:

**Update on the Foreshore Licence for Mevagh.** Cathal Sweeney advised that the Council was currently working closely with the Department Meevagh to clarify the H.W.M. to allow the Foreshore Licence to be advertised.

**Harbour Master for Rathullan.** Cathal Sweeney advised that a Harbour Master commenced employment on the 12<sup>th</sup> February and would be responsible for ports between Ramelton to Burtonport.

**Burn / Bridge at Portsalon.** Cathal Sweeney advised that this was provided previously by the Marine Department as an agent however the Marine Department were solely responsible for Piers and Harbours and had no mechanism to fund works at beaches or erosion.

**Crane at Ballywhoriskey Pier – power supply.** Cathal Sweeney advised that the power was now in place and the crane was fully operational.

Cllr. Brogan referred to Thorn Pier, Magherennan listed on the Fixed Asset Register and asked to view the maps for this Pier.

Cllr Mc Garvey raised the issue of the boat at Ramelton. Cathal Sweeney advised that there were no by laws covering Ramelton and that this was an extremely difficult issue to deal with as there was no legislation available for to allow the Council to deal with this boat.

Liam Ward advised that he would ask Director of Water Services to clarify situation with regards the bridge on Porsalon Beach and ask him to contact Cllr Blaney.

***MDL76/18     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
- Grants
- Loans
- Casual Vacancies
- Social Housing Investment Programme – SHIP 2015 – 2020 / Rebuilding Ireland 2021

**76.1 Proposed Development at Willowbrook**

The Members expressed concern at the impact any further development in this area would have on the T-junction onto the Glencar Road. Eunan Kelly advised that this would be considered as part of the planning process.

**76.2 Breakdown of Social Housing Need by Town/Village**

Cllr. Brogan asked that a list per town / village for social housing would be circulated to Members in order to ensure that smaller developments would be considered for people wishing to live in their area.

**76.3 Non Residential Properties**

The Members considered the list of non-residential Properties in the Letterkenny area as extracted from the Fixed Asset Register in November 2017 circulated by Patrick McLaughlin.

Patrick McLaughlin updated the Members on the work carried out to date and to hand in relation to developing a property management system which it was hoped would soon go out to tender. A database of all properties would be developed which would then be plotted onto maps. Given the extent of properties generally, this would take considerable time to complete and would involve close interaction with front line area based staff. Cllr. Blaney suggested that Members could also assist in this process.

The following were raised by the Members:

- Staff in the Marine Section to examine any maps that are available of the Pier at the Thorn, and land at Port, Letterkenny

- Consideration to be given to development of any surplus lands at Old Leck Graveyard due to the demand for burial ground in Letterkenny.
- Consideration to be given to making any surplus lands available to Community Groups to develop with assisted funding.
- That a list of the non residential properties in the remainder of the MD would be made available to the Members.

### Questions

#### **MDL77/18 SCHOOL WARDEN AT BALLYRAINE NS**

In answer to his question, requesting an update on his previous motion for a Warden at Ballyraine NS, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

*The Council were to implement a number of measures some of which were included in the report prepared by Road Design, a copy of which was now uploaded onto the Members Extranet, and some of which were discussed at a meeting with the Principle and Board of Management on Tuesday 6th February. These included, additional signing and lining in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual, and the installation of measures to eliminate parking on the footpath at school drop off times, which was established as a contributing factor in reducing intervisibility between the motorist and the pedestrian. The Council were also investigation other measures discussed at the meeting with the Principle and BOM. As discussed at the meeting, the provision of a Warden was incompatible with the existing Pelican Crossing provided, with differing roadmarkings etc. The Pelican crossing being effective at all times rather than the 15min twice a day, there were no plans for the provision of a Warden at the school.*

#### **MDL78/18 SAFETY BARRIER BETWEEN MILFORD & KERRYKEEL**

In answer to his question, requesting that funding in 2018 is sourced to replace the barrier on the road between Milford and Kerrykeel, for safety purposes and also to assist the Tidy Towns effort in the area, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

*Provisional cost estimates for the replacement of this barrier were of the order of €80k . There was currently no identified funding for the replacement of this barrier*

#### **MDL79/18 DROPPED KERBING AT NOWDOC**

In answer to his question, requesting that the Council install dropped kerbing at Nowdoc as previously discussed, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

*The installation of the dropkerb was programmed for after Easter.*

**MDL80/18 SCHOOL WARDEN FOR BALLYRAINE NS**

In answer to his question, following on from my previous motion to this Municipal Council, can I have details of what safety recommendations/plans the Council now has following its assessment of road safety requirements/options in relation to the Ballyraine Road, Letterkenny and in particular the Ballyraine School, Cllr. Dessie Shiels was advised that:

*The Council were to implement a number of measures some of which were included in the report prepared by Road Design, a copy of which was now uploaded onto the members Extranet, and some of which were discussed at a meeting with the Principle and Board of Management on Tuesday 6th February. These include, additional signing and lining in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual, and the installation of measures to eliminate parking on the footpath at school drop off times, which was established as a contributing factor in reducing intervisibility between the motorist and the pedestrian. The Council was also investigating other measures discussed at the meeting with the Principle and BOM.*

**MDL81/18 RATE COLLECTION DETAILS**

In answer to his question, on what amount of Rates were collected within the Letterkenny town boundary in 2017 and how much was collected for the overall Municipal District of Letterkenny in 2017 and how much was collected for the whole county of Donegal in 2017, Cllr. Dessie Shiels was advised that:

*The Council would be presenting a report to the Elected Members, at the March 2018 Plenary Council Meeting, on the Rates collection performance for 2017, including a breakdown of the amounts that have been deemed as uncollectable.*

**MDL82/18 SPEED CALMING ONTO BONAGEE ROAD**

In answer to his question, could this Council advise on what can be done to improve road safety including implementing speed calming measures at the L1114 at Bonagee, Letterkenny in circumstances where there were sight impairment issues at the hill immediately after traffic enters onto the Bonagee Road from the Ballybofey Road, Cllr. Dessie Shiels was advised that:

*The Roads Engineer and Road Safety Engineer visited the residential entrance concerned and met the resident concerne., This entrance was located just below the crest of the hill on Leck Road. It was confirmed that the vision lines from this residential entrance were very limited. However this entrance had been in place in excess of 30 years and the Leck road alignment had not been altered. It had been confirmed that speed ramps along the Leck Road were not a viable option. The landowner was asked to consider clearing the hedge line along their private entrance in order to improve vision lines.*

**MDL83/18 BRIDGE AT BOMANY TO LETTERLEAGUE ROAD**

In answer to his question, requesting an update on the status of the bridge on Bomany to Letterleague Road which I submitted for the January MD meeting, Cllr. Adrian Glackin was advised that:

*The status remained as per last months meeting. "Roads were arranging to get a survey done by Road Design on this bridge to see what the state of same was and depending on the survey report would then apply for funding. Meanwhile the location would be monitored from a safety perspective." Members would be advised when survey was undertaken.*

**MDL84/18 EXTERNAL PAINTING AT RADHARC NA CILLE, MILFORD**

In answer to his question, requested last year regarding the possibility of getting the outside of Council apartments 21-28 Radharc na Cille Milford painted, as the facade of these are visible from the road and street. These were currently in need of regeneration in the form of a good paint job and I wondered would it be possible to have this done this year, Cllr. Adrian Glackin was advised that:

*This would be considered in conjunction with other Council properties for inclusion in a painting programme which was being prepared.*

**MDL85/18 TAKEOVER OF GLEANN RUA HOUSING ESTATE**

In answer to his question, requesting an update on the progress with the takeover of the Gleann Rua Housing Estate, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised that:

*A taking in charge application was lodged by the receiver for An Gleann Rua which was currently under consideration under Reference No. TO.229. Members were advised at the January Taking in Charge Workshop that this development was a priority estate for the Unfinished/Taking in Charge team. The priority issue within this development was associated with the upgrading of the foul pumping station serving the development. Public Safety Initiative monies had been allocated for this work and it was expected that these would be going to tender at the end of Q.1 2018. Public lighting had already been taken in charge by DCC however there were remedial works to the roads infrastructure required and it was an objective that these works would be completed in 2018.*

*It was proposed to take in charge the estate once all remedial works had been completed.*

**MDL86/18 UPDATE ON SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS**

In answer to his question, requesting that this M.D ask Irish Water for an update list with timescale for Sewage treatment plants urgently needed in our M.D, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that:

*The query had been forwarded to Irish Water for a response.*

**MDL87/18**    **REVIEW OF ROAD SIGNS IN RAMELTON**

In answer to his question, requesting that this M.D review the many Road Signs in Ramelton, with an accurate Sign at the Cup & Saucer to indicate the Town Centre, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that:

*As per previously advised, the Regional Road via the Tank was the designated route to Ramelton Town , with the local Rectory Road enabling local distribution and access. It was not envisaged that signage would be erected, directing traffic to travel via the Rectory Road, to the Town Centre.*

**MDL88/18**    **FOOTPATH WORKS**

In answer to his question, when it was proposed to deal with the agreed Footpath Works that were now long overdue at this stage, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that:

*Works on the footpath at Ramelton, were due to commence this week but were deferred due to poor weather. They were programmed to be carried out in the coming fortnight.*

**MDL89/18**    **N56 BLUEBANKS TO KILMACRENNAN**

In answer to his question, when would works commence on the N56 Bluebanks to Kilmacrennan stretch of road, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised that:

*Works would commence in late February or early March subject to the Contractor's mobilisation plan.*

**MDL90/18**    **BOARDWALK INTO DOWNINGS BEACH**

In answer to his question, when would works commence on the new access board walk into Downings Beach, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised that:

*Donegal County Council was advancing plans to construct a boardwalk at Downings Beach. Permission had now been granted from the National Parks and Wildlife Services to allow the project proceed. A commissioned site survey had also been completed which had identified the need for retaining walls to be incorporated in the design. Donegal County Council was now progressing this design with the intention of having the works tendered and completed before the bathing season.*

***MDL91/18      FOOTPATH FROM CARRIGART TO DOWNINGS***

In answer to his question, requestings an update on the footpath from Carrigart to Downings, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised that:

*Planning had advised that due to its location within an SAC, this project did not qualify for Part 8 and would require adjudication by An Bord Pleanala under PartXAB – Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2010. The estimated cost to DCC for An Bord Pleanala to undertake this adjudication was €11k, for which a budget was not yet identified. Members would be made aware of developments.*

***MDL92/18      DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING***

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at Letterkenny Public Services Centre commencing at 2:00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator