

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING, HELD IN
THE LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 10TH MAY, 2016
AT 2PM**

MDL 177/16 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. Liam Blaney
Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr. Michael Mc Bride
Cllr. James Pat McDaid
Cllr. Ian Mc Garvey
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
Cllr. John O'Donnell
Cllr. Mick Quinn

MDL 178/16 OFFICIALS PRESENT

Liam Ward, Director of Service
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate & Housing Services
Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Frances Friel, Staff Officer, Corporate & Housing Services
Ciaran Martin, Development Officer, Community & Enterprise
Graham Diamond, Executive Planner
Suzanne Bogan, Waste Information Officer, Environment

MDL 179/18 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies

The meeting was chaired by Mayor, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle

MDL 180/16 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 12th April, 2016 were adopted.

MDL 181/16 DISABLED PARKING BAYS

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh, the following motion was adopted;

I propose that we review our disabled parking bays in this Municipal District and put more in place to ensure that people who are disabled can access services that they need.

The Members were informed that;

Donegal County Council takes a balance approach to the assessment and provision of accessible carparking. The Guidelines for the percentage of accessible parking was defined as a minimum of 5% where car parking is provided. The accessible parking spaces within each of the "Public" off-street parking areas (AIB, Courthouse, Grill, Station and Skittle Alley, public parks), currently exceeded this minimum percentage. Existing on street accessible carparking in Letterkenny Town was located close to facilities such as the Post Office, Chemists, Banking and Religious Centres. The Road Office assess the need (and location) for additional accessible parking needs on a regular basis. There were currently no plans for the installation of additional bays.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. C. Brogan asked that the Council review Disabled Parking Bays throughout the Municipal District. He referred to motions brought before the Town Council requesting increase in fines for those wrongly parking in disabled bays. He outlined that the Council needs to send out a strong message in this regard. He asked that the Council work closely with and enhance all services for those with disabilities.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh referred to the need to take a serious look at enforcement and monitoring of current bays. He referred to the possibility of introducing a texting system whereby members of the public could inform the Council Wardens of area and registration number of offending vehicle.

Cllr. C. Brogan thanked the Members for their support and would look forward to a report in a couple of months outlining that with very little money, the Council could make a big difference to people's lives. He asked that a strong message be sent out in relation to illegal parking in Disabled Bays and that clamping may be introduced.

MDL 182/16 NOTICE BOARDS/SIGNS

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan seconded by Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid, the following motion was adopted;

I propose that this Council erect notice boards / signs in our towns in our Municipal District for local information, i.e. local bus times, Taxi numbers, Garda, local Doctors , Tidy Towns and all local community information.

The Members were advised that;

Donegal County Council would look to develop this proposal as a potential LEADER project or through identified internal funds, in consultation with the Tidy Towns Group and the Chamber of Commerce.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. C. Brogan outlined that this issue was brought to his attention by a lady in Milford in relation to local bus services etc. Cllr. C. Brogan referred to the need for signage for all services and that the Council could be proactive in this area where signage could be used for charity events, info re Gardai, Doctors, Hospitals etc. The signage could also be used for the Council's public consultation process. He proposed the use of black iron signs and that engagement could take place with local communities re maintaining signage etc. Cllr. C. Brogan outlined that he would welcome a report on this matter at a future meeting.

MDL 183/16 SEAT – SENTRY HILL

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Kavanagh seconded by Cllr. C. Brogan, the following motion was adopted;

That the Council provide a seat at the monument erected by the Letterkenny Community Heritage Group on Sentry Hill.

The Members were advised that;

The Roads Area Office had been working closely with the Letterkenny Community Heritage group on this matter, with the result that a seat was currently being sited at Sentry Hill.

Cllr. J. Kavanagh welcomed reply given and thanked the Council for their co-operation in this matter.

MDL 184/16 NEW TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Kavanagh seconded by Cllr C. Brogan, the following motion was adopted;

That the Council write to the Department of the Environment asking them to address the anomaly in the new Tenant Purchase Scheme that excludes tenants who are in housing acquired under part V of the Social and Affordable Scheme, from availing of the new tenant purchase scheme. Could the motion if agreed be circulated to the other Councils?

The Members were advised that;

There were a limited number of houses within this class. The reason for the exclusion of these units was that the basis for the transfer of the unit in the first instance was to obtain a good social housing mix in an estate/creation of sustainable communities. This provision only applies where the social house was provided in a private estate on the site which was the subject of the planning application.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh outlined that he felt the new scheme was unfair and set tenants living in Part V houses apart from other tenants in that they do not have the opportunity to own their home. He outlined that the main reason for Part V was to provide a good housing mix but felt that this was already met at allocation stage. Cllr. J. Kavanagh outlined that this was a national problem, was unfair and needs addressed and asked that his motion be circulated to all other Councils.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. C. Brogan referred to gaps in the new Tenant Purchase Scheme and the need to discuss the matter. He asked that the Council engage with the Department as a matter of urgency through Director of Service in Lifford.

MDL 185/16 OUTDOOR GYM

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Mc Monagle seconded by Cllr. M. Quinn, the following motion was adopted;

That this Council seek funding through Leader and its own resources to put in place an Outdoor Gym and all its parts at Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Park.

The Members were informed that;

LEADER was not currently open for applications. Donegal County Council would consult with Donegal Local Development Company, who were rolling out the programme to discuss an application when the programme opens.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle outlined that this idea came about through the Age Friendly Committee to meet the needs of the elderly. A similar initiative was in place in a number of other towns. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to the fact that the elderly do not usually attend gyms but would be comfortable availing of facilities in the Town Park to help them keep healthy in body and mind. This in turn would lead to savings in their health care in the long term. He referred to the possibility of funding through the HSE – Healthy Community Funding.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. M. Quinn queried the availability of Leader Funding. C. Martin, Development Officer advised that the plan was being finalised with Government which resulted in delay due to formation of new Government and that the Council were in consultation with Frank Kelly, of Donegal Local Development Company.

MDL 186/16 GLENWOOD PARK

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Mc Monagle seconded by Cllr. C. Brogan, the following motion was adopted;

That this Council carries out the promised works at Glenwood Park in relation to the extra lighting at the back lanes of the estate.

The Members were advised that;

Following a representation from Glenwood Park Residents Association in September 2015, the Association were advised in writing on 14th September 2015 with respect to additional lighting at the back lane that "Upgrade of lighting in bank lanes would be considered by Councillors if additional public lighting funding became available." To date there had not been an allocated budget for the erection of new lighting for consideration by members.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to a promise made to residents to provide additional lighting in back lanes to address safety issues. He outlined that he was not happy with answer given and asked that this Municipal District live up to the promise given and that 4 additional lights would be sufficient with the possibility of using existing poles. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle asked that F. Doherty take this matter on board and address the situation.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. C. Brogan referred to the close working relationship with Glenwood Residents Group and the former Letterkenny Town Council and also asked that the Council address the matter.

F. Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation referred to the extensive lists for new and upgraded public lighting as requested by Members outlining that he would take this motion on board if funding can be identified. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to the need for a priority list.

F. Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation, further advised that the Municipal District had previously agreed lists but no funding was in place outlining that the matter could be addressed if money could be identified for installation of new lights.

MDL 187/16 RURAL AREAS

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid, seconded by Cllr. C. Brogan, the following motion was adopted;

Now with the likelihood of a formation of a new Government, I would ask that this Municipal Council write to the newly appointed Minister when appointed, highlighting all the deficits and problems that our rural areas are currently facing. e.g. Garda numbers, Post offices coming under pressure, no

public lighting, insufficient funding for road improvements, SI houses, Broadband etc .

The new Government have pleaded to put Rural affairs to the fore so it vitally important that we highlight the problems in our own area.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid referred to the fact that Donegal was a 75% rural County with 9,000 family farms in Donegal. He outlined that Garda numbers were under severe pressure with only one Garda aligned to Crime & Drugs which was unacceptable. He further outlined that additional public lighting was needed to prevent crime and for the safety of residents. He referred to the need for road improvements, need for SI houses, issue with broadband black spots and the need for extra gritting routes to get kids safely to school. Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid asked that all issues raised be included in letter to newly appointed Minister. He referred to a motion passed at Plenary Council for a Rural Affairs Committee and that our new Government were to put rural Ireland to the fore. On seconding the motion, Cllr. C. Brogan outlined that issues surrounding rural areas had been discussed at County level for a number of years whereby it was agreed that a collective County document would be prepared for forwarding to Government.

Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid thanked the Members for their support and agreed that this matter be addressed at County level and forwarded to Government.

MDL 188/16 PANS, CRANFORD

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney, seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell, the following motion was adopted;

That the Roads Department urgently take steps to identify reasons for vehicles leaving the road at the Pans, Cranford and carry out necessary remedial works.

The Members were advised that;

Roads would assess the matter raised, with a view to identifying potential solutions for its elimination.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney advised that he had been contacted by locals in the area for the erection of a crash barrier at this location with 2 cars recently having gone off the road. He also referred to incident where a vehicle left the road, went down over the drop and whereby the occupant was left in their vehicle for 8-9 hours. Cllr. L. Blaney asked that this matter be addressed immediately suggesting the laying of a skid resistance surface.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell also referred to the need to act on this issue immediately.

MDL 189/16 SEWAGE FUMES - KILMACRENNAN

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Mc Bride, seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell, the following motion was adopted;

That Donegal County Council contact Irish Water asking them for an urgent review and solution to the ongoing problem of sewage fumes in the vicinity of the Post Office and Upper Main Street Kilmacrennan.

The Members were advised that;

Water Services were actively involved in trying to finding the source of, and solution to, the ongoing and unacceptable foul sewer odour being experienced by residents in the Upper Main Street area of Kilmacrennan. A number of site inspections had already taken place with a few more planned over the coming days. When results of all site inspections were known, Water Services would be better informed on the most appropriate solution to eliminate this situation.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride outlined that this was a problem for a number of years . However, he advised that the Council did address the matter last year for a number of houses by installing exhausts. He asked that this Council treat the issue as very urgent acknowledging that the Council were out investigating the matter adding that the root cause of the problem must be sought. On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell also acknowledged that the Council were acting on this matter but that the long term solution was a treatment plant serving the area. He asked that Irish Water be asked to fast track required treatment plant.

MDL 190/16 UPGRADE N56

On the proposal of Cllr. J. O'Donnell, seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney, the following motion was adopted;

Calling on MDL to write to TII requesting immediate funding for upgrading of the N56 from the Doon Well Junction to Letterfad Junction including removal of large crest which creates a blind spot.

The Members were advised that;

Municipal District of Letterkenny Roads currently had applications lodged with the TII for over 20 different high priority remedial works on the National Roads in the district, to an estimated value of €1.14m which as yet remain unfunded. Removal of the crest could be assessed with a view to adding this to the list.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell outlined that this was a very narrow stretch with a fatality in the area last year. He also referred to problems at the Log

Cabin area. He asked that the Municipal District correspond in writing with the TII to maintain pressure on getting this area upgraded.
On seconding the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that he had raised the issue with the crest for a number of years and fully supported motion to try and source funding for this job.

MDL 191/16 ACCESS – WILD ATLANTIC WAY

On the proposal of Cllr. I. Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney, the following motion was adopted;

That this Municipal District make application to the Department for funding to provide easier access on the Wild Atlantic Way to Fanad Lighthouse and the Peninsula also.

The Members were advised that;

The Donegal County Council through its Funding Unit and in partnership with the Roads section would continue to investigate all funding options to improve the Road network along the Wild Atlantic Way.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to the large investment in Fanad Lighthouse etc and that something serious needs to be done to support the road access to this project.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney referred to the road from Portsalon down to the Lighthouse with 2 buses unable to pass each other. He also referred to funding needed for Kindrum to Carrigart Road.

Cllr. I. Mc Garvey thanked the Members for their support outlining that improvements in these areas would benefit all areas leading to Fanad Lighthouse.

MDL 192/16 PROTECTED BUILDINGS - RAMELTON

On the proposal of Cllr. I. Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr. C. Brogan the following motion was adopted;

That this Municipal District make a list of the protected buildings in Ramelton.

The Members were informed that;

There were currently 34 Protected Structures in Ramelton and 115 properties listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) www.buildingsofireland.ie .

MDL 193/16 CENTRALISED PROJECT

On the proposal of Cllr. I. Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr. C. Brogan, the following motion was adopted;

That this Municipal District request that Donegal be considered for a Centralised Project or more.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to current centralised projects including Payroll in Co. Laois, HAP in Limerick and would like to see Donegal selected for such projects. He outlined the opportunity for employment in Donegal and queried the selection process for such projects.

Cllr. C. Brogan also agreed that Donegal County Council should bid for all services like the Roads Management Office which was now centralised in Milford. Cllr. C. Brogan asked that Cllr. I. Mc Garvey amend his motion to refer it to Plenary Council and then forward to new Government. This was agreed.

L. Ward, Director outlined that Donegal County Council had put itself forward for shared services bidding for the Roads Management Office which was successful. The Council also made a bid for the centralised student grant service SUSI but was not successful on that occasion but that the Council considers every opportunity that arises.

Cllr. I. Mc Garvey outlined that Donegal was capable of taking on any of these projects and that we need to demand more from our national representatives in this regard.

MDL 194/16 MAYOR'S BUSINESS

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, Town Mayor congratulated organisers of the recent North West 10k and Darkness into Light, both of which were a great success.

He referred to his attendance with the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. C. Brogan at the launch of the Bealtaine Festival which had over 70 events for our older community.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, Mayor referred to the continued support for Letterkenny Rovers from the Council and wished the team well on their Intermediate Cup on Saturday night in Dublin.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle also attended the welcome for Boxers from Boston along with the Cathaoirleach and the New York Fire Fighters on their recent visits.

MDL 195/16 RECEPTION OF DEPUTATIONS

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan, seconded by Cllr. M. Mc Bride, the Members agreed to receive deputation from Churchill Community Development Group at 12 noon on Tuesday, 14th June, 2016.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan, seconded by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey, the Members agreed to receive deputation from the Letterkenny Youth & Family Services (LYFS) at 12.30pm on Tuesday, 14th June, 2016.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan, seconded by Cllr. M. Mc Garvey, the Members agreed to receive deputation from Donegal County Childcare prior to Municipal District of Letterkenny meeting on 12th July, 2016.

MDL 196/16 FIXING OF DATE FOR AGM

It was agreed that the AGM would take place at 5pm on Tuesday, 14th June, 2016 in the Milford Public Services Centre.

MDL 197/16 CORRESPONDENCE

E. Kelly, Area Manager advised the Members of letter received from Errigal College seeking use of Bernard Mc Glinchey, Town Park for a 5k on Monday, 23rd May, 2016 at 7.30pm. They requested to use the approved Parkrun 5K route which has been endorsed by the HSE. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan, seconded by Cllr. M. Mc Bride, the members unanimously agreed to this request.

MDL 198/16 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, Town Mayor, welcomed Graham Diamond, Executive Planner who would be replacing C. Mc Gettigan and wished him well in his new role.

G. Diamond, Planning briefed Members in relation to report previously circulated which included;

1. Summary of Planning Applications for the District
2. Appeals (Received & Decisions Notified)
3. Significant Cases (incl. Transboundary applications)
4. Other case types (part 8's etc)

The contents of the report were noted by the Members.

MDL 199/16 ENVIRONMENT REPORT

S. Tinney, Waste Regulation Officer briefed Members on contents of report previously circulated with updates on the following;

1. Big Donegal Clean Up'16
2. Tidy Towns Seminar – 18th April 2016
3. Pay by Weight – National Launch 18th May, 2016
4. Enforcement 2016 – 438 complaints – 85% for Waste & Litter
Fixed Penalty Notices -58 – 34% paid to date
5. Priority Beach Works
6. Designated Bathing Areas – Now 21 Designated Bathing Areas
7. Coastal Erosion

8. Beach Sea Mammals
9. Beach Lifeguards
10. Access for All
11. Public Conveniences

Cllr. C. Brogan welcomed addition of Dooley and Magheraarty beaches as Designated Bathing Areas with Donegal now having the highest number with 21 of the total 140 beaches nationally. He paid tribute to the Litter Wardens for their proactive engagement with Community groups and Tidy Towns and the great relationship with schools etc. He acknowledged the good work of Suzanne and her team and the success of the recent Seminar in the Raddison Hotel, Letterkenny.

MDL 200/16 COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

C. Martin briefed the Members on contents of report previously circulated with the following items noted;

1. Fanad Lighthouse – Now open – official opened 29.04.16 – Committee exploring staffing options to extend opening hours.
2. Donegal Marathon – Information nights for runners – Launch of Team Relay Challenge
3. Educate Together Primary School – Awaiting planning approval in advance of closing purchase
4. Playgrounds – Maintenance works have commenced and due for completion by early May 2016
5. Donegal Walks and Trails – Development and promotion of walks and trails in Donegal including cycle routes and greenways.
6. Letterkenny Retail Marketing – Joint partnership between Donegal County Council and Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce to promote retail in the town and encourage an increase in trade
7. 19th Annual Bealtaine Festival – 170 events during month of May
8. Cultural Services – New strategic Plan for Donegal County Council Cultural Services – Draft Plan presented to Community Culture & Social SPC on 25th April, 2016
9. Donegal Youth Council – Update given on progress to date

The Members also considered as part of report summary report from Workshop held on 20th April, 2016 in relation to Development Fund Initiative 2016. The Members considered the applications received for the Development Fund Initiative and on the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney, seconded by Cllr. M. Mc Bride, the Members approved the following allocations;

Group	Allocation in €
Swilly Ferry	25,000
Forbairt Fhanada Teoranta (Fanad Lighthouse)	11,750
Pride of Place	2,500
Junior Achievement	2,500
Letterkenny One Act Drama Festival	2,750
Good & New Cancer Bus	2,750
St. Eunan's GAA Club	4,500
Co. Donegal Community Games	2,550
Glenswilly NS	6,250
Letterkenny Youth & Family Service (LYFS)	2,500
Milford & District Fly Angling Club	2,650
Kerrykeel Park Development Co. Ltd	3,900
St. Eunan's College Rugby Team	3,000
Letterkenny Rovers FC	4,250
Cara House Family Resource Centre Ltd	3,500
Errigal College	2,500
Irish Wheelchair Association	2,500
Milford United Football Club	2,750
Letterkenny Community Centre Ltd	4,250
Letterkenny Tourism	3,800
Letterkenny Cathedral Quarter Company Ltd	5,000
Donegal Marathon	3,000
Church Hill Community Development Group	2,500
Bonagee United Football Club	6,250
Donegal Centre of Independent Living (DCIL)	2,750
SNAP Donegal	2,500
Kerrykeel Tidy Towns	5,600
Drumoghill Football Club	2,600
East Donegal Branch of the Irish Pony Club	2,500
Kilmacrennan Men's Shed	3,500
Whitestrans United Football Club	6,300
An Grianan Theatre	2,500
St. Eunan's CYMS Snooker & Bowls Club Letterkenny	2,500
CLG Na nDunaibh (Downings GAA)	2,500
Comhlacht Forbartha an Tearmann	5,000
Kilmacrennan Tidy Towns	2,500
Kilmacrennan Community Hall Committee	2,750
Donegal Comhaltas Ceolteoiri Eireann	2,500
Letterkenny CDP Ltd	4,500
Milford Athletic Club	2,500
Carrigart Development Association Ltd	3,050
Downings Tidy Towns	3,100
Conwal Parish Church of Ireland	2,500

Letterkenny Community Heritage Group	2,650
Kilmacrennan Regeneration Group	2,500
Rathmullan & District Resource Centre Ltd	2,500
Drumoghill National School Parents Association	4,250
Letterkenny Athletic Club	4,800
Errigal Cycling Club	4,500
Milford Jujitsu Club	4,250
Total	€200,000

Cllr. L. Blaney referred to the €25,000 allocation from the Municipal District of Letterkenny which will see the Ferry up and running from June to end of August. He further referred to the proposed allocation from Donegal County Council in the sum of €50,000.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle outlined that he believed that the Foyle Ferry Service was now up and running.

Cllr. C. Brogan referred to the allocation by each Member of the Municipal District towards the Swilly Ferry which may not be required as Foyle Ferry Service was in operation. In this regard he asked that the matter be revisited if no subvention was required on the Foyle Service.

L. Ward, Director advised that the Council were currently finalising agreement for the Foyle Ferry and that the allocation to the Swilly Ferry by the Letterkenny Municipal District would be revisited if not required. This was welcomed by the Members.

The Members thanked Ciaran for his detailed report.

MDL 201/16

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

F. Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation briefed Members in relation to content of his report previously circulated. Report included the following update;

1. UNIFI Link Road – Taking in charge

The Members considered contents of first step report (as circulated) in the process for the making of a Public Road, as per the new policy adopted by the Council at SPC. This related to the making public of the UNIFI link road between roundabouts, such that it is in order for its use by the public when the programmed construction of the Kilty Roundabout was completed which was programmed for the end of the year.

Cllr. C. Brogan proposed that the Council proceed to the next stage/public consultation etc. which was agreed.

Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that he believed that the new policy would allow for the Council over the next 10 years, to adopt 100km of roads as public roads, i.e. 10km per year, 2km per Municipal District. He further outlined that approximately 3 years ago the SPC were asked for the Council to take over roads not a public road and that Unifi was the type of road to come under the new policy when adopted. He referred to roads within housing estates and that if kilometres were used up on roads such as Unifi that should be public anyway, other roads would not be included.

F. Doherty, advised that in relation to the Unifi Link Road this process was the first step in implementing the take over of a road as part of the Roads Act 1993 and ultimate adoption will revert back to the Members in due course as a reserved function. He outlined that if policy was not implemented that the Road can be taken in charge under the Roads Acts and that new policy was the Council's means of implementing how the Council were going to process the procedure. As the policy was agreed at SPC level, this was the first take over as it was seen as urgent. He advised that the Council would be going back over the last 2 year's Municipal District Meetings and look at all roads requested for taking in charge to confirm which meets criteria etc.

Cllr. L. Blaney further referred to the Taking in Charge of Housing Estates and that this could lead to all kilometres being used up. As this was a new policy he asked that it be kept for the following; (1) Access to Beach (2) Roads joining County Roads, (3) Roads leading into a Cul de Sac and road leading on from that.

F. Doherty clarified that this policy was not for roads within estates as they come under the Housing Directorate and that he would report back with requests made this last 2 years as outlined.

Cllr. J. O'Donnell expressed his frustration in the taking in charge process referring in particular to roads like Gartan leading to the birthplace of Saint Colmcille whereby the Council have advised that they can not carryout works as it was a private road. He asked for give and take in areas like this whereby potholes could be repaired at a minimal cost and prevent bigger problems later on. Cllr. J. O'Donnell asked if the Council have an application in for the Colmcille Road, Gartan.

F. Doherty advised that he was not aware of an application but that members can pass a motion and Executive will look at request in line with new procedures.

Cllr. I. Mc Garvey queried procedures in relation to extinguishing a public road and also records held by the Council. F. Doherty, advised that the Council do hold a roads schedule which is now digitized under the Roads Management Office with former Letterkenny Town Council area in the process of being digitized.

2. 1916 Memorial Garden – Ballymacool Park

The Members were advised that the Municipal District of Letterkenny were currently developing a Memorial Garden within the Ballymacool Park to mark the 100th Anniversary of the 1916 Rising. It was proposed that the garden would be opened on Friday 3rd June, 2016.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle asked that 3rd June, 2016 be officially announced as the date for the opening of the Memorial Garden and asked that an open invitation go out to everyone within the Municipal District. He asked that the opening be carried out in a dignified matter with representatives from the Defence Forces, pipers, musicians etc. It was agreed that the Mayor would formalise the event with the Cathaoirleach and Executive.

Cllr. C. Brogan also asked that the Council engage with all schools in the area and paid tribute to the manner in which the 2016 Commemorations were rolled out to all schools.

MDL 202/16 HOUSING AND CORPORATE SERVICES

E. Kelly, Area Manager briefed Members on contents of report previously circulated and noted the following items;

1. Various Issues
2. Progress Report – Grants
3. Progress Report – Loans
4. Progress Report – Casual Vacancies

Fairgreen Hill

Remedial work completed at 7 no. houses.

Housing Assistance Payment (H.A.P.)

To date 431 HAP applications had been approved and currently 3 applications were being processed in the Letterkenny office. A total of 887 applications had been processed countywide.

A total of 21 inspections of the properties under the HAP scheme had been carried out to date in the Municipal District of Letterkenny.

Donegal County Council Offers / Vacancies

30 Offers issued to date

12 Refusals

17 accepted

1 pending

22 Vacancies occurred to date which includes 4 new house purchases.

Voluntary Housing Tenancies

Apex Housing Association	62 units
Aras Cois Locha	4 units
Cluid Housing Association	32 units
NW Simon Housing	39 units
Oaklee Housing Association	58 units
S.T.E.E.R.	58 units

2016 House Purchases

Houses being assessed..

House Extensions

Work completed on extension in Carrigart. Architect appointed to prepare plans for a number of further extensions.

Donegal Fabric Up-Grade Programme 2013

Work has been completed on 502 houses to date. It was proposed to carry out works to a further 95 houses for the 2016 programme.

Social Housing Investment Programme- SHIP 2015-2020

Further information had been submitted to the Department on the proposal for 34 housing units on Council owned land at Long Lane, Letterkenny. Site was circa 2.8 acres and located between Ard na Rí and Manor View.

Following the expressions of interest sought from landowners for parcels of land they would be willing to sell for development of social housing in the Letterkenny area in October, 2015, the Council had sought approval from the DOEHLG to advance a proposal for 22 houses beside an existing estate in the Mountain Top area.

The Department Inspector visited the county last month to look at the various options of supply.

Formal Approval of the above two schemes is awaited, pending Ministerial approval.

The Members thanked E. Kelly for his report.

Cllr. J. O'Donnell referred to the new Tenant Purchase Scheme and queried the criteria that water bills must be paid up to date in order to apply for the Scheme. He outlined that it was confusing for applicants given proposal by new Government that water bills are to be suspended.

E. Kelly, Area Manager outlined that it would be likely that clarification would issue from the Department in this regard.

MDL 203/16 WINDY HALL

In answer to his question as to when will works start to remove trees and widen the corners at the bottom of Windy Hall, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

Lands negotiations had successfully concluded at Windyhall bends L-1164-2. Works would commence in the coming weeks and would involve cutting back tree line & vegetation, and localised widening of the L-1164-2 in order to improve forward visibility. Resurfacing would take place along with the local road surface dressing RM works.

MDL 204/16 KILTOY & BLUEBANKS

In answer to his question if the Council could have an update on proposed works at Kiltyoy and Bluebanks, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

In relation to both the above schemes, the update as presented at a previous MDL meeting still stands as follows;

Kiltyoy: In relation to the Kiltyoy roundabout, the NRADO had advised that the scheduled date for commencement of construction was July 2016, and it was expected that construction would be well advanced by the end of the year.

Bluebanks: The NRADO had advised in relation to the Blue Banks that "Tender documents were being completed for N56 Coolboy - Kilmacrennan presently. The project runs from the end of the N56 Mountaintop Phase 2 at Coolboy to the Speed limit in Kilmacrennan. The scheme included a significant section of Trunk and distributor Watermain to be funded by IW. The scheme had NOT been approved to go to tender. The allocation for 2016 was in relation to the continued purchase of land following confirmation of the CPO/EIS at the end of 2014."

MDL 205/16 WILLOW PARK ESTATE

In answer to his question as to what is the current status of the application from Willow Park residents association to have the estate taken in charge, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

An application for taking in charge of Willow Park was being considered under reference no TO.224. The estate was not included in the initial tranche of estates in the Letterkenny MD for which formal TIC procedures were initiated on through the publishing of public notices last month, as the planning authority wants to carry out a CCTV survey of the water services infrastructure to assess the extent of works required in the estate to enable it to proceed with the taking in charge.

MDL 206/16 BEECHWOOD ROAD

In answer to his question if the Council could paint the Council Cottages at Beechwood Road, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

Tenants were responsible for internal & external painting under the Tenants Handbook. Notwithstanding this an amount of additional funding was provided in this years Budget to carry out an annual programme of painting / cleaning of gutters in each MD. It was proposed to assess the estates in the MDL and commence a programme beginning with the houses most in need of painting.

MDL 207/16 WARDENS – TOWN PARKS

In answer to his question if there has been any further consideration been given to providing Wardens in the Town Park at Ballymacool over the Summer months, as per his previous motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

Employees from the Parks and Open Spaces section currently attend the main parks on a daily basis, albeit not for the full working day. As previously advised, the current Work Force Plan does not allow for employment of increased numbers in the outdoor work crews. There had been no change to Work Force Plan arrangements since the previous response

MDL 208/16 KILMACRENNAN TO MILFORD ROAD

In answer to his question as to when can we expect the road works (including the drainage and resurfacing) on the main Kilmacrennan to Milford road to be complete, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

The Road Improvements on the agreed 2016 RI programme were carried out between April and September of each year. Detailed programming for implementation of the RI programme across the County was subject to change depending on plant performance, weather etc, therefore an exact date for implementation of each specific scheme was not possible to tell at this stage.

MDL 209/16 VARIOUS WORKS

In answer to his question if the Municipal Council has made any success in acquiring funding for the following projects yet? (a) For the resurfacing of the Dual Carriage Way, (b) For the Trentagh flood prevention money? If not, he would ask that another letter be written and strong representations made to the relevant Departments to do so, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

There had been no announcements with respect to funding for either of the schemes above, since the answer provided at the previous MDL meeting.

MDL 211/16 GLENDOWAN ROAD

In answer to his question as to when can we expect the Glendowan Road from the entrance at the R250 to the end of the Filbane Road to be resurfaced, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

Roads to be surfaced each year are decided on by members each year, in the course of agreeing the RI and RM programmes. The Glendowan Road from the entrance at the R251 (not R250) to the end of the Filbane Road, was part included in the 2016 and part in the 2017 RM programme as agreed with members. The 2016 section from the junction would be completed between June and September.

MDL 212/16 PUBLIC TOILETS IN RATHMULLAN

In answer to his question if he can have an up to date progress report on the provision of public toilets at Rathmullan, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

Part 8 process completed. The Council was in the process of appointing an Architect to finalise design of the building and to prepare Tender Documents.

MDL 213/16 RATHMULLAN FERRY

In answer to his question if the Rathmullan to Buncrana Ferry be operational this year from beginning of June to the end of August, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

The Rathmullan to Buncrana Ferry would be operational from the beginning of June to the end of August 2016.

MDL 214/16 PART V HOUSING

In answer to his question as to what is the maximum ratio of private Part V's Social Housing that can exist within Town and Village boundaries in County Donegal, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

The Members were advised that the provisions of Part V of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) provided for a minimum 10 % of developments of 10 or more units to be for social housing needs. There was no prescriptive maximum ratio relating to the tenure of housing in any given area. However, in the development of housing in the County's settlements, regard has to be had to the Housing Strategy adopted as an integral element of the County

Development Plan 2012-2018 (as varied). This Strategy was in place to “encourage and facilitate a level of housing supply that would meet the needs of all sectors of the population”.

MDL 215/16 KILMACRENNAN JUNCTION

In answer to his question if he can have an update on works at the 4 road junction in Kilmacrennan, Cllr. J. O’Donnell was advised that;

As per previous response, the members concerns in relation to this junction had been referred to the TII. Any developments relating would be advised to Members.

MDL 216/16 FOOTPATH CRRIGART TO DOWNINGS

In answer to his question if he can have an update on progress on possibility of the construction of a footpath from Carrigart to Downings, Cllr. J. O’Donnell was advised that;

There had been no developments since the previous response copied below “To date no funding had been identified for the carrying out of an Appropriate Assessment (€3,500) which was required at this location due to its being an SAC. The findings of the Appropriate Assessment would determine whether Part 8 planning permission would be forthcoming, which was required before works can commence. There was currently no funding identified for the footpath from Carrigart to Downings.

MDL 217/16 ROADWORKS WOODLANDS

In answer to his question as to what is the update on the works carried out at Woodlands, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that

The Council had met with the Contractor and agreed on the removal and replacement of a number of sections of the surface course at Woodlands. These would be replaced in the coming weeks. A further number of identified specific areas would be monitored until April/May 2017, whereupon required actions would be implemented depending on their performance in the course of the year. Monies had been retained from the original contract such that there was no additional cost to the Council.

MDL 218/16 PUBLIC TOILETS - RATHMULLAN

In answer to his question as to what was the progress on Public Toilets in Rathmullan, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

Part 8 process completed. The Council was in the process of appointing an Architect to finalise design of the building and to prepare Tender Documents.

MDL 219/16 **PREVIOUS MOTIONS/QUESTIONS**

In answer to his question if there was any update on his previous Motions and Questions, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

This matter would be followed up and an update given in due course.

MDL 220/16 **DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 14th June, 2016 in the Milford Public Services Centre commencing at 2pm.