

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY, HELD IN THE
LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 12TH JULY, 2016.**

MDL 263/16 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. Liam Blaney
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr. Michael McBride
Cllr. James McDaid
Cllr. Ian McGarvey
Cllr. Gerry McMonagle
Cllr. John O'Donnell
Cllr. Mick Quinn
Cllr. Dessie Shiels

MDL264/16 OFFICIALS PRESENT

Suzanne Bogan, Waste Information Officer
Graham Diamond, Executive Planner
Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate & Housing Services
Linda McCann, Staff Officer
Liam Ward, Director of Service

MDL 265/16 APOLOGIES

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
Frances Friel, Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services
Ciaran Martin, Development Officer, Community & Enterprise

The meeting was chaired by Mayor, Cllr. James Pat McDaid,

MDL266/16 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 16th JUNE 2016

On the proposal of Cllr. Mick Quinn seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 16th June, 2016 were adopted.

**MDL267/16 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
THE 26TH JUNE 2016**

On the proposal of Cllr. Mick Quinn seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the MDL held on 14th June, 2016 were adopted.

MDL268/16 DONEGAL COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE LTD

On the proposal of Cllr. Mick Quinn and seconded by Cllr. Michael McBride the Committee agreed to suspend Standing Orders to agree that an emergency motion requesting the HSE to reverse their decision to remove funding for SEN grants for children with disabilities attending mainstream pre-school education until the new Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) was fully implemented should be submitted to the Plenary Council Meeting on the 18th July 2016. A number of the members spoke in favour of the emergency motion and on the difference in rates of pay between SNA's in Donegal to the rest of the H.S.E. West area.

The Members had been advised of this by the Donegal Childcare Committee at a Workshop held prior to the MDL Meeting.

MDL269/16 BALLYBOE ROAD JUNCTION

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

Calling on the Roads Engineer to address pedestrian safety concerns at the Ballyboe Road Junction at the Millbridge in Kilmacrennan

The Members were advised that;

Further information was required in relation to the specific concerns expressed such that appropriate action may be taken. There were no recorded accidents at this location.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. John O'Donnell stated that the junction was dangerous for pedestrians and asked that the Council look at moving the stop line further back from the junction and create awareness of the junction for pedestrians.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Michael McBride asked that the Council consider removing the fencing and grade off the wall at the junction to remove the blind spot to the left hand-side of the junction.

Fergal Doherty agreed to arrange an inspection by the Roads Engineer to consider solutions to this.

MDL270/16 PLAYGROUND IN KILMACRENNAN

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

Calling on the Council to donate a site and construct a playground in Kilmacrennan before any more social houses are built in the village.

The Members were advised that;

In a national context, the current strategy in relation to the provision of Housing Services in Ireland had been set out by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government under the title 'Social Housing Strategy 2020 – Support, Supply Reform'. This strategy was approved by Government and launched by Minister Alan Kelly and Minister of State Paudie Coffey in November, 2014.

This Social Housing Strategy would support the realisation of a new vision: that to the greatest extent possible, every household in Ireland would have access to secure, good quality housing suited to their needs at an affordable price and in a sustainable community.

In a Donegal context, as part of the implementation of the Social Housing Strategy 2015-2020, Donegal County Council explored a number of options in terms of meeting the targets provided by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government and projects which would be approved / funded by them. The principle aim of this approach was the provision of social housing in areas where the greatest need exists.

These options include:

- 1. New build / construction*
- 2. Acquisitions*
- 3. Returning vacant houses to productive use*
- 4. Projects under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) in co-operation with Approved Housing Bodies.*

Confirmation was received from the DECLG by way of letter dated 17th April, 2015 in relation delivery targets under a range of housing programmes in the period 2015 – 2017 as follows:

Current & Capital Targets 2015 - 2017 :

Number of Housing Units = 507

Estimated cost of delivery €34.1 million

The 507 units were to be provided through a number of mechanisms including the new build/construction option.

In terms of the New Build / Construction option, it has been the Council's approach to, first of all, examine our existing landbank and sites where Part VIII Planning approval is already in place in order to expedite the delivery of units under this option. The Council has submitted a number of projects/schemes to the Department for approval and has received approval in principle to proceed, with these schemes at various stages of development.

The only land available to the housing capital team in Kilmacrennan at this time was a site at Ard na Glaise. This land was subject to a land loan which must be repaid and recoument of this was available through development of the land in question for social housing. A layout proposal was at the early stages of stage 1 development and would be forwarded for consideration by the Department in due course.

Therefore, Housing Capital was not currently in a position to donate this land for a playground but could investigate the inclusion of a playground within the cartilage of the proposed scheme.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. John O'Donnell outlined that despite the large number of social housing in Kilmacrennan there was no playground for children. He requested that the Council consider securing one of two locations, i.e. adjacent to the school and across from Pairc na Coille as suitable locations for a playground and secure funding through LEADER.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Michael McBride said that Members had been seeking a playground for Kilmacrennan for a considerable period of time and recommended the best location for this was the site adjacent to the school as there was sufficient parking.

MDL271/16 OLD ABBEY IN KILMACRENNAN

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

Calling on this MDL to apply for emergency funding to maintain and preserve the Old Abbey in Kilmacrennan so it can be open again for families to visit their loved ones graves.

The Members were advised that;

The Kilmacrennan Abbey Preservation Society secured €7,000 from The Heritage Council under the community-based Heritage Management Grant Scheme this year to assist with the stabilization of the ruins at the site. Additional funding would be required in future years, and the DCC would continue working with the Kilmacrennan Abbey Preservation Society to further seek whatever funding was available for the completion of the stabilization.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. John O'Donnell outlined the disrepair in this graveyard and the anguish felt by families unable to care for and visit their family graves. He requested that the Council seek funding as a matter of urgency to carryout repairs to this graveyard which was of a historic value to the town. Cllr. O'Donnell outlined that the graveyard has been closed for two years and was only open one day per year for the graveyard service.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Michael McBride said that the graveyard was an active graveyard and it was unacceptable that people cannot visit it. He thanked the Council for the assistance to date however felt that progress was very slow.

MDL272/16 IMPACT OF BREXIT

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

That this Council discuss our new circumstances due to the Brexit decision on a Cross Border basis.

The Members were advised that:

The full impacts of the decision made by the United Kingdom to leave the European Union were beginning to emerge in the days and weeks after the Referendum result became known.

As a consequence of the potentially significant impacts for Donegal in the context of our position in the North West of Ireland with large areas of our borders shared with Northern Ireland, the Council had initiated a piece of work in conjunction with Derry City & Strabane District Council, under the North West Regional Development Group arrangements, to look at the likely impacts on the North West region of Ireland. This work was at a very early stage and further details would be made available to the Council as this work progressed.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle said that this presented a lot of uncertainty around funding, free movement and the impact on the close working relationship with Derry & Strabane Councils. He outlined the importance of supporting a national forum and protecting the rights of the people.

MDL273/16 SAFE SIGNAGE ON MILFORD TOWN BYPASS

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

That this Municipal District display Safe Signage on the Milford Town Bypass

The Members were advised that;

Signage was designed and erected at the time of construction of the Milford Town Bypass. The Council had audited signage for the one way system and all was in order as per guidelines. Further information was required in relation to the specifics of the motion, such that it may be appropriately addressed

Fergal Doherty agreed to review the layout again.

MDL274/16 WATER & SEWERAGE PROGRAMME LETTERKENNY MD

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

Owing to the uncertainty with Irish Water that an update be given on the Sewerage & Water Programme within our Municipal District.

The Members were advised that;

The Council were no longer in a position to provide detailed information in relation to Water Services capital works or upgrades. That information should be sought directly from Irish Water through the special channels provided for public representatives at the Public Representatives Clinics in Lifford or Local Representative Service Desk (LRSD). localrepsupport@water.ie

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Ian McGarvey outlined the importance of Blue Flag status on Donegal's beaches and highlighted the importance of proper sewerage infrastructure. He asked for an update on the Rye to Rathmullan watermains installation, timeframe and contents of the contract.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Liam Blaney agreed to seek an update at the upcoming meeting with Irish Water on sewerage schemes.

MDL275/16 FOOTPATH IN TERMON

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

That a footpath be constructed at the Bridge that lies between the Burn Road and the Chapel in Termon.

The Members were advised that;

There was currently no identified funding for this footpath. In the event that footpath funding was identified, then a footpath prioritisation list to be agreed with Councillors.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Michael McBride outlined the importance of a footpath at this bridge due to the high volume of traffic, at speed, on this main road. Cllr. McBride asked the Council to examine putting the footpath behind the bridge wall in the interest of safety.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. John O'Donnell asked that the Council seek a costing of this footpath and in turn prioritise funding from the roads budget.

MDL276/16 **JUNCTION AT MCDONALD'S**

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

That a plan be put in place to deal with the junction at Mc Donalds in Letterkenny

The Members were advised that;

The junction at Larkins Lane/Pearse Road had been assessed on a number of occasions in the past where various options were investigated. Previous investigations concluded that the current junction layout had the most efficient traffic flows and minimum traffic delays, taking into account available lands, traffic demands and budgets. The existing one way systems of traffic flow in this area of the Town also provided the most efficient means of maintaining traffic flow at all times. Roads were to meet with local business owners in the coming weeks to discuss their representations.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Michael McBride stated that this junction was not fit for purpose in particular for commercial vehicles accessing businesses on the left hand-side of the road. Cllr. McBride was aware that some businesses were refusing to pay Rates as a result and asked that the Council review this junction.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. John O'Donnell also outlined the difficulties for faced by business and commercial vehicles in this area, in particular, using the link road between Main Street and this junction.

Fergal Doherty advised that a meeting had been arranged with the businesses in an effort to discuss their representations.

MDL277/16 **BONAGEE LINK**

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

That an action plan be agreed by the Letterkenny Municipal Area to pursue funding for the Bonagee Link in the aftermath of the Government Capital Spend Programme until 2021.

Cllr Mc Daid's motion read:

"In light of the most recent traffic jam last week in Letterkenny, I propose that this Municipal Council request to meet with the Minister for Transport as a cross

party delegation for solely the purpose of acquiring funding for the Bonagee Link Road. I think it is totally unacceptable that there are no plans from the Department to address this Road until after 2021. This road has become a priority for Letterkenny and Donegal and must be fast tracked as it is totally unacceptable that the Government have no plans to allocate funding or start the project.”

The Members were advised that:

The Council would be happy to work with the Action Plan when the Motion was agreed. The Bonagee Link was currently within the group of Ten-T projects being developed by the Council under the NRO/TII funding. It was at an early stage.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Michael McBride outlined the urgent need to progress the Bonagee Link road due to the high volume of traffic and to ensure the continued growth of Letterkenny. Cllr. McBride proposed that the MD of Letterkenny devise a course of action to prioritise this project.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Mc Daid outlined the serious traffic congestions in Letterkenny and was concerned that this project would not progress for seven years.

Fergal Doherty advised the Members that the Donegal NRO in conjunction with the TII were currently procuring a Consultant to advance three major road projects in Donegal under the TEN-T Improvement Programme including the Letterkenny Relief Road (Bonagee Link) incorporating improvements to N13 Dual Carriageway such as provision of a grade separated junction at Trimragh etc. This was a very significant appointment and the brief entailed advancing these projects through the Statutory Process (CPO and EIS) Phase. The closing date for receipt of tenders was 19th July, 2016.

The Members agreed that a Workshop would be held on 13th September, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. in the Milford Public Services Centre to discuss the proposed Bonagee Link Road.

MDL278/16 RAMELTON TIDY TOWNS

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

That this Municipal District commits to work with Ramelton Tidy Towns to address the issues around Footpath Repairs, Road resurfacing, derelict buildings etc. within Ramelton Town.

The Members were advised that;

Roads already worked with the Ramelton Tidy Towns and address footpath repairs and pavement related matters where resources allow.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle highlighted the great work of the Ramelton Tidy Towns Committee. He requested that the Council carry out improvement works to footpaths, road resurfacing in the town, and address the derelict buildings in the town. The Tidy Towns Committee had a list of works that need to be addressed and Cllr. McMonagle asked that a Plan of Action be devised and that the MD of Letterkenny seek further funding from Plenary Council to address the issues as part of tourism as Ramelton was a Heritage Town.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Mick Quinn agreed with Cllr. McMonagle and expressed concern regarding health and safety of residents near the derelict buildings in the town.

Cllr Ian Mc Garvey also supported the motion and advised that he had submitted a list of projects to be addressed in Ramelton as well.

Fergal Doherty advised that it was up to the members to provide funding for footpaths and that a priority list could be agreed. The Council was addressing the issues raised within the resources available.

MDL279/16 FOUR LANE CARRIAGEWAY

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

That this Municipal District discusses the options open to us to make more safe the Four Lane Carriageway from the Polestar Roundabout to The Dry Arch Roundabout in Letterkenny.

The Members were advised that;

DNRO continue to progress the preliminary design for a proposed safety improvement scheme. Detailed traffic analysis works had been completed in Q1 and Q2 of 2016 and the proposals would be reviewed with TII Safety Section in the coming weeks before preparation of a final Preliminary Design Report and application for funding. Part 8 for the solution agreed with TII Safety was expected to be progressed in Q3/Q4 of 2016.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle stated there was a major issue with safety on this road and welcomed the update on proposed safety improvement scheme. He stated that Leck Road and Cullion Road not suitable for large volumes of traffic when 4 lane was closed recently due to an accident.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Mick Quinn stated that a central barrier should be put in place to ensure safety and access if an accident occurs.

Cllr. Dessie Shiels opposed the motion and stated that there should be an immediate reduction in speed limit as the solution. Cllr. Sheils stated 100 KPH was too high for this stretch of road and a reduction would see number of accidents being reduced. Other members disagreed with this and felt that most accidents occurred at locations for right turning manoeuvres. Cllr McMonagle felt that reducing speed limit alone would not solve the problem.

Cllr Liam Blaney seconded Cllr Shiels and advised that there was a proposal at Speed Limit Consultation to reduce speed to 80KPH. Cllr Mc Garvey suggested it be reduced to 60KPH.

Fergal Doherty advised that Speed Limit Consultation was ongoing and urged members and the public to make submissions before the closing date.

The Members agreed to hold a Workshop to discuss safety proposals for the four lane carriageway on 13th September, 2016 at 12 noon in the Milford Public Services Centre.

MDL280/16 TIDIEST PARISH, VILLAGE & SMALL TOWN COMPETITION

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

That this Council explore the possibility of holding a Tidiest Parish, Village and Small Town competition. There have been so many clean ups in this Municipal District and it is a credit to all the volunteers involved and I believe that would be a great incentive to get even more people out to have their local community rewarded for its tidiness.

The Members were advised that;

Donegal County Council Environment Services were in the process of developing a Tidy Towns Competition in Donegal, based on previous discussions with Elected Members. The policy framework for the competition would be developed in conjunction with the Environment and Emergency Services SPC, with a view to presenting to Full Council in late 2016. It was envisaged that the competition would be rolled out in each Municipal District for 2017.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. James McDaid welcomed the response received and acknowledge the great works of all volunteers involved in tidy towns committees and residents groups.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Michael McBride stated that this competition was a great incentive to encourage residents to take ownership of and pride in their estates & areas.

MDL281/16 PUBLIC TOILETS LETTERKENNY RETAIL PARK

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

That this Council give consideration to liaising with the owners of the Retail Park on the Paddy Harte Road with a view to providing public toilets for the public in this area. This was a massive area with hundreds of car park spaces used by the public and yet no public toilets.

The Members were advised that;

Donegal County Council would examine similar Retail Developments and look at best practice models regarding availability of public convenience facilities, in addition to the public convenience facilities provided and maintained by the retail businesses for their customer use.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. James McDaid requested a report by the end of the year on proposal to put in place public toilets in this area. He asked that this requirement was included as a planning condition of any future similar developments. He also suggested that existing businesses be asked to contribute to the cost.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh stated that this was a regular item on the former Letterkenny Town Council agenda and it was not acceptable that the retail park was not providing toilet facilities for its customers and that this needs to be addressed urgently.

MDL282/16 LAND FOR SOCIAL HOUSING

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

That this Council not proceed with its proposed purchase of land for social housing at Mountain Top, Letterkenny pending a detailed disclosure by this Council to the Members of this Council of the detail of the proposed purchase including provision of (a) a map of the said land; (b) a copy of any planning permission relating to the said land; (c) the name of the proposed vendor(s) of the said land; (d) details of the proposed price for the land; (e) a detailed report on the precise reasons for acceptance of this proposed land for purchase by this Council in circumstances where all other applications made to this Council appear to have been rejected by this Council.

The Members were advised that;

The proposal to purchase land at this location for social housing was not proceeding.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Dessie Shiels stated that the response received to this motion posed more questions than answers and asked the reason why this purchase was not proceeding.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Liam Blaney stated that this has raised serious concerns and this was the only land option that had been submitted to the Department for approval and requested answers to questions raised at the previous meeting.

Eunan Kelly advised that the vendor had withdrawn the submission in writing in the past 2 - 3 weeks. He also advised that a copy of the two advertisements including criteria required was included with agenda. Eight submissions were received in respect of Letterkenny; two were selected for further consideration and both submissions subsequently no longer available.

Liam Ward advised that the motion as tabled was answered and the proposal was not proceeding. He stated that a robust and transparent process had taken place in seeking expressions of interest from the public to sell land for the purpose of social housing. He was concerned at the language being used in the discussion. The purchase of land was an executive function. A related motion had been debated at a Plenary Council Meeting where legal advice was read out at the meeting and the motion was defeated. He stated that it was a matter for the vendor to determine whether they wished to proceed or not. Mr Ward further advised that it may not be appropriate to reply in the public domain to some of the questions raised as this information may be considered as commercially sensitive. Mr. Ward agreed that a report would be prepared in relation to the matters raised and made available to the members.

MDL283/16 EXTENSION OF MAIN SEWER IN LETTERKENNY

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

That this Council write to Irish Water requesting that it implement a plan to extend the main sewer in Letterkenny along the Port Road from the Tesco Roundabout out as far as the Clanree Roundabout and as necessary beyond to serve the existing businesses and residents residing in these areas including the built up residential area at Drumnahoagh/ Bunnagee, Dromore and Lurgybrack with a view to ensuring that the new Letterkenny Treatment Plant recently

installed is actually put to full capacity use for the good of Letterkenny and its environment.

The Members were advised that:

Donegal County Council have already raised this issue with Irish Water, who have confirmed that this section is out of scope on the current contract. Members have also raised the issue at the Public Representative Clinics with Irish Water.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Dessie Shiels stated he had received an email from Irish Water stating that the scope of the current project did not include an extension of the main sewer in Letterkenny along the Port Road from the Tesco Roundabout out as far as the Clanree Roundabout, however they would accept applications from businesses along this route and advise accordingly of cost to connect. Cllr. Sheils stated that this motion was aimed at putting this project on on the Irish Water agenda and asked that the scope was extended to include Bonagee, Dromore and surrounding areas.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Liam Blaney said that the extension of the sewers to Bonagee was part of the Council's plan in the 1980s and it is disappointing to learn that Irish Water has no plan to extend to this area. This had major cost implications for businesses and asked that Irish Water extend the main sewers as part of safety improvement works to be carried out on the four lane carriageway.

MDL284/16 GRASS ROOF LETTERKENNY PSC

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

That, with a view to assisting the ongoing efforts to retain the National Tidy Towns award, this Council either replace or remedy the eyesore that is the discoloured and untidy grass/moss part of the roof of the Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

The Members were advised that;

The Sedum Roof on the Public Services Centre was maintained in accordance with the recommended Maintenance Schedule.

There were several different species of Sedum in the seed mix for our roof. The plants on the roof were living plants and had a growing season. This means that during the year they grow at different rates and the appearance of the roof changes over the seasons.

Spring: Rapid Growth, Green Leaves

Summer: Drought Tolerance, Reddening of Leaves and Flowers

Autumn: Flowers, Growth Slowing, Dead Flowerheads and Red/Green Leaves.

Winter: Dormant Period. Green Leaves, Reddening in Frost.

The current condition of the roof was as expected. This natural colouring often represents the fact that the plant is coping with the climactic conditions. When the roof goes red you can tell that the plants were surviving.

The next maintenance visit for our roof was scheduled for early August at which point it would be treated with the usual fertilizers and herbicides.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Dessie Sheils stated that he had a number of complaints about the condition of the grass roof and described as an eye sore. Cllr. Sheils outlined the impact on the Tidy Towns competition.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh stated that he did not agree with some of the wording in the motion and believed that the grass roof received as many positive remarks as negative. He stated it did not impact on Letterkenny winning the Tidy Towns Competition in 2015 and he was of the opinion that unauthorised signs on the approach roads to the town were a bigger problem. He asked that the Council seek the Adjudicators Report from the Tidy Town Competition in relation to ascertain if the roof was mentioned in the report and ask for comments from the Letterkenny Tidy Towns Committee.

MDL285/16 CRASH BARRIER KERRYKEEL TO MILFORD ROAD

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

That this Municipal District replaces the crash barrier on the Kerrykeel to Milford Road on a phased basis starting at the Hawks Nest and continuing on towards Kerrykeel as a matter of urgency.

The Members were advised that;

The budget cost for the replacement of the Safety Barriers was €75,000. There was currently no identified budget to replace these barriers. Roads could replace to the extent of any allocated budget.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Liam Blaney outlined the proposal of Kerrykeel Tidy Towns Committee to develop a boardwalk along this stretch however the Road Section was opposing this because of the condition of the safety barriers. Cllr. Blaney asked that the safety barriers were replaced on a phased basis to allow the Tidy Towns Committee to develop the boardwalk. He stated that this would involve replacing a 200 metre stretch of the safety barrier. Cllr. Blaney said the Committee were entering the Tidy Towns Competition for the first time this year.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Ian McGarvey support Cllr. Blaney's proposal and acknowledged the great work of the Tidy Towns Committee in Kerrykeel.

MDL286/16 **SPEED LIMIT REVIEW**

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

That this Municipal District make a submission on the Speed Limit Review agreeing with the proposal to put periodic speed limit reductions on the roads outside Lurgybrack N.S., Illistrin N.S. and Magherabeg N.S.

The Members were advised that;

If adopted, a representation would be submitted accordingly.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Liam Blaney stated that it was proposed by the NDRO to have a periodic speed limit put in place during drop off and collection times at the school from 100 kph to 60 kph and asked that the MD of Letterkenny make a submission supporting this.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Michael McBride said he fully supported this motion and any reduction in speed would be of benefit.

MDL287/16 **MAYORS BUSINESS**

Cllr. James McDaid, Mayor congratulated the Ramelton Festival Committee on another successful festival .

He congratulated Manus Kelly on winning this years Donegal International Rally and congratulated the Rally Committee on the successful weekend event.

Cllr. McDaid wished the Senior and Minor Donegal Teams well in this weekend's Ulster Finals and wished Mark English, Brendan Boyce and Sinead Jennings success in the upcoming Olympic Games.

Cllr. McDaid thanked the organisers of the 40th Annual Sligo to Letterkenny Cycle run and regretted that this was the final year of the run.

MDL288/16 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to be considered.

MDL289/16 **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Graham Diamond updated the Members on a report circulated with the Agenda 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]

Cllr. Ian McGarvey asked if the Council could reduce the number of invalid and deferred applications received. Graham Diamond encouraged applicants to discuss any proposed developments with the Planning Office prior to submitting an application.

Liam Ward updated the Members on an application submitted by the Council for National Taking In-Charge funding of €850,000 and advised that confirmation had been received that €1.09 m had been awarded to the Council to address works in 40 estates and a further €387,000 was available of Bond monies. The submission included 10 estates in the Letterkenny MD and a full report would be given at the next Plenary Council meeting.

MDL290/16 ENVIRONMENT

Suzanne Bogan updated the Members on a report circulated with the Agenda, in particular, the introduction of two next Recycling Centre at Aura Leisure Centre and Circular Road, Letterkenny. The Members noted the contents of the report. Cllr. Liam Blaney commended the Council in achieving high water quality results despite a new Bathing Water Quality Directive being introduced.

MDL291/16 COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

The Members noted the content of a report circulated with the Agenda. Liam Ward highlighted the upcoming Donegal Marathon and an information night organised for volunteers on 11th August, 2016 in the Radisson Hotel.

Liam Ward informed the Members that the Lough Ferry service was operational from 17th June, 2016.

MDL292/16 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

The Members noted the content of the Roads report circulated with the Agenda. Fergal Doherty advised the Members that the deadline for receipt of submissions on the speed limit review is the end of this week

Fergal Doherty advised that works were to commence on N56 Knocknamona Pavement Scheme on 27th July and the N13 Dual Carriageway on 15th August. He advised that there would be a traffic management plan in place as part of the contract. The Members welcomed these works.

MDL293/16 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

The Members considered a report circulated with the Agenda on Housing and Corporate Services.

Eunan Kelly informed the Members that Stage 1 Approval had been received from the Department that week in respect of the housing proposal for 34 units at Long Lane, Letterkenny.

The Members raised concerns received from applicants seeking private rented accommodation with the support of HAP. Eunan Kelly informed Members that 450 HAP recipients currently in Letterkenny area and over 1,000 in the county. The Rent Cap Limits increased from 1st July, 2016 for new applicants. Mr. Kelly said that existing HAP recipients should make contact with the Housing office to find out how to apply for the new Rent Cap.

MDL294/16 SQUARE IN KILMACRENNAN

In an answer to his question what was the update from the TII regarding the lights at the Square in Kilmacrennan, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised that:

Traffic calming and junction improvement measures at the junction in Kilmacrennan were carried out in recent years. There were currently no plans to carry out any further works at this location. A request from a recent meeting to revisit this junction had been referred to the TII Safety Engineer and their findings would be made available to members.

MDL295/16 ROAD LINING ON MILFORD ROAD

In an answer to his question on when the lining would be done on the Milford Road which was resurfaced, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised that;

All lining works associated with the RI and RM pavement programmes were programmed to be completed by end of August.

MDL296/16 SCHOOL CROSSING CARRIGART

In an answer to his question on when the crossing would be painted on the Road at the school in Carrigart, Cllr. O'Donnell was advised that;

All lining works associated with the RI and RM pavement programmes were programmed to be completed by end of August.

MDL297/16 PUBLIC TOILETS AT RATHMULLAN

In an answer to his questions on the present position on Public Toilets for Rathmullan, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that;

Donegal County Council have brought a proposal for a Public Convenience Building at Rathmullan Pier through the Part 8 planning process in November 2015.

The proposal incorporates; ladies, Gents and Disabled Toilets with Family Changing Room facilities, Information Kiosk/office and Maintenance Room.

The Tender Process for appointment of Consultant to prepare tender contract documents and supervise construction was now complete. The tender includes; site investigation, archaeological monitoring and pre-development testing at the site.

MDL298/16 WOODLANDS ROAD

In an answer to his question on what had been the cost to date on works carried out at Woodlands and if it is completed, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that;

Total expenditure inclusive of CPO and construction of road was~ €1.5m. over the past 5 years. The road had been monitored since it was overlaid with a number of areas of the surface course to be replaced by the Contractor this year, whilst further monitoring would continue into 2017.

MDL299/16 RAMELTON ROADS

In an answer to his question on where there any intention in dealing with outstanding problems in Ramelton, if so when, Cllr Ian McGarvey was advised that;

Further information in relation to the outstanding problems was required. Roads continue to overcome identified problems to the extent that resources allow.

MDL300/16 GLENVEAGH JUNCTION

In an answer to his question on an update on the status of the proposed upgrading of the junction at the Glenveagh Road and the N56, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised that;

The proposed upgrading would consist of the installation of kerbing on the southern side of the junction and backfilling the area behind the kerb with topsoil. Drainage works and the erection of signage would also be carried out. It was programmed to have these works completed by the end of August.

MDL301/16 STREET LIGHTS FOR CHURCHILL

In an answer to to his question on an update on the new street lights for Churchill, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised that;

Roads recently had an on site meeting with Airtricity and agreed the extent of the civil work. Roads were proposing to carry out these civil works as soon as the surfacing works were completed and would expect to have the lights in place by the 30th September 2016.

MDL302/16 LENNON BRIDE, KILMACRENNAN

In an answer to his question for an update on the replacement of rails on the Lennon Bridge in Kilmacrennan by the NRA, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised that;

In relation to the bridge works at Kilmacrennan, TII contractor had programmed to commence refurbishment works mid August completed by mid October. Works include waterproofing the bridge deck, footpath reconstruction, resurfacing and parapet upgrade. The parapet works were programmed to be completed in September/October.

MDL303/16 AN GLEANN RUA, LETTERKENNY

In an answer to his question on an update on the outstanding works yet to be completed at An Gleann Rua Letterkenny and what the time frame is for finishing those outstanding works, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised that;

Negotiations with representatives of the new owners of the An Gleann Rua development were ongoing in respect of the transfer of the land required to facilitate the installation of the new wastewater pumping station and the drawdown of the bank bond provided as security for the completion of all services required by the development. It was anticipated that a conclusion to these negotiations would be reached within the next few weeks and thereafter the Council could proceed with the appointment of a contractor to carry out the installation of the new pump station and finalise an agreed course of action in respect of the outstanding works.

MDL304/16 TRAFFIC LIGHTS JUSTICE WALSH ROAD

In answer to his question if the Traffic Lights at the top of Justice Walsh Road outside TSB Bank could be reset to allow more time for cars coming up the hill to get through on Green Light. Presently two maximum three get through before lights turn Red, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised that;

These lights would be reviewed.

MDL305/16 MAINS SEWER EXTENSION TO BONAGEE

In answer to his question if this Council would write to Irish Water asking them to provide money to resurface the Bonagee Road leading out to the Treatment Plant owned by Irish Water. This Road was deteriorating rapidly and the potholes which are being filled are pointless because of the large volumes of heavy lorries on the road, Cllr. James McDaid was advised that:

Temporary repairs were carried out where required. With regards to permanent works, this road could be considered by members in terms of the RI and RM programmes for 2017. Roads will raise the matter with Irish Water regarding the potential for contribution funding”

MDL306/16 MICA

In an answer to his question on how many Council houses in this Municipal District are affected by Mica, where are the locations, what is the Council’s plan to address, has any work being done on affected houses and if so to what extent and location, Cllr. James McDaid was advised that;

Work was ongoing to complete visual assessment of Council stock in the Letterkenny Municipal District. 70 dwellings have been identified as having potential problems in the Municipal District. The Expert Panel established to report on defective blockwork had engaged with members and officials of the Council and it was considered prudent to await the outcome of the work and report of the panel in advance of carrying out works so that their recommendations on the appropriate remedial works can be applied to achieve the best outcome.

MDL307/16 N567 – BLUE BANKS

In an answer to his question on when work is expected to start on the N567 at the Blue Banks between Kilmacrennan and Letterkenny, Cllr. James McDaid was advised that:

This project was ready to tender subject to exchequer funding being made available. There was no allocation in place at present to enable construction to commence.

MDL308/16 AN GLEANN RUA, LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question on any further update on the outstanding issues at An Gleann Rua Estate, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that;

Negotiations with representatives of the new owners of the An Gleann Rua development were ongoing in respect of the transfer of the land required to facilitate the installation of the new wastewater pumping station and the drawdown of the bank bond provided as security for the completion of all services required by the development. It was anticipated that a conclusion to these negotiations would be reached within the next few weeks and thereafter the Council can proceed with the appointment of a contractor to carry out the installation of the new pump station and finalise an agreed course of action in respect of the outstanding works.

MDL309/16 WHITETHORN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

In answer to his question on if any progress been made on the issues raised by Whitethorn Residents Association in their recent letters to the Council, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that;

Roads had written to the above association and confirmed that repairs to the pedestrian linkage to the Town Park were to be carried out over the coming months. Remaining matters to be addressed as appropriate when the estate was taken in charge.

MDL310/16 PIER AT RATHMULLAN

In an answer to his question asking if the Council could refresh the road lining from the Pier at Rathmullan to the top of the road, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that;

A review of the current lining configuration at this location was currently being carried out to establish if improvements could be made, after such time, this would be added to the lining programme.

MDL311/16 WOLFE TONE PLACE

In answer to his question requesting the Council to replace the existing light at the end of Wolfe Tone Place next to the entrance to Glencar Park from its current dimmed colour as long existing residents in this area require this to deal with public safety/security concerns, Cllr. Dessie Sheils was advised that;

This light was to be replaced in the coming weeks.

MDL312/16 TERMON NATIONAL SCHOOL

In an answer to his question if the Council could erect a crash barrier along the outer roadside boundary of the Termon National School to deal with parent's safety concerns given that there is a substantial drop down from the main road to the children's play area at that point, Cllr. Dessie Sheils was advised that;

Roads would review and if appropriate, submit application to TII for funding, to erect the required barrier.

MDL313/16 LAND FOR SOCIAL HOUSING

In an answer to his question on how many applications were recently submitted to sell land to this Council for social Housing in the Letterkenny Municipal area that were subsequently rejected by this Council and in relation to each such submission (a) what person or persons in this Council assessed each such application; (b) what precise criteria were such applications assessed under; (c) what were the precise reasons for rejection of each such application; (d) were these reasons provided in detail and in writing to each such applicant; (e) why was no detailed written report provided to the Members of this Council in relation to these matters, Cllr. Dessie Shiels was advised that;

- 3) *8 applications*
- 3a) *The assessment and selection process for the purchase of land for housing (or other purposes) was an executive function, one which was informed by the housing strategy, national guidelines and the County Development Plan, and the process was carried out by staff having the technical expertise and knowledge to make appropriate assessment in the context of all the factors that require consideration. In this instance, the assessment team consisted of representatives from Housing Capital, Planning and Irish Water and from the Letterkenny MD technical team for Roads & Housing Services.*
- 3b) *The applications were all assessment against the criteria as outlined in the public advertisement. (Circulated with the agenda)*
- 3c/ 3d) *All applicants had been informed of the decision following the completion of the assessment process of the submissions. The outcome of the assessment of each submission was deemed to be commercially sensitive information.*
- 3e) *Reports on this matter had been provided at the MD of Letterkenny Meetings by the Area Manager (Corporate/Housing Services)*

MDL314/16 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 13th September, 2016 in the Milford Public Services Centre commencing at 2:00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor

Meetings Administrator