

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING HELD IN THE LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2018**

***MDL 1/18***      **MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

***MDL2/18***      **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

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

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

***MDL3/18***      **APOLOGIES**

Cllr. James Pat McDaid

***MDL4/18***      **PADDY HARTE (RIP)**

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh acknowledged the passing of Paddy Harte, former Minister of State, TD and Councillor and extended his personal sympathies and that of the Municipal District Members to his wife Rosaleen, his brother and sister and his family. A number of Councillors also acknowledged contribution of Paddy Harte and wished to be associated with the Mayors remarks and extended their sympathies.

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle the meeting was adjourned for 15 minutes and a minutes silence was held.

***MDL5/18      MATTERS ARISING***

Cllr. Blaney raised his previous request to have a member of staff from the Marine Department attend the January meeting of the MD and noted no one was in attendance. Liam Ward advised that it was suggested that a representative from this department would attend two meetings during the year and a request had been forwarded following the November meeting. Eunan Kelly agreed to follow up on this.

Cllr. Blaney referred to a response he received to his query in relation to the works carried out under Coastal Management in the Glenties area and the need for similar works in the MD of Letterkenny, at a number of locations including Magherawarden, Portsalon and White Shore, Ballyheernan and also bridges required on Magherawarden Beach all of which he had raised at previous meetings. Cllr. Blaney asked why David Friel was not present at the meeting as requested at the November meeting. Cllr. Blaney asked that David Friel be requested to attend the next meeting of the MDL in relation to these matters.

***MDL6/18      ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2017***

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 were adopted.

***MDL7/18      ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2017***

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the Minutes of MDL Special Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2017 were adopted.

***MDL8/18      PARKING AT LARKIN'S LANE***

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, the following motion and Motion No. 10 of Cllr. Kavanagh's – were adopted:

*I propose that this Council would review the current car parking at Larkin's Lane, Letterkenny in order to prevent long stay parking in this area.*

The Members were advised that:

*There were currently no parking restrictions in place along Larkin's Lane. The Council would consider the introduction of on street Pay and Display Car Parking to help resolve this issue.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan said that the businesses in the area have complained of vehicles parking for long periods and no parking available for customers.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kavanagh advised that he had received concerns from businesses also and would welcome pay and display car parking and would consider any other solutions available.

**MDL9/18**     **Social Enterprise Centre**

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

*Can I have an update on the new proposed Social Enterprise Centre for Letterkenny and a timeframe for completion.*

The Members were advised that:

*As previously reported, extensive consultations had taken place with existing Social Enterprise operators in the Town and Environs of Letterkenny in relation to the construction of the Social Enterprise Centre on lands adjacent to the Public Services Centre. The final report from the Health Impact Assessment carried out on the proposed building had been officially presented to the Council and its recommendations would be considered in the design stage for the project.*

*Tenders for the appointment of an Architect Led Design Team had been returned following a call via E-tenders. The tenders were currently being assessed by an Internal assessment team and it was envisaged that Architect Led Design Team would be appointed by the end of January 2018. The project management team would then meet with the design team to determine the timeline for the various stages leading to the construction of the new Centre. Construction works were expected to be complete in March 2020.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan said the Centre was vitally important for the town and raised concerns that Irish Water was delaying the project progressing.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride fully supported the motion and asked what groups would be accommodation and advised that he would like to see this and the footpath at Lower Main Street progressed.

Liam Ward agreed that this was a very good news story for Letterkenny, funding received for Joe Bonner Road, Social Enterprise Centre and foot path at Lower Main Street. Mr. Ward acknowledged the support of the members and outlined the work and extensive engagement with groups who had expressed a interest in taking space in the building to date and advised that this delayed the project somewhat. Council had engaged with the H.S.E. under the Healthy Letterkenny Initiative and a report had been completed which would be passed on the Design Team. The Members were advised that the completion date was expected to be in March 2020.

**MDL10/18**     **DRINKING WATER QUALITY**

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

*That the Council Laboratory provide a report in relation to the composition of a current water sample taken from the main Letterkenny drinking water supply and provide an explanation of what was the likely cause of the deteriorating taste of water taken from household taps in Letterkenny in circumstances where ever increasing numbers of Letterkenny people are now drinking bottled water at ever increasing cost rather than drinking directly from the mains drinking water supply and that the Council Laboratory advise on what could be done to improve the taste and quality of the mains Letterkenny drinking water supply.*

The Members were advised that:

*The provision of drinking water to the residents of Letterkenny now fell under the remit of Irish Water and the Councillor's concerns had been relayed to the appropriate Irish Water personnel. They had confirmed that the query had been forwarded on to the Irish Water Local Representative Help Desk (LRSD) and a reply would be made on behalf of Irish Water to all Elected Representatives on the Letterkenny MD as per protocol.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels said that he had raised the issue of water quality over a number of years and received a number of complaints from the public in different areas of the town. Cllr. Shiels said a lot of homes now use filtered water and purchase bottled water and asked for a report from the Council's laboratory on sampling. Cllr. Sheils asked what condition old the pipes were in Letterkenny and what was their lifespan.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney was alarmed to hear that the water quality was deteriorating in Letterkenny.

Joe Ferry, Laboratory, advised that the local authority was obliged under the terms of the Service Level Agreement to pass the matter onto Irish Water for a response. He advised that there was ongoing programme of compliance monitoring which did not identify any issues. He advised there had been a number of complaints on taste which were isolated local issues in relation to scouring. All complaints were investigated and nothing particularly alarming was found apart from some local issues. Dr. Ferry advised on the upgrading works ongoing at Goldrum Treatment Plant that would improve water quality and that Letterkenny was supplied by a very good source in Lough Salt. There was no analytical data to suggest iron or lead in the water. Routine returns on monitoring were sent to the EPA who carry out periodic audits. The HSE are actively engaged in taking compliance samples and do the bulk of the analysis at their own laboratories. They have not reported anything to cause alarm. Irish Water agreed to revert to Cllr Shiels on his motion.

Cllr. Shiels asked that the Council submit a report to Irish Water on water quality and the existing pipe network in Letterkenny in order to secure future funding.

**MDL11/18 BONNAGEE LINK ROAD**

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

*On the basis that if funding were approved this week by the Department of Transport for the Bonagee link Road in Letterkenny, that this Council advise of its estimate of how long it would likely take to have the road constructed and fully operational and that the Council furnish a detailed history (with specific dates) starting from when the Bonagee link Road was first proposed up until now and detailing what funding applications have been made by the Council to the NRA/TII, what funding has actually been granted, what that funding had been used for and what total monies have actually been spent to date on the project broken down into (a) land acquisition costs, (b) design costs and (c) any other type of cost incurred (to be specified)?*

The Members were advised that:

*The 2018 allocations did not include a specific allocation for the 'Bonagee Link'. In the event that funding was made available for the Bonagee Link, there were a series of steps that must be taken for a project of this scale (preliminary design, environmental assessment, project appraisal, planning process, compulsory purchase, detailed design, site investigation, preparation of tenders, tender process and construction) before the road could be opened to traffic. Typically for a project of this size these steps would take at least four years and potentially longer in the event of legal challenges. The query relating to historical programme and costings had been referred to the N.R.O. and the response would be circulated as soon as it was available..*

*Though there had been no specific allocation in respect to the 'Bonagee link' in recent years and the same was true in 2018. The National Roads Office with the funding and approvals of TII and DTTAS continued to progress the Donegal Ten-T Route Improvement project. The 2018 allocation would allow progression of this scheme through route selection and into preliminary design and EIS/CPO preparation.*

*The safe and expedient transition of the project through upcoming public consultation and formal route adoption was critical to the timely delivery of this project which included three sections of National Primary Road The N15 Ballybofey/Stranorlar, N14 Letterkenny to Lifford including the N14/N15/A5 Link, and the N56/N13 Letterkenny to Manorcunningham road including the Letterkenny Relief Road (Bunagee Link).*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels asked for a detailed history with dates as a considerable amount of money has been spent to date but no funding was available to actually build the road. Cllr. Shiels asked if the report when finalised could be used to put pressure on Government and spoke of the traffic congestion in Letterkenny.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney fully supported the motion and said the road may not be completed in ten years. Cllr. Blaney asked if the proposed location of the road was outdated and suggested the construction of a roundabout at the Drumardagh Junction and that the road exit at Glebe due to the predicted growth of Letterkenny over the next ten years.

Cllr. Brogan also spoke on this motion and advised of the meeting of the delegation on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 with Minister for Transport, Shane Ross. Cllr. Brogan said that Minister Ross advised that the Government would not be looking at funding this road until 2021 at the earliest and that it could be 2026 before it was completed. Cllr. Brogan believed there was the political will to fast track this and advised that Minister Ross had been invited to come to Letterkenny .

Cllr. McMonagle concurred with Cllr. Brogan and said the Bonagee Link was raised over 30 years ago by the then Cllr. Bernard McGlinchey and nothing was done about it. Cllr. McMonagle said that this MD needs to identify other crossing points where bridges should be built and prepare submissions to add to the Bonagee Link in order for the town to grow.

Cllr. Shiels spoke about the congestion at Oldtown Bridge and the need for another bridge. He also considered that the Bunagee Link would improve quality of life of people in Letterkenny and that other similar projects need to be advanced.

Fergal Doherty referred the Members to No. 3 on the Roads report and the attached Appendix C advising that the Council had received an allocation of €40,492,595 which included €2.4m for the Ten-T Route Improvements which included three sections of National Primary Road The N15 Ballybofey/Stranorlar, N14 Letterkenny to Lifford including the N14/N15/A5 Link, and the N56/N13 Letterkenny to Manorcunningham Road including the Letterkenny Relief Road (Bunagee Link).

***MDL12/18***     ***BALLYRAINE N.S.***

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

*That this Council urgently reviewed the situation as regards the necessity for the installation of improved speed reduction measures at Ballyraine National School, Letterkenny including speed ramps and warning signage to address the very serious concerns of parents regarding their children's safety at the school.*

The Members were advised that:

*The Road Design Road Safety Team had conducted an investigation into the situation at the Ballyraine NS and was finalising its report on recommendations appropriate to the location which would be issued to the area roads team on completion to source funding for any identified proposed works.*

On the proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels asked that written road signage and the installation of a road ramp before the bend to slow traffic down be considered. Cllr. Shiels spoke of the legitimate concerns of parents on the safety of children using the pedestrian crossing. He asked that similar visual signage be erected as that at the pedestrian crossing at L.Y.I.T. as road users tend to heed written signage

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kavanagh fully supported the motion as previously raised by him as this was the only solution that would satisfy parents. Cllr. Kavanagh said the only solution for the parents and Board of Management was a Traffic Warden for mornings and evenings and asked that the Council secured funding to implement this.

Cllr. Shiels stated that the parents he had been talking to were requesting additional signage and the provision of ramps.

***MDL13/18     INNISKILL ROAD, CHURCHILL***

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

*That this Council carried out repair work on the Inniskill Road Churchill as it was in a bad state of repair and deteriorating badly due to weather and blocked drains.*

The Members were advised that:

*Members were to meet in coming weeks at workshop to agree on the Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing) and Restoration Improvement programme for 2018.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin commended the Roads staff in carrying out works on a sink hole which appeared on this road in early December. Cllr. Glackin said this road leads to a dead end where drains were blocked and the road was in disrepair.

Cllr. McMonagle fully supported the motion.

***MDL14/18     GRITTING AT ST. BERNADETTE'S & LITTLE ANGELS***

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

*That this Council added the roads leading up to St Bernadette's and Little Angels Special Schools in Letterkenny to the list of roads that be gritted in times of sub zero temperatures and wintry conditions.*

The Members were advised that:

*Donegal County Council had an agreed salting route as adopted by members, which clearly defines the routes for salting callouts. At present the Road to St Bernadette was not included, but could be considered on any review that takes place County wide in the future.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin said he had been contacted by a member of staff and asked that due to the limited mobility of children attending the schools from throughout the County he asked that the Council make a special dispensation to have both included on the route in subzero temperatures.

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

***MDL15/18    SMALL BRIDGE AT BOMANY TO LETTERLEAGUE***

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

*That this Council administered repairs to the small bridge on Bomany to Letterleague Road, the bridge had collapsed on one side and had blocked a drain. Also the road was falling in where the bridge had fallen in and could become a hazard for motorists.*

The Members were advised that:

*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.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin said this was a small, old bridge and the road was sloping which was concerning local residents who are presently salting the road. The road had deteriorated with the poor weather and asked that the Council carry out repairs.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully supported the motion and asked that the Council repair the road at Letterleague National School which was particularly bad.

Cllr. McMonagle asked if all roads in the MD would be surveyed following the recent bad weather and prior to agreeing a programme.

**MDL16/18**     **PARKING AT LARKIN'S LANE**

This motion was taken and adopted with Cllr. Brogan's Motion No. 1.

*That the Council monitor parking at Larkin's Lane and consider what appropriate measures could be taken, as business people in the area are reporting that their clients are having difficulty getting access to their businesses, because people are parking on the lane for long periods of time.*

The Members were advised that:

*There were currently no parking restrictions in place along Larkin's Lane. The Council will consider the introduction of on street Pay and Display Car Parking to help resolve this issue.*

**MDL17/18**     **TAKE-OVER OF DRUMFAD/CARLAND ROAD**

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

*That this Council takes over the road that connects the Drumfad/Carland Road with the Ballynashannagh/Kerrykeel Road.*

The Members were advised that:

*This would be considered in accordance with the Councils adopted policy on the take over of roads, and a report brought to a further meeting.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney said that this road meets the policy on take over of roads, had been recently tarred under the LIS and is now in good condition. Cllr. Blaney welcomed the reply.

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

**MDL18/18**     **TAKE-OVER OF DOAGHBEG TO DOAGHCRABBIN**

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

*That this Council take over the road from Doaghbeg to Doaghcrabbin.*

The Members were advised that:

*This would be considered in accordance with the Councils adopted policy on the take over of roads, and a report brought to a further meeting.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney stated that he road led to a beach and was well used and welcomed the reply.

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

**MDL19/18**     **PROTECTION OF ALL RIGHTS OF WAY**

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

*That this M.D. Authority state once and for all what obligation does our County Council have in the protection of all Right Of Ways within its administration area.*

The Members were advised that:

*The role of the Council in relation to the preservation of established public rights of way was generally limited to those rights of way that were identified in the Development Plan or, in the case of rights of way that were being proposed for the first time, where the public notification processes under S14 of the Planning & Development Act had been properly applied. Established public rights of way can be identified within the County Development Plan once the provisions of S14 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) had been implemented. S 14 of the Act provides that where a Planning Authority proposed to include for the first time a provision in a Development Plan relating to the preservation of a specific public right of way, it must notify the owner and occupiers of the affected land, publish a notice relating to the proposal to include the potential right of way in the Development Plan, invite written submissions on the proposal and make provision for the Members of the Council to consider the submissions or observations received before making an appropriate resolution on the matter. The matter was subject to rights of appeal to the Circuit Court where a decision to adopt a right of way was made.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey said it was important that the Council perform its duties and powers in relation to protecting Right of Way in the interest of continued tourism as peoples rights were being eroded and he was looking for a policy in protecting Rights of Ways. Cllr. McGarvey spoke at length on the matter.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney supported the motion as stated.

Liam Ward advised that the reply addressed the motion and where there were challenges to the existence of a Right of Way and significant legal costs could be involved this would impact on the Council's approach.

**MDL20/18**     **NATIONAL FUNDING FOR HOUSING**

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

That this M.D avail of National Funding to purchase houses within our M.D to alleviate the housing problem in this M.D.?

The Members were advised that:

*The Housing Acquisition Programme was continuing in 2018. During 2017, seventeen suitable properties were identified within the Letterkenny MD for acquisition. These were at various stages of the conveyancing process, with a number having been recently completed. We would continue to monitor the market during 2018 with the aim of identifying and acquiring additional suitable properties.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey asked that the Council consider purchasing houses in Ramelton, in particular a new estate at Radharc an Chuain and Lennon Grove.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney fully supported the motion and had previously asked that the Council consider purchasing properties outside the town of Letterkenny in 2018.

***MDL21/18***      **CREATIVE IRELAND PROGRAMME**

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

*That this M.D considers organising a meeting of all the Agencies and business to evaluate how all Communities may benefit from the extensive Creative Ireland Programme.*

The Members were advised that:

*There had been extensive national and local public consultation in the development of the Creative Ireland Programme. The Creative Ireland Donegal Culture Team held 5 public meetings in Donegal in September/October 2017 of which one was in Letterkenny MD (at Central Library). The purpose of the meetings was to inform the upcoming five year plan. Many creative and cultural practitioners attended these meetings to participate in the discussion on priorities. When the Creative Ireland initiative was first announced, an early and very well attended public meeting was held at the RCC, and on this occasion feedback was also sought.*

*The Culture Team included representatives of libraries, arts, museums, archives, heritage, conservation, Irish language, film and local enterprise, and hence had a wide network of contacts and extensive knowledge of the sector. The Local Enterprise Office provides supports to all small businesses including the cultural and creative sector. 160 individuals or small companies are registered in the Creative Coast database, there was an active Donegal Creative Partnership*

*Committee and there were networks in 3 distinct areas of a) film and digital media, b) fashion design and textiles and c) craft and design.*

*The Creative Ireland programme would be rolled out over the coming 5 years and Culture Team engagements would take place on an on-going, sector by sector basis - with the Education sector regarding Pillar 1, Community interests regarding Pillar 2, the Film and Digital Media sector regarding Pillar 4 and so on. There may be some information on funding to support the programme in early 2018 with the pooling of existing resources and co-ordinating existing programmes also strongly encouraged.*

*Brief updates on Creative Ireland were provided regularly through the Chief Executive reports to Council.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey asked that the Council take a proactive roll in informing the communities of the Creative Ireland Programme and organise information workshops in the Public Services Centres.

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

***MDL22/18     FOOTPATH AT KILMACRENNAN HALL TO ABBEY VILLAGE***

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

*Calling on this Council to construct a footpath from Kilmacrennan Hall to Abbey Village.*

The Members were advised that:

*This location had already been agreed for prioritisation once funding was in place under the 3 year footpath programme.*

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride advised Cllr. O'Donnell that he had committed funding to this at the Roads Workshop which Cllr. O'Donnell could not attend. Cllr. O'Donnell said he was aware of this and thanked Cllr. McBride.

***MDL23/18     INVITE IRISH WATER TO ATTEND MD MEETING***

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

*That this MD invited Irish Water to the next MD meeting of Letterkenny to get an update on their proposed works schedule for Letterkenny over the next three years.*

The Members were advised that:

*The invitation from the Municipal District had been forwarded to Irish Water for a response.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle asked that Irish Water present to the Members on proposed works. Cllr. McMonagle said that following the workshop on taking in charge of housing estates this highlighted the need for a meeting with Irish Water where there are currently a number of estates that cannot be taken in charge due Irish Water. Cllr. McMonagle also referred to road works programme being delayed due to Irish Water relaying watermains in conjunction with this. Cllr. McMonagle asked when the Glenwood culvert works would be completed and said that Members should have an input into the scheduling of important works in Letterkenny and surrounding towns on Irish Waters programme.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Adrian Glackin said he fully supported the motion.

Cllr Ciaran Brogan understood Irish Water was proposing works on High Road, Letterkenny shortly and businesses in the area had expressed concerns about disruptions.

Fergal Doherty updated the Members on the installation of the 750 dia pipe in the Circular Road for the conveyance of storm water from the Glencar Area as outlined in the Roads report.

***MDL24/18     ARD NA RI PLAY PARK***

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

*That the Council erected a Ball Catching Net at the side of number 30 Ard Na Ri adjacent to the local Play Park.*

The Members were advised that:

*This along with other possible options would be explored.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle welcomed the response that options would be looked at as it is annoying the residents in this house and did no wish to discourage children from playing in the park.

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

***MDL25/18     MAYOR'S BUSINESS***

Cllr. Kavanagh congratulated Cllr. James Pat McDaid and his wife Teresa on their recent wedding on behalf of all the Members of the MDL.

Cllr. Kavanagh wished Ciaran Martin well in his new position as Broadband Officer and thanked him for his support to the Members and community groups as Development Officer.

Cllr. Kavanagh welcomed Christina O'Donnell to her new role as Development Officer.

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

1. Enterprise Town Awards with Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, Cathairleach and congratulated Letterkenny awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> Place.
2. Delegation to the Minister for Transport, Shane Ross.
3. Turning on of the Christmas Lights on 24<sup>th</sup> November and acknowledged the positive feedback received on the high standard of the lights this year.
4. One Act Drama Festival Event – Letterkenny hosted the National Competition in 2017.
5. Autism Family Support Coffee Morning
6. Launch of DVD Letterkenny Churches – Community Heritage Group
7. Victoria Cross in Donegal Museum
8. Star Wars Premiere on 13<sup>th</sup> December
9. Carol Services in various Churches of the Christmas period.

***MDL26/18      CORRESPONDENCE***

The Members agreed to receive the following deputations at the February and April meetings:

Moving Forward – Rathmullan Group on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2018  
Youth Council on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.

***MDL27/18      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

Martin McDermott advised that the next planning clinic would be held on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.

Cllr. Blaney acknowledged the benefit of the planning clinics for Architects and the public which was evident in the statistics circulated with the Agenda on the third lowest number of invalid applications and the second highest grant approval in the county.

Cllr. Shiels stated that the HSE had not installed a slotted drain as requested in Eunan Quinn's report. Martin McDermott advised that the developer was requested to ensure that water did not enter the site and an alternative measure may have been put forward by the HSE and this was currently being assessed. The Members would be updated on this.

***MDL28/18***     ***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 noted that only two locations for recycling Christmas trees were available in MD of Letterkenny despite having the largest town in the County compared to other areas.

Joe Ferry advised that this was based on the Recycling Centres available in each MD and would relay this back to the relevant staff.

***MDL29/18***     ***COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES***

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

- Social Enterprise Building
- Fanad Lighthouse
- Pan Celtic Festival
- Letterkenny Retail Fund
- Donegal Walks and Trails
- Healthy Ireland
- Rural Development Programme / LEADER
- Public Participation Network
- Donegal Tourism

The Members welcomed the report.

Christina O'Donnell advised that

- the exhibition space had been installed in mid December at Fanad Lighthouse.
- funding had been received for the development of an Outdoor Gym in Bernard McGlinchey Town Park and the deadline for completion was the end of March 2018.

Cllr. McBride acknowledged the works on the Donegal Walks and Trails.

Cllr. Brogan welcomed the progress also on Ballyar Woods and Woodlands to Knockybrin walk developments.

Cllr. Kavanagh welcomed the funding on the Outdoor Gym and thanked everyone involved in securing and implementing this.

***MDL30/18***     **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

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

**30.1    Announcement of funding for Letterkenny Storm Network – Minor Flood Mitigation**

The Members welcomed this funding and expressed concern that further funding had to be sought for completion of the works and the delays caused by Irish Water.

Cllr. Dessie Shiels asked that the Council would investigate the major flooding on the Lismonagh Road during high rainfall which culminates on the junction of the Lismonaghan / Leck Road and nearby bridge. Fergal Doherty agreed to have the Engineer liaise with Cllr. Shiel on this.

**30.2    Notice on projected 2018 TII Funding**

Fergal Doherty advised of the reduced funding announced by TII on National Roads in 2018.

**30.3    TII 2108 National Roads Allocations**

Fergal Doherty advised of the funding announced by TII on 2018 National Roads Allocation of €40,492,595 for the County which included the following in Letterkenny MD:

- TEN-T Route Improvement - €2,400,000
- N14 Drumoghill - €800,000
- N56 Four-Lane - €42,900
- N56 Coolboy Kilmacrennan Realignment Scheme - €5,000,000
- N56 Kilty Roundabout - €600,000.

Cllr. Brogan expressed concern on the works on the Four Lane in relation to timing and delay in traffic movement. Cllr. Brogan said that funding needed to be made available for specific improvement projects on regional roads as previously funded.

### **30.4 Workshop for agreement of 2018 RI and RM Programmes**

The Members agreed to meet on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 in Letterkenny PSC at 10.00 a.m.

Cllr. McBride asked that the Council look at the road at Drumcavney, Trentagh and bus routes throughout the MD following the deterioration of roads in the recent bad weather prior to the workshop.

Cllr. Brogan concurred with Cllr. McBride and asked that more resources were employed during the winter months in particular to clean ditches, drains and gullies in order to prevent flooding. Cllr. Brogan said the Council needed to concentrate on preventative work and working with landowners. Cllr. Brogan said the Council should look at pursuing Leck Road on the Council's priority list.

Fergal Doherty advised the allocation given to the MD was on a per kilometre basis and routine maintenance of gullies, drains and ditches were included in this as was staff. When additional funding was received the Council employs additional temporary workers.

Cllr. Blaney highlighted the need for additional staff in winter months during flooding periods to assist the limited staffing that was currently available. Cllr. Blaney commended the existing staff who had attended flooding in the MD. Cllr. Blaney asked that this request for additional staffing was brought back to Headquarters as the existing outdoor staff was under a lot of pressure.

Cllr. Blaney asked that a comparison would be circulated to Members on the funding available to Letterkenny Municipal District prior to the abolition of the former Letterkenny Town Council to the existing allocation.

Cllr. Brogan asked that the Block Grant would be restored considering the high volume of traffic on roads in Letterkenny town.

### **30.5 LIS Update**

Fergal Doherty advised that works were ongoing on this Scheme which agreement was given to carry works approved in 2017 into early 2018 because of the late announcement of the Scheme.

The Members asked how many scheme were not progressed by the applicants because of the matching funding requirement. Fergal Doherty advised that this figure was not compiled but estimated to be approximately five. The Council had not yet not put a deadline on applicant payment.

Cllr. Blaney asked that schemes not advanced by applicants be re-distributed to other applicants. Fergal Doherty advised that this would need to be looked at in line with the criteria of the scheme.

***MDL31/18     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

**31.1   Asset Management**

Eunan Kelly advised that Patrick McLaughlin was unable to attend the January meeting in relation to his presentation on Asset Management and Cllr. Shiels asked that this is rescheduled to the next MD meeting in February.

***Questions***

***MDL32/18     BUS SHELTER ON RAMELTON ROAD***

In answer to his question, requesting a report on my motion that this Council invest and improve the Bus Stop Facility on Ramelton Road, Letterkenny at the former Oatfield's site, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised that:

*The provision and maintenance of Bus shelters was the responsibility of the National Transportation Authority (NTA), who were also the owners of the shelter in Letterkenny. The Letterkenny Roads Office had been in contact the NTA on this matter and requested that this shelter should be considered for refurbishment or replacement to increase its size and include seating. An NTA Representative stated that these works could be considered in 2018 budgets. Roads would continue to liaise further with the NTA regarding, and advise members of developments.*

***MDL33/18     TADGH CULBERT CAR PARK***

In answer to his question, requesting an update on the Tadhg Culbert Car Park at High Road, Letterkenny, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised that:

*Works on the Tadhg Culbert Carpark on High Road, were ongoing and completion was subject to completion of kerbing, surfacing and public lighting. Works were scheduled for completion by the end of January 2018 subject to weather conditions.*

***MDL34/18     JOE BONNER ROAD***

In answer to his question, on why were there ongoing delays in relation to commencement of works to construct and complete the Joe Bonnar Road, at Port Road, Letterkenny, Cllr. Dessie Sheils was advised that:

*The Joe Boner Road was not due for completion until the end of 2018 , due partly to the requirement to implement a monitored settlement regime over a section adjacent to the existing Joe Boner Road. This required the procurement and implementation of Ground Investigation works which had been completed, and the implementation of vertical drainage and superloading was currently commencing such that settlement was monitored. Progress of settlement was a risk to programme, but as of this date, the works were on programme. Roads were further liaising with IW and the various service providers to co-ordinate design and installation of the various services to be included, including the installation of deep civil foul sewer networks. Irish Water were currently tendering for the installation of their works, which must be completed before roadworks civils are undertaken.*

**MDL35/18**    **TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT OLDTOWN, LETTERKENNY**

In answer to his question, on what measures were needed to resolve the serious traffic congestion at Oldtown, Letterkenny that was now occurring on a daily basis without any action being taken to resolve the problem, Cllr. Dessie Shiels was advised that:

*The Luts report remains valid and identified the measures needed throughout and around Letterkenny to resolve the traffic congestion including that congestion at Oldtown. The solutions included a combination of Bypass/Relief Roads north, south and west of the town along with the construction of the Bonagee Link and the traffic calming project on the 4 lane round entering the Town in addition to traffic management system installation (ideally linked system) at major junctions through the town. Meetings had been held during 2017 with local members, TDs and Ministers regarding the traffic congestion in Letterkenny and so exploratory talks had been undertaken with Department officials. It would require considerable funding to solve the traffic issues in Letterkenny which was currently not available to the Council. In the meantime design work would continue with resources available to progress the concepts as set out in the LUTS report. Traffic Surveys were carried out in September/October 2017 at all major junction and approach roads and these were now being analysed and would help build an accurate model for any traffic management system design to facilitate implementation of a traffic lights system around the town.*

**MDL36/18**    **ROAD SIGNAGE**

In answer to his question, requesting the Council move the “L1114” road sign located at the junction between the Ballybofey Road and Bonagee Road back into the Bonagee side away from its current location as it was presently severely restricting vision lines for motorists exiting from Bonagee onto the busy Ballybofey Road, Cllr. Dessie Shiels was advised that:

*Council would review the matter raised and relocate the sign if vision lines were restricted.*

**MDL37/18**    **RE-NAMING BANK LANE, LETTERKENNY**

In answer to his question, on what needed to be done now to follow through on renaming Bank Lane to Kinnear Lane, and that the matter now be progressed as soon as possible, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

*The current legislation required a plebiscite be held for the purposes of changing the placename and must be agreed by a majority of electors who were registered at this location. The Local Government (Changing of Placenames) Regulations 1956 details the procedures for holding a plebiscite. There was an explicit requirement that any ballot must be in secret and proposals require a resolution adopted by at least half of the total members of the Council.*

**MDL38/18**    **TRAFFIC WARDEN AT BALLYRAINE N.S.**

In answer to his question, was there any further update on my motion regarding providing a traffic warden at Ballyraine National School, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

*The Road Design Road Safety Team had conducted an investigation into the situation at the Ballyraine NS and was finalising its report on recommendations appropriate to the location which would be issued to the Area Roads team on completion to source funding for the proposed works.*

**MDL39/18**    **IRISH WATER WORKS ON CIRCULAR ROAD**

In answer to his question, what was the latest timeline from Irish Water on carrying out works on Circular Road, which would in turn help address the risk of flooding in Glenwood and Beechwood, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

*This question had been forwarded to Irish Water for a response.*

**MDL40/18**    **MICA**

In answer to his question, on what progress had been made with the Mica Problem if any, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that:

*The Report of the Expert Panel on concrete blocks in Donegal and Mayo was published in June 2017. The Report made a number of recommendations that fall into two broad categories, namely providing technical guidance to homeowners and preventing the problem from recurring again. The panel made two recommendations in relation to technical guidance including the development of a*

*testing and categorisation protocol by the National Standards Authority of Ireland which would:*

- a. Assess and categorise the damage,*
- b. Establish the extent of the problem,*
- c. Identify the scope of any testing required, and*
- d. Aid selection of an appropriate remedial solution.*

*Work was ongoing on the development of the testing and categorisation protocol which would assist in determining the appropriate remedial solution.*

***MDL41/18 RIVER POTENTIAL IN LETTERKENNY MD***

In answer to his question, on would the potential of our Rivers within our MD be considered for 2018 and to check on what funding was available, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that:

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

*This group presented to the Councillors at our September 2017 meeting and committed to work with the Council to develop the potential of the river network where funding was available and suitable projects identified.*

***MDL42/18 PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY***

In answer to his question, was our Public Water supply up to standard and safe for human consumption, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that:

*This question had been forwarded to Irish Water for a response.*

***MDL43/18 FOOTPATH AT TERMON***

In answer to his question, requesting the Council to construct a footpath linking the old school in Termon to the new school, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised that:

*This would involve the construction of a 330m long footpath, and could be considered by members for prioritisation following completion of the current prioritisation list.*

***MDL44/18 STREET LIGHTS IN KILMACRENNAN RING ROAD***

In answer to his question, when would the rest if the street lights be installed on the ring road from the Hall in Kilmacrennan to Abbey Village, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised that:

*2 lights were erected here and civils done for the other 4 lights. The remaining 4 lights would require funding from the 2018 budget in order to complete.*

***MDL45/18    FOOTPATH AT TERMON***

In answer to his question, When would the new Welcome to Letterkenny sign be installed at the Mountain Top at the right location where the boundary was, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised that:

*A 'Welcome To Letterkenny' sign was in place on the Kilmacrennan side of the Mountain Top Roundabout, having been erected a number of months ago.*

***MDL46/18    DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING***

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

This concluded the business of the meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

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