

MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING HELD IN THE LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 8TH MAY, 2018

MDL 202/18 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. Liam Blaney
Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
Cllr. Adrian Glackin
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr. Michael McBride
Cllr. Ian McGarvey
Cllr. Gerry McMonagle
Cllr. Dessie Shiels
Cllr. John O'Donnell

MDL203/18 OFFICIALS PRESENT

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

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

MDL204/18 APOLOGIES

Cllr. James Pat McDaid

MDL205/18 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 10th APRIL, 2018

On the proposal of Cllr. Ian McGarvey and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 10th April, 2018 were adopted.

MDL206/18 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 16th APRIL, 2018

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 16th April, 2018 were adopted.

MDL207/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING OF 10TH APRIL, 2018

Cllr. McGarvey asked for an update on his motion, minute MDL168/18 referred, and the current decision of the Council.

Liam Ward advised that Members were updated at the Planning Workshop on 4th May, 2018 and no further comment would be made on the matter as it was before the Courts.

Cllr. Blaney asked that Minute of MDL168/18 would be amended to “that the land be removed from the EHSA” and not EHA as noted in the Minutes.

It was agreed that the Roads & Transportation Report would be taken in advance of the motions due to a deadline required with the Department on LIS submissions.

MDL208/18 **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

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

208.1 Local Improvement Schemes (LIS)

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle nine applications as detailed in a report circulated in a Workshop prior to the MD meeting was agreed. It was also agreed that in the event that additional LIS monies be allocated, then the applications listed 10 to 36 would represent the ‘secondary’ list from which any further schemes would be chosen. Fergal Doherty proceeded to submit the agreed lists to the Department.

208.2 Letterkenny Southern Relief Road – Leck Road

Members were advised in a report circulated with the Agenda that a further update would be circulated in time, of the developments of the design which were to be brought to construction stage of readiness for application to DTTAS for full funding for construction.

Cllr. McMonagle asked for a report on the public consultation, submissions made, timeframe of the project.

208.3 Rathmullan One Way Public Information Evening

Members were updated in a report circulated with the Agenda that the closing date for submissions and observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and development of the area in which the development is situated were to be made in writing to the County Secretariat Office, Donegal County Council Lifford before 4.00 p.m. to Tuesday 8th May, 2018.

Cllr. Blaney asked for an update on the public consultation as he could not attend the meeting.

208.4 Tadhg Culbert Carpark

Members were advised that the Tadhg Culbert Carpark was officially opened to the public on 4th May, 2018.

The Members commended the work of the roads staff on the car park and the opening event.

208.5 Four Lane Update

Members were updated that

- Detailed design was well advanced, Retaining Wall Structure Design at River Swilly was pending and programmed for completion in July 2018.
- Construction start date would be impacted by Irish Water Contract progress and the current estimate was Qtr 2 of 2019.
- Final issue of tender documents was programme for October 2018 with a view to put out letter of intent shortly after and
- Funding was currently allocated for Detailed Design and Tender Document Phase.

208.6 Electric Cars Charging Points

Cllr. Blaney asked that the car parking space at charging points was reserved for this purpose.

Cllr. McBride asked that the charging points would facilitate more than one car at a time.

Fergal Doherty agreed to report to the Members on this at the next meeting.

MDL209/18 **SIGNAGE FOR LISNENNAN**

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

“That this Council provide signage for Lisnennan at the new roundabout.”

Members were advised that:

“NRDO has advised that on National roads (M56), the provision of Signage for Lisnennan would not be in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Traffic Signs Manual, which dictates that only the nearest local destination off the roundabout is signed, which in this case is Kiltyoy.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh advised that he was receiving calls from local residents that the sign was not replaced for Lisnennan and asked that this sign is erected.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey supported the motion as there was a lot of housing in this area.

The Members asked that this request was followed up on due to the exceptional circumstances in that the road layout in the area has been completely changed as part of the new Kiltyoy roundabout.

Fergal Doherty agreed to follow up on the matter.

MDL210/18 COMMEMORATION OF LETTERKENNY FOLK FESTIVAL 2019

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

“That the Council look at appropriate ways of commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the first Letterkenny Folk Festival in 2019.”

The Members were advised that:

“The Council will consider the proposal in the context of the 2019 work programme.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh asked that that Council would host a Commemorative Event in the Museum / Regional Cultural Centre to celebrate the Letterkenny Festival 50th Anniversary. Cllr. Kavanagh said that Sally Blake a founder of the Festival had photos, videos and memorabilia and spoke of the huge success of the Festival in the 1970s and 1980s which brought visitors internationally to the town.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully supported the motion and asked that the Council initiate a meeting to bring the elements of the Pan Celtic Festival to revive the Letterkenny Folk Festival.

MDL211/18 ROAD AT TEMPLEDOUGLAS TO DRUMCAVNEY JUNCTION

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

“That this Council carry out urgent repairs on the road from Temple Douglas to Drumcavney Junction as parts of the road are now in an awful state of disrepair.”

The Members were advised that:

“This section of Road is beyond pothole repairs and requires a full overlay. Executive are seeking options regarding how to get same done. At a recent MDL meeting, the Executive recommended, that allocated 2018 resources for another road, not in urgent need of repair, be temporarily transferred to this road, such that the urgent repairs be carried out, and the less needy road be repaired in 2019. This recommendation was not accepted by Members.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin acknowledge the pothole repairs that were recently carried out and asked that the resurfacing works would be carried out as soon as possible.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Monagle said he was annoyed at the response given and said that the lack of funding was the reason why the road could not be repaired. Cllr. McMonagle and Cllr. Glackin both felt it was unfair for Members to replace an agreed road on the Programme to allow works to be carried out on this road.

Fergal Doherty advised that this was a record of the meeting of 16th April and it was not intended to apportion blame on Members. Fergal Doherty advised that the Council was currently seeking options to source funding.

MDL212/18 ROAD TO LOUGH AKIBBON IN GARTAN

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

“That this Council administer work on the road to Lough Akibbon in Gartan to divert the water from this road as it is now currently almost unpassable due to damage caused by excess water flowing down it. There was some remedial work carried out on this road in the past 12 months but this has proven to be unsuccessful.”

The Members were advised that:

“Roads are aware that this section of road has deteriorated over the winter but is not in a poor condition. Drainage works and pothole repairs have been carried out recently. This section of road is not currently on the Road Restoration Programmes but will be considered for inclusion in the Programme for 2019. In the meantime Roads will monitor and continue to carry out maintenance repairs.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin said that this road is used by local farmers and fishermen and welcomed that the local Engineer will carry out necessary repairs in the coming weeks.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle supported the motion and welcomed that the Roads office would carry out the necessary repairs.

MDL213/18 DRUMENAN/MAGHERLASK ROAD IN GLENSWILLY

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

That this Council carry work on the Drumenan/Magherlask Road in Glenswilly to fill the many pot holes on the road as requested by the residents.

The Members were advised that:

“Road have put this road on the list for pothole repairs and which will be carried out as soon as possible.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin said that residents had made numerous complaints about this road and welcomed the response.

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

MDL214/18 TRAFFIC ISLAND AT BERNARD MCGLINCHEY TOWN PARK

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

“That the Council reinstate the traffic island outside Bernard McGlinchey Town Park as a matter of urgency in the interests of pedestrian safety.”

The Members were advised that:

“The temporary removal of the Pedestrian Islands on the Kilmacrennan Road were agreed by this Roads office and the Irish Water contractor to facilitate the safe installation of the New Water main. The contractor has programmed to reinstate said Island in the coming weeks.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle asked that the traffic island would be replaced as a matter of urgency due to the number of pedestrian using the Town Park during the summer time and good weather. Cllr. McMonagle said the island should have been reinstated before moving onto another section of the road.

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

MDL215/18 MEETING WITH IRISH WATER / ROAD CONDITIONS

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

“That is Municipal District discuss the deteriorating conditions of the Roads in Letterkenny Town and the refusal of Irish Water to accept the offer of a meeting from this Municipal District to discuss their schedule of works for this Municipal District.”

The Members were advised that:

“Irish Water has advised that they are prepared to meet with the Elected Members of Letterkenny Municipal District at their bi-monthly Clinics. Subject to the motion adopted by the Letterkenny Municipal District, the Council Executive can do one of the following:

1. *Issue a further request to Irish Water on behalf of the Letterkenny Municipal District inviting Irish Water to attend the next meeting.*
2. *Issue a request to Irish Water to meet with the members of Letterkenny Municipal District at the next bi-monthly Clinic”*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle highlighted the need for road work improvements as the current roads infrastructure was crumbling in the town and works were delayed due to the programme of works of Irish Water, lack of sufficient funding and high volumes of traffic. Cllr. McMonagle said it was unacceptable that Irish Water would not meet the Members of Letterkenny MD and that attending the bi-monthly clinics was not an option as this was held in Lifford during the Plenary Council meeting and was available to 37 Members.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan said it was unacceptable that Irish Water had not met with the Letterkenny Members despite numerous requests. Cllr. Brogan said that the discretionary spend was not sufficient in Letterkenny. Cllr. Brogan complimented the high quality work of the Roads staff in Letterkenny on the Tadhg Culbert Carpark and said Council staff do quality work with little funding. Cllr. Brogan said the lack of funding the meeting with Irish Water needed to be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

Cllr. McMonagle said that the Back Road to New Line Road junction was in a shocking state and that the Council needed to look at alternative ways to funded roads in Letterkenny. Cllr. McMonagle said that Letterkenny town has lost €350,000 in funding since the abolishing of the former Town Council. Cllr. McMonagle said that the Roads staff of the Council was very capable of doing the necessary repairs should funding be made available to them.

MDL216/18 AURA LEISURE CENTRE

The following motion was not seconded and therefore the motion fell:

“That given the very obvious demand in Letterkenny and surrounding areas that this Council take whatever steps are necessary to develop a second Olympic standard swimming pool at the Aura Leisure Centre, Letterkenny with a view to increasing availability for public use, organised swimming training by local clubs and swimming lessons for all interested local schools.”

MDL217/18 OLD LETTERKENNY COURTHOUSE

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

“That this Council make a public statement (1) to allay public concerns that the Old Letterkenny Courthouse Building will not be sold off for private development and (2) to clearly confirm why the Council has not yet taken possession of the building 4 months after the new Courthouse became fully operational and (3) to

clearly confirm a date when the Council will now take possession of the Old Letterkenny Courthouse Building and (4) to give a clear description of what immediate uses it is going to put the building to with a view to allaying public concerns that the building will lie unused at a public cost.”

The Members were advised that:

“The Courts Service has relocated to the new Courthouse building on the High Road and the Council has been engaging with the Court Service with regard to the taking in charge of the former courthouse building. The Council has indicated previously in general terms the purpose for which the building would be used including consolidating a number of different Council services divisions that are currently accommodated in rented premises in the town and for exhibitions and ceremonial events. The Court Service is continuing to use the building for some aspects of its work but it is expected that this will conclude shortly which will allow the Council to take possession and advance the proposals to bring the building into productive and beneficial use as expeditiously as possible.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels said the response did not give clarity to his motion and said there was public anxiety on what was going to happen to the building. Cllr. Shiels said that Cara House and Letterkenny Youth & Family Services needed a building and were concerned that the longterm plan was to sell the Courthouse to private developers. Cllr. Shiels asked why the Council had not taken possession of the Courthouse, was it being maintained and what was the delay.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey asked that the Courthouse building would be used for the overall benefit of the town and that an assessment is done on the future use of the building meeting the social services of the town.

Liam Ward advised that the response was prepared by Facilities Management Department in the Council and that the response outlined the future use of the building. Mr. Ward advised that in a response to a previous motion the handover date was confirmed to be May / June of this year.

Ciaran Brogan said that the Council had commended the work of the Executive in getting this landmark building back from the Court Service free of charge.

Cllr. Shiels asked for clarity on how the building came back into Council ownership.

Liam Ward agreed to clarify and circulate the requested information to the Members.

MDL218/18 SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES AT EDUCATE TOGETHER

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

“That this Council review the situation as regards the necessity for the installation of speed reduction measures in the vicinity of the Letterkenny Educate Together National School at Kilty where concerns have been raised over safety at the entrance to the school in particular during peak traffic times.”

The Members were advised that:

“To date the Roads office has received no complaints regarding speed along the realigned Unifi Link road. Should Cllr Shiels pass the full details of the concerns to the Roads office a proper assessment can be carried out.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels said that there had been an accident at the entrance to the school which was off the road. Cllr. Shiels said there was an issue approaching the school from Lisnennan and asked that signage was erected advising that the school was ahead.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle asked that signage was put up in the area warning of the school ahead.

Fergal Doherty requested that Cllr. Shiels refer details of accident and concerns on the matter to the Area engineer for assessment. .

MDL219/18 DONEGAL MOTOR CLUB

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

“That the Councillors in this Municipal District request Donegal Motor Club to keep the service area at Milford Mart for the upcoming Donegal Rally.”

Members were advised that:

“If this Motion is passed the Council will write to Donegal Motor Club.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney said that he had received calls relating to the Donegal Motor Club removing the service station from the Milford Mart this year. He had conversations with the management of the Mart and an official of the Motor Club who had committed to updating Cllr. Blaney on any decisions on the matter. Cllr. Blaney said the service station brought much needed business to the area and it was important that the service station remained in the area. Cllr. Blaney said that he had received confirmation last Wednesday that the service station was to be held at the Mart although this had not been confirmed by the Motor Club.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey supported the motion and spoke of the importance of this to the local community.

Cllr. Blaney asked that the Council write to Donegal Motor Club to seek confirmation that the service station would be held at Milford Mart.

MDL220/18 STREET LIGHTING AT MILFORD MART

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

That this Municipal District supports the request by Milford Mart to get street lighting and traffic calming measures in place on the road outside their premises.

The Members were advised that:

“Any street lighting will be decided on in accordance with the 3 year Public Lighting Programme. At a recent workshop Members agreed a provisional list for assessment. The Executive propose to hold a further workshop in relation to those requests in coming weeks. Roads are not aware of a need for traffic calming outside Mart premises. Cllr to forward details to the Area Engineer to allow assessment of any needs.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney said the Mart requested that the Council work with them in installing street lighting and traffic calming measures. Cllr. Blaney welcomed the reply and would arrange a meeting with the local Engineer.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey supported the motion.

MDL221/18 CLAREMANS JUNCTION & DUNNES OF ILLISTRIN

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

“That Donegal County Council would consider the road (or sections of it) between the Claremans Junction and Dunnes of Illistrin for any extra roads funding allocated this year.”

The Members advised that:

“This section of Road is on the 2018 Programme, and as it is also on this years Rally Route the Council is proposing to surface it in July 2018, when the schools are off on holidays.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride welcomed the response and asked that potholes were repaired before the Rally due to poor condition of the surface.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan fully supported the motion and asked that the road was patched before the Rally.

Fergal Doherty advised that the Council carry out repairs on the Rally routes and this would be done on this road. The resurfacing works would be done in July.

MDL222/18 ***THE PINES IN CHURCHILL***

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

“That Donegal County Council do everything within their power to eradicate the sewage issue at The Pines in Churchill.”

The Members were advised that:

“The Planning Authority is currently in discussions with the Churchpine Management Company with a view to assisting residents in finding a solution to the on-going pollution issues being experienced in Churchill. The development company is in liquidation and DCC Laboratory has initiated Section 12 prosecution action on the matter. The Planning Authority will engage further with the Management Company to assist in achieving a satisfactory resolution to the problem.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride said it was unacceptable that this issue was not resolved and that homeowners, children, tourist, walkers and cyclists were exposed to this area which was also adjacent to the public road.

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

Liam Ward advised that this was a priority when speaking with Frank Sweeney and agreed to further discuss the matter with Frank.

Joe Ferry advised that the laboratory had issued an Enforcement Notice on the Receiver but had no engagement since November 2017 and were now looking at the next step in the process.

MDL223/18 ***SEWAGE TREATMENT***

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

“That this Council advise on the timescale for Sewage Treatment in Ramelton, Rathmullan, Milford, Kilmacrennan & Glen Village.”

The Members were advised that:

“The Milford SS, Rathmullan SS, Rathmelton SS and the Kilmacrennan SS are on IW’s Capital Investment Plan and any queries on the projects should be directed to IW at their bi-monthly clinics or through their dedicated email address for elected members localrepsupport@water.ie or their dedicated phone line for elected members 1890 178 178.

At present there are no proposals relating to wastewater for Glen village. Officials from Donegal County Council attended a multi-agency meeting with business and community representatives from Glen village on Friday 20th April to discuss options for a community led project to address wastewater issues in the village.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey said the lack of progress was very frustrating. Cllr. McGarvey expressed disappointment that requests for meetings had gone unanswered and that there were no proposals relating for Glen Village.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan fully supported the motion and said that this issue had been talked about for years and no progress had been made in these towns and villages. Cllr. Brogan was also disappointed to learn that there were no proposals for Glen Village and said that people come from all over to this Village and that the businesses in this village needed to be supported.

Cllr. Blaney advised of a proposal in Glen Village to be apart of pilot project for Reed Bed Sewage System.

Joe Ferry advised that the Council had engaged with Glen Community Development Group to make a submission under the Community Water Funding initiative to carry out an assessment of need in the Village. Deadline for receipt of submissions was 28th May, 2018.

MDL224/18 TRAFFIC DETAILS ON LETTERKENNY/MILFORD ROAD

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

“That this Council provide details of Traffic Volume on the Letterkenny/Milford Road.”

The Members were advised that:

“The following traffic counts apply:

R-245-9 Ramelton to Milford - 5844

R-245-8 Letterkenny to Ramelton 8692

May 2013 - R245 Woodlands at School - 9162

May 2016 - R245 Magherennan (Thorn Road Junction) 9422”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey highlighted the need to have areas of the Letterkenny to Milford Road addressed and noted the huge delays on the Ramelton Road. Cllr. McGarvey said that the Bonagee Link needed to be reviewed as the current plans for the roundabout at Ballyraine would not be feasible in this area due to the traffic congestion.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney said that the traffic counts speak volumes highlighting this road as the busiest non-national road in the County. The volume of traffic to Ramelton and the summer season approaching would increase the need to look at solutions from the Silver Tassie to Milford and Rathmullan. Cllr. Blaney noted the traffic congestion in Ramelton during this period.

MDL225/18 MAHERADRUMMOND EGRESS TO RAMELTON / MILFORD ROAD.

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

“That this Council deal with the unsafe Junction at the Maheradrummond egress to the Ramelton / Milford Road.”

The Members were advised that:

“There are no recorded accidents at this junction, and the vision lines on both approaches are well in excess of design requirements. Roads will review to establish if there is a requirement for any outstanding signage improvements.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey asked that the Council improve the vision lines at this junction to ensure safety due to the large volume of traffic using this road.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney supported the motion and asked that the junction was brought at a right angle to improve safety at the junction.

Fergal Doherty advised that vision lines as measured were up to standard and above design requirements and agreed to review signage at this junction.

MDL226/18 MAYORS BUSINESS

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

1. Attended the Launch of the Half Marathon on 11th April
2. Hosted the Civic Reception for Hugh McBride & Gerry Laine on 23rd April
3. Attended the Atlantic On Bike Euro Velo Seminar hosted by the Council in Dillons Hotel in Letterkenny on 24th April
4. Attended the Atlantic On Bike Leaders, Presentation on Community Games, Pieta House 5K, Letterkenny Branch of Dyslexia Association Presentation,

Bealtaine Festival Launch, Young Innovators Event and the Opening of the Tadhg Culbert Car Park in Letterkenny on 4th May.

Cllr. Kavanagh acknowledged the great work of the Council staff on the Tadhg Culbert Car Park.

Cllr. McBride asked that the Council ensure that the twinning with Rudolstadt was put in place during while Cllr. Kavanagh was Mayor of Letterkenny Municipal District. Cllr. McBride advised that the Mayor of Rudolstadt had been re-elected and was anxious to bring a delegation to Letterkenny in September and needed confirmation from the Council by the end of July that this would be in order.

Liam Ward advised that there was a unanimous view of the Members that the twinning would proceed and agreed to speak further with Joe Peoples, Director of Service to put this as an item on the CPG meeting on 21st May and proceed to Plenary Council meeting on 28th May.

Cllr. Kavanagh advised that Dr. Una Carthy, LYIT, was setting up a Programme for Secondary School Language Teachers and was keen on the student exchange programme and sourcing funding for twinning with schools. Cllr. Kavanagh said that the Rotary Clubs in Letterkenny and Rudolstadt had been in contact and a small delegation from the Photography Club in Rudolstadt had visited Donegal for a week and were hugely impressed. They are now considering a trip to Donegal for the entire Club in 2019.

MDL227/18 **CORRESPONDENCE**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Michael McBride the Members gave permission to Lónra Leitir Ceanainn to use the Bernard McGlinchey Town Park on 10th June from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Adrian Glackin the Members gave permission to Parent Hub to use the Bernard McGlinchey Town Park on 2nd June from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

MDL228/18 **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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

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

Martin McDermott advised that the planning clinics would be held monthly over the summer months as there were a number of conflicts over this period. Eunan

Quinn advised that the Planning staff would be flexible if individuals needed to meet with Planners and it was intended that the Clinics would return to fortnightly after this period.

228.4.1 - County Development Plan Review Update

Martin updated the Members on the County Development Plan Review which would be presented at a Special Plenary Council meeting on 9th May, 2018. Arrangements had been made to make the Proposed Material Alterations available for consultation purposes during the period 11th May to 7th June 2018.

228.4.2 - Letterkenny Local Area Plan

Sinead McCauley circulated an update to the Members on the Letterkenny Local Area Plan which advised as follows:

- There was an open call for submissions from 21st May to 29th June, 2018 which would be advertised in local press during the week on 14th May and through the Councils social media.
- Drop-in Event would be held on 24th May from 2 pm to 8 pm in the Chamber, Letterkenny PSC to facilitate participation of those outside the target groups for organised events and this would be advertised / promoted with the open call for submissions.
- In partnership with the Letterkenny Chamber two business events had been organised for the 22nd May at 6 pm to address broad Plan issues and 29th May at 6 pm on Town centre focussed events. Invites would be issued via the Letterkenny Chamber for registration of interest in the events. These events would be promoted through the Councils social media and venues were to be confirmed.
- Workshop event was scheduled for 6th June at 7 pm for targeted community, social and cultural sector using the PPN list for Letterkenny MD, DLDC targeted groups and in-house review. Members were circulated the list and asked to review the database and advise of any other groups.
- A small business gathering was provisionally organised through the Local Enterprise Office on 5th June at 10 am.
- It was agreed that a workshop would be held on 7th June at 11 am in Letterkenny PSC as the first option or 12th June in Milford PSC as a back up date for students of Queens University to present their project in relation to urban design and local planning in Letterkenny to the Members.
- Further consultation would be arranged with Lower Main Street grouping, larger employers facilitated through the American Chamber – Zeus coming on board, LYIT students and representatives of the Youth Council groupings and transport providers.
- Direct consultation would take place with the Construction Industry Federation and interested parties, Irish Water, OPW, Letterkenny University Hospital and LYIT.
- Translations services had been engaged to bring the project to draft Plan stage.

- Work is ongoing to design an infographic style fold out consultation leaflet in both English and Irish, business cards setting out methods to participate were being printed, official e-mail address was activated – letterkennyplan@donegalcoco.ie.
- It was proposed to complete town centre questionnaires at the business events on 21st & 29th May and at the community event on 6th June to form part of an evidence

The Members suggested putting the questionnaires in local Post Offices and Public Services Centres in the town to ensure good access to the forms.

228.6.1 - Proposed Additions to Record of Protected Structures

Martin McDermott advised that the individual owners/occupiers had been notified directly or where such details could not be identified notices were attached to the subject structure(s). Submissions and observations could be made in writing by anyone to the Council within the period of 11 weeks from 20th April to 6th July 2018.

The Members asked for advice in situations where the ownership of the structures were unknown or disputed. Eunan Quinn advised that the Local Authority must make every effort to engage and consult with the owners/occupiers of the structures and contact directly or past through the door and that he would ask Colette Beattie to attend the next MD meeting.

228.6.2 – Conservation Grant Schemes Allocation

Martin McDermott advised circulated a list of the funding received under the Conservation Grant Scheme Allocations for 2018 and advised that the Press had been informed before the Council and this was the reason Members were not informed in advance of the Press.

MDL229/18 ENVIRONMENT

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

- Waste & Litter Management –
 - new website for Recycling List Ireland – www.recyclinglistireland.ie detailing a new list of dry recyclables.
 - WEEE Schools Pledge & Small Things Matter campaigns
 - Clean & Green Awards – 5 Tidy Town Committee were honoured at a special event in County House Lifford on 17th April 2018.
- Litter Enforcement
- Water Quality
- Coastal Management

The Members welcomed the report.

Cllr. McMonagle commended the work of the Mobile Litter Unit and Martin Roarty and the response from the public in carrying out community Clean Ups and asked that more resources would be invested in surveillance and enforcement.

MDL230/18 COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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

- Social Enterprise Building
- Fanad Lighthouse
- Healthy Ireland – Intergenerational Project and Letterkenny Town Park Outdoor Gym
- Donegal Tourism
- Marine Tourism Marketing & Development
- Age Friendly County
- Replacement of Playgrounds Equipment
- 2016 Town & Village Renewal Scheme – Ramelton
- 2017 Town & Village Scheme – Churchill
- 2017 Town & Village Renewal Scheme – Rathmullan
- 2017 Town & Village Renewal Scheme – Carrigart / Downings

The Members welcomed the report.

Cllr. Blaney asked if dredging would impact on the Rathmullan Ferry Service as this process is restricted with the tides.

Liam Ward advised that the Ferry Service would be operational on the 1st June and the necessary dredging would cause disruption and interfere with the service for periods.

Cllr. Blaney asked that the necessary dredging be completed by 1st June.

MDL231/18 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

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

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

Cllr. McMonagle asked for clarity on the development at Willowbrook, 40 houses, in particular, Stage 2 application due to be submitted to the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government, and asked if this was Stage 2 of the process or an extension to the existing project.

Liam Ward agreed to seek clarification on this and revert back to Cllr. McMonagle. Cllr. Blaney asked that the House Acquisition Programme would be extended to areas outside of Letterkenny town in 2018.

Questions

MDL232/18 PARK RUN COURSE MODIFICATION

In an answer to his question requesting an update on a previous motion regarding modifying the course for the Park Run, Cllr. Kavanagh was advised:

“The proposal as originally requested has been assessed and deemed unfeasible as it would require substantial civil works involving rerouting of sewer mains and potential undermining of vestry foundations. Council are liaising with the local community group to assess if alternatives are feasible.”

MDL233/18 RENAMING OF BANK LANE

In an answer to his question asking if the Council could proceed with renaming of Bank Lane to Kennear Lane as per his previous motion, Cllr. Kavanagh was advised:

“It is proposed to forward a detailed report to the Council Secretariat for inclusion on the Agenda of the next to Plenary Council.”

MDL234/18 OUTDOOR ADVENTURE AREA FOR THE TOWN PARK

In an answer to his question requesting an update on what progress had been made in relation to the development of the Outdoor Adventure area for the Town Park, for which €47,000 was granted to Donegal Sports Partnership in December 2017 from the dormant accounts fund, Cllr. Kavanagh was advised:

“We are currently awaiting a survey of the area being proposed for the Urban Adventure Area. The survey is due to be undertaken early next week. This will allow a contractor develop a few ideas for what might work in the area taking into consideration what the funding was secured for.”

MDL235/18 FAIRGREEN HILL ESTATE

In an answer to his question for a date of when works would begin on the Green Area at Fairgreen Hill Estate in Letterkenny, Cllr. McMonagle was advised:

“Specification being finalised and quotations will be sought from a number of contractors.”

MDL236/18 HOUSING TRANSFER REQUESTS

In an answer to his question for a breakdown of the total number of housing transfer requests as per town and village within the Municipal District, Cllr. McMonagle was advised:

“The following is a breakdown of Housing need in Letterkenny MD to include transfer requests:

	<i>Transfer List</i>	<i>Total Gross Need</i>
<i>Letterkenny</i>	<i>681</i>	<i>984</i>
<i>Carrigart</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Churchill</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Downings</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Fanad</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Kerrykeel</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Kilmacrennan</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Letterkenny</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>840</i>
<i>Milford</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Newmills</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Portsalon</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Ramelton</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>Rathmullan</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Termon</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>681</i>	<i>984</i>

Of the 681 on the Transfer List 58 are tenants in Council properties and the remainder are HAP tenants.”

MDL237/18 OUTDOOR GYM OPENING

In an answer to his question on when the outside Gym would be formally opened to the public at Bernard McGlinchey Town Park, Cllr. McMonagle was advised:

“Official opening of the Bernard McGlinchey Town Park Outdoor Gym will be on the 24th May at 4.00pm.”

MDL238/18 LISMONAGHAN ROAD

In an answer to his question requesting the Council to urgently carry out repair works to the Lismonaghan Road, Letterkenny leading from the Cill Greine Estate up past the Maples and Rowan Park Estates as far as the Hillview Estate where the

Lismonaghan road as a consequence and combination of flooding and freezing in recent months has been severely damaged and requires urgent repair works, Cllr. Shiels was advised:

“This section of road network is scheduled for patching repair in the coming weeks.”

MDL239/18 GOLF COURSE ROAD

In an answer to his question requesting the Council to urgently carry out repair works to the Golf Course Road, Letterkenny leading from Ramelton Road to the Letterkenny Golf Club entrance which has a large volume of traffic and has been severely damaged in recent months and requires urgent repair works, Cllr. Shiels was advised:

“This section of carriageway is programmed to be patched in the coming weeks.”

MDL240/18 TESCO ROUNDABOUT RESURFACE REPAIRS

In an answer to his question requesting the Council to urgently carry out repair works to the road surface at the Tesco Roundabout, Letterkenny which is now cracking and obviously not fit for the volume of traffic using the roundabout and which now requires urgent repair works and strengthening in the long-term, Cllr. Shiels was advised:

“This section of the carriageway is affected by the Irish Water Sewer contract which is anticipated to begin by the end of 2018. Patching works are on going throughout the area pending the permanent long term repair. This area is programmed for temporary repair within the coming weeks.”

MDL241/18 RATHMULLAN TOILET FACILITY

In an answer to his question requesting when the toilet block be completed in Rathmullan and open to the public, Cllr. Blaney was advised:

“The Public Conveniences, Changing Rooms and Information Hub in Rathmullan will be officially opened on Friday, June 1st. A temporary portaloo service will continue to be maintained at the location until the new facility is completed.”

MDL242/18 RATHMULLAN TO BUNCRANA CAR FERRY

In an answer to his question requesting that everything was in order for the Rathmullan to Buncrana car ferry to begin operating on June 1st, Cllr. Blaney was advised:

“The Swilly Ferry Operator has confirmed that the 2018 service will commence on Friday 1st June 2018.”

MDL243/18 PIPE REPLACEMENT AT GOLAND/KERRYKEEL ROAD

In an answer to his question had Irish Water confirmed a starting date for the pipe replacement on the Carland/Kerrykeel Road as this Council is waiting for this job to be done so they can get this road tarred which is long overdue, Cllr. Blaney was advised:

“Any queries on Irish Water projects should be directed to Irish Water at their bi-monthly clinics or through their dedicated email address for elected members localrepsupport@water.ie or their dedicated phone line for Elected Members 1890 178 178.”

However, we are aware that it is a specific contractual requirement of the Donegal Countywide Pipeline Rehabilitation Project that the Carlin-Kerrykeel project is commenced and completed within six months of the contract commencement date to facilitate road improvement on the Carlin Road by Donegal County Council. Irish Water is in the process of appointing the successful contractor for these works.”

MDL244/18 FOOTPATH / STREET LIGHT 2018

In an answer to his question had the Council received any indication of money for Footpaths or Street Lighting for 2018, Cllr. McBride was advised:

“There has been no announcement of this funding being in place yet. Members will be updated on any progress.”

MDL245/18 PLANNING AT DUNDOAN

In an answer to his question on what was the consideration to Motion before our last M.D. in Milford to negotiate an agreed discussion process rather than Court Enforcement Proceedings had the Council, Cllr. McGarvey was advised:

“This matter was raised at the Planning Workshop in Lifford on Friday 4th May 2018 and the position of the Council was confirmed.”

MDL246/18 DERELICT BUILDINGS IN RAMELTON

In an answer to his question on what had been done in relation to Derelict Buildings in Ramelton, Cllr. McGarvey was advised:

“The Member is respectfully referred to the previous responses provided to Meetings earlier this year. The matter of addressing the significant issue of

dereliction in towns and villages across the County remains a matter that is primarily the responsibility of individual property owners. The Council continues, within available resources, to provide assistance and advice in relation to such properties to resolve issues of neglect. With regard to Ramelton specifically, it remains the position that no proposals or applications have come forward from individual property owners for consideration.”

MDL247/18 LIBRARY SERVICE IN RAMELTON

In an answer to his question on what had been the response to my application to restore the Library in Ramelton, Cllr. McGarvey was advised:

“Libraries are developed as set out in the Capital Development Programme. There are full time libraries in Milford and Letterkenny which are the nearest service points to Ramelton. Library members from Ramelton can download free ebooks and emagazines to their devices, regardless of location. Access to free online courses including language learning, as well as to free reference materials is also available online.”

MDL248/18 LIBRARY SERVICE IN RAMELTON

In an answer to his question if the Council had any response (from my motion) to the request to the NTA to come and visit Letterkenny to look at short and long term transport hub solutions on, Cllr. Brogan was advised:

“Roads have had no indications from NTA that they propose to visit Letterkenny to look at short and long term transport hub solutions. Members will be advised in relation to any notified visits from Central Government.”

MDL249/18 CLAREMANS CROSSROAD TO ILLISTRIN

In an answer to his question requesting an updated report on proposed roads improvement works from (the Claremans Crossroads to Illistrin), Cllr. Brogan was advised:

“This section of Road is on the 2018 Programme, and as it is also on this years Rally Route the Council is proposing to surface it in July 2018, when the schools are off on holidays.”

MDL250/18 FUNDING APPLICATIONS FOR ROAD IN LETTERKENNY MD

In an answer to his question requesting an updated report on any applications for additional funding for our deteriorating roads network in our MD and what steps are being taken to address the huge traffic congestion we are experiencing on an ongoing basis, Cllr. Brogan was advised:

“Applications for additional funding are submitted via the Geo App for National Roads, which are then collated for County wide consideration by the TII. To date we have no confirmed additional funding. The MDL received additional funding for storm related damage, as outlined in the budget presentation to members, which was used to repair storm affected roads. In the event that additional funding is received for RI and RM, programmes, these will be brought before members for consideration. Road Design has recently updated members in relation to their development of matters to address the traffic congestion in Letterkenny.”

MDL251/18 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 12th June, 2018 at Milford Public Services Centre commencing at 2:00 p.m.

It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting of the MD would be held on 12th June, 2018 at Milford Public Services Centre commencing at 5:00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor

Meetings Administrator