

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING,  
HELD IN THE MILFORD PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup>  
JUNE, 2016 AT 2PM**

**MDL 221/16 MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr. Liam Blaney  
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  
Cllr. Dessie Shiels

**MDL 222/16 OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Liam Ward, Director of Service  
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate & Housing Services  
Charlie Cannon, Area Engineer, Roads & Transportation  
Frances Friel, Staff Officer, Corporate & Housing Services  
Ciaran Martin, Development Officer, Community & Enterprise  
Eunan Quinn, Senior Exec Planner,  
David Friel, Water and Environment

**MDL 223/16 APOLOGIES**

Fergal Doherty, Area Manager, Roads

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

**MDL 224/16 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Cllr. I. Mc Garvey seconded by Cllr. M. Mc Bride, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 were adopted.

**MDL 225/16 FOOTPATH CARRIGART TO DOWNINGS**

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

*Calling on this Municipal District of Letterkenny to prioritise funding for the development and construction of the footpath from Carrigart to Downing.*

The Members were advised that;

*There was currently no funding identified for this footpath. However it would be added onto the existing list of footpaths requested by Members.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell outlined that this area was along the Wild Atlantic Way. He met with Roads Engineers on site and asked that the Members prioritise this footpath in next year's budget to get footpath up and running. He outlined that a local businessman in the area would provide plant and machinery. A sum of €3,500 was required to get relevant report finalised as forms special area of conservation.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that there was plenty of width available for construction of this footpath. He hoped that the footpath could be constructed through a number of phases providing further waking routes in the area.

***MDL 226/16 TRAFFIC LIGHTS - KILMACRENNAN***

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

*Calling on this Council to install a set of traffic lights at the Square in Kilmacrennan .*

The Members were advised that;

*This crossroads junction had been referred to the TII for assessment. Once the report comes back they would advise the Members.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell referred to the poor line markings in the area, poor signage and the need to slow traffic down. He believed that traffic lights were the only answer. He asked for the Council's support to continue pressure on the TII to address the issue. Cllr. M. Mc Bride outlined that he would second the motion provided traffic lights were located at the top of the hill.

Cllr. J. O'Donnell outlined that he would be happy for traffic lights to be located wherever Engineers deemed appropriate and thanked the Members for their support.

***MDL 227/16 FOOTPATH - KILMACRENNAN***

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

*Calling on this Council to construct a footpath from the Thatch Cottage in Kilmacrennan to the Glebe, Kilmacrennan.*

The Members were advised that;

*There was currently no funding identified for this footpath. However it would be added onto the existing list of footpaths requested by Members.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell, asked that the Council consider footpath from the Thatch Cottage to the Glebe in Kilmacrennan which was within the 30mph speed limit. He outlined that a lot of people walked in the area and that footpath would provide a safer environment and protect pedestrians.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride advised that he visited the area last week confirming the volume of traffic was substantial. He outlined that a footpath from Thatch Cottage to Lough Salt junction would be a great asset.

#### **MDL 228/16 BRIDGE WIDENING**

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

*That the Council address the Bridge widening in our Municipal District that has persisted for far too long.*

The Members were advised that;

*There were no plans to widen any bridges in the MDL area at present and no funding available for same.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey outlined that a number of bridges were in a dangerous state at present. He referred to the need for an emphasis on direct funding for Bridges and hoped that special funding would be acquired to address the problem and an opportunity for direct investment.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid also agreed that Bridges were a serious problem with huge investment needed and asked that the Council write a letter to the Department in this regard.

#### **MDL 229/16 DFI BENEFICIARIES**

Cllr. I. Mc Garvey proposed that;

*That Officials from this Municipal District meet the respective Group beneficiaries of DFI to assist in the possibility of drawing down the amounts allocated.*

The Members were advised that;

*Officials from Donegal County Council had already met all groups and were available, to discuss the criteria for drawing down the DFI funds. Council Officials would continue to be available for any ongoing DFI queries from all respective groups awarded funding.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey outlined that he was happy with matter addressed at previous Workshop.

**MDL 230/16 STEPS TO PLAY AREA – BALLYMACCOOL TOWN PARK**

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

*That this Council as a matter of urgency remove the very steep and dangerous steps leading from the carpark up to the children's play areas at the Ballymacool Town Park and that a protective railing be instead installed along the entirety of the footpath access on the embankment above the carpark and that all access to the play areas be directed via both ends of the footpath.*

The Members were advised that;

*The steps leading from the carpark to the children's play park within the Ballymacool Park had been in place since the park opened in 2008. The gradient of the steps as well as the rise and thread dimensions were in compliance with Building Regulations.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels referred to complaints received from parents in relation to narrow steps and the need for a safety barrier on embankment. Cllr. D. Shiels asked for an Engineer's Report on this issue.

**MDL 231/16 RALLY WEEKEND**

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Shiels, seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney, the following motion was adopted;

*That this Council engage a security firm for the duration of this years Rally Weekend to protect its property in Letterkenny to ensure that there is no repeat of damage/trespass to its property such as occurred at the Old Tourist Office site in Letterkenny during last years rally.*

The Members were advised that;

*The Clerk of the Course for the Donegal International Rally 2016 had been contacted to consider this concern during the Rally weekend.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels outlined that this was not a negative motion and welcomed the Donegal International Rally with top class competitors and the benefits to the economy. However, he referred to his concerns following last year's rally with site opposite the old Tourist Office being used as a casual stop off. He referred to damage to timber fence at old Tourist Office, burning of car, use of the old Tourist Office site as unofficial toilet etc and the danger associated

with people crossing this busy road. Cllr. D. Shiels outlined that he would like to see the Council taking a formal approach to protect its property.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride outlined that the Motor Club have a policy of fixing any damage caused during the Rally that was reported to them and would not like to send out a negative message in relation to the Rally. Cllr. L. Blaney on seconding the motion also agreed with Cllr. M. Mc Bride in relation to the responsibility taken by the Motor Club in relation to any damage caused.

L. Ward, Director advised that steps had been taken to secure sites in question. He outlined that the Council has a close relationship with the Donegal Motor Club which was a very successful event for the County. However, he did not feel it feasible to employ a security firm as requested given that action had been taken to secure sites. He also outlined that the Council wished the Rally every success this weekend.

Cllr. D. Shiels again referred to the dangers of people crossing the road especially late in the evening. He also acknowledged official camping site set up this year in O'Donnell Park which may alleviate the situation. He asked if Council Staff could monitor the situation over the weekend and take steps if necessary.

#### **MDL 232/16 CHURCHILL TO GLENVEAGH NATIONAL PARK**

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

*Calling on this Council to help keep the route from Letterkenny via Churchill to Glenveagh National Park on the agenda, this is a scenic route and signage seems particularly poor in this area regarding our tourists attractions e.g. New Mills Corn Flax, Glebe Gallery, Gartan Outdoor Centre, Gartan Lake (for fishing), Churchill Village, The Heritage Centre, Glenveagh National Park etc. It is important that we explore all ways possible to keep this route on the agenda.*

The Members were advised that;

*These were done previously under the Regional Roads Signage Programme and there was no present scheme in place to provide additional signage*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid outlined that this route had huge potential and asked if the Council could publicise the route more. He referred to the need for investment in the area and explore all ways possible to keep this route on the Agenda.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride also referred to the need to upgrade signs in the area and to take on loop of Wild Atlantic Way to increase bed nights in the area.

C. Cannon, Area Engineer advised that he would follow up the matter with Fáilte Ireland in relation to an addition to the Wild Atlantic Way.

**MDL 233/16 BROADBAND**

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

*Calling on this Council to write to all our Broadband providers in this Municipal area and ask what are their plans to upgrade the current service they already provide and if they have any plans to roll out fibre broadband in the coming months or years, while asking them to specify the areas that they are intending to upgrade and areas they do not intend to upgrade. Following a response to this motion from the broadband providers I would ask that a letter be written to the Department for communications and the Minister highlighting the lack of investment in this area and the amount of black spots because it is totally unacceptable at this day and age and the people of this area are being left behind.*

The Members were advised that;

*Two companies had plans to rollout Fibre to the Home Broadband in the Letterkenny Municipal District.*

*SIRO were currently building a fibre to the premises network in Letterkenny Town and a presentation about this project was given to the Letterkenny Municipal District on April 12th 2016.*

*Eir were also building an open access fibre to the premises network throughout Ireland, including parts of the Letterkenny Municipal District.*

*This network would be available to all licenced telecommunications operators and details can be found at [www.fibrerollout.ie](http://www.fibrerollout.ie)*

*The Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources was currently assessing proposals received under the National Broadband Plan.*

*The National Broadband Plan would provide state subsidy for the provision of high speed broadband in areas of the Country not served by commercial operators.*

*Further information could be found at [www.dcenr.gov.ie/communications/en-ie/Broadband/Pages/Connecting-Communities.asp](http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/communications/en-ie/Broadband/Pages/Connecting-Communities.asp)*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid outlined that this issue was constantly being brought up by the public. He asked that the

Council explore all avenues to address the matter and ask each provider for details on how they are trying to improve the situation and plans for the area. He outlined that poor broadband had a major impact on businesses in the area prevented people working from home etc. He acknowledged recent announcement by SIRO which would address the Urban area but that rural areas must be addressed. He further asked that when replies are received from relevant Providers that a letter issue to the Department highlighting black spots, lack of investment etc.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey also acknowledged recent announcement by SIRO but outlined that this would not address black spot areas referring to the need for the Council to monitor what is happening. He also agreed that we should write to the Department in this regard.

#### ***MDL 234/16*** **TAKEOVER OF ROADS**

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

*That this Council consider taking over the following roads;*

- (a) Road at Gortnamona, Ballyheerin.*
- (b) Road at Gortnacor, Portsalon.*
- (c) Access to Beach, Portsalon.*

The Members were advised that;

*The Council would consider the takeover of these roads in accordance with Roads Take over procedure and the 1993 Roads Act.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney asked that the following roads be added on to motion; (d) Drumoghill Road in Termon to Glenveagh (e) Access Road to Dromore Beach, Downings. This was also seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell. Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that it was impossible to drive on these roads without damaging your car and asked that the Council commence procedure to takeover said roads. On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell also referred to the need to takeover these roads and asked that the Council begin the process once roads area ready before they go into a state of disrepair.

#### ***MDL 235/16*** **BONAGEE LINK**

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

*That this Council request TII to continue and complete the Bonagee Link.*

The Members were advised that;

*This scheme was on the TII list.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that this motion had been brought before the Council numerous times in the past and was one of the most important links in the County. He referred to the long tail back of traffic in the Letterkenny area and the reliance on the Port Road. He outlined that the only other option if anything happened on the Port Road was the Leck Road which was not capable of taking large volumes of traffic.

He referred to the money already spent on site investigation and the purchased of premises a number of years ago. No other land had been purchased to date with Cllr. Blaney asked that the Council write to the TII to ascertain if they have purchased any other property on the route. On seconding the motion, J. Kavanagh also referred to the traffic congestion in the area especially during holiday periods etc. and the need to progress this road as a matter of urgency.

**MDL 236/16 CRASH BARRIER KERRYKEEL TO MILFORD**

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

*That this Council replace the Crash Barrier on the Kerrykeel to Milford Road.*

The Members were informed that;

*There was currently no funding identified for this scheme but it was noted should future funding become available for barrier replacement.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney referred in particular to area of road between Kerrykeel to Hawk Nest whereby the road was raised over the year resulting in the barrier being ineffective.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh advised that he submitted this motion a number of months ago outlining that it was important that the issue be kept on the Agenda.

**MDL 237/16 MAYOR'S BUSINESS**

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, Town Mayor referred to the two recent high profile visits to the town with Prince Charles and Wife Camilla and also President Michael D. Higgins visit to Letterkenny as National Tidy Town's Winner 2015. He outlined that the President visited Glenmaquin School and then An Grianan Theatre last Saturday. Both visits were a great boost to the County with the good weather showing the County in its glory.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, Town Mayor advised that he attended the Letterkenny Rovers Youth Presentation Night and congratulated Letterkenny Rovers on their achievements during the year. He advised of the opening of the Garden of Remembrance 2016 at the

Ballymacool Town Park and paid tribute to outdoor staff for their contribution to the Garden.

Cllr. G. Mc Mayor, referred to the recent good weather with complaints received from the public re dog owners not being responsible especially in relation to green areas. He appealed to dog owners to be mindful of children playing in these areas and to avail of free Poop & Scoop Bags available in Letterkenny Public Services Centre and to collect and remove dog faeces.

**MDL 238/16 CORRESPONDENCE**

E. Kelly, Area Manager advised of correspondence received from Donegal Intercultural Platform requesting the use of the Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Park to host a public inter-cultural day (African themed) on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 from 2pm to 4pm. On the proposal of Cllr. M. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. M. Mc Bride, the Members unanimously agreed to this request.

**MDL 239/16 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

E. Quinn, Senior Executive Planner 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.

E. Quinn updated Members in relation to taking over of estates advising that a list of estates for consideration and adoption in the Letterkenny Municipal District area would be brought before the Members at the September Meeting. This was welcomed by the Members.

Cllr. I. Mc Garvey queried the high number of invalid applications. E. Quinn, Senior Executive Planner advised that applications are invalidated if there were deficiencies in accordance with the regulations. He advised that on occasions, recurrent reasons for invalidating applications were brought to the attention of Agents.

**MDL 240/16 ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

David Friel, Waste Regulation Officer briefed Members on contents of report previously circulated with updates on the following;

1. Big Donegal Clean Up'16
2. Stop Food Waste Challenge

3. Green Schools 2016 Donegal Award
4. Pay by Weight
5. Enforcement 2016 – 561 complaints – 86% for Waste & Litter Fixed Penalty Notices -66 – 40% paid to date
6. Beach Awards – 13 Blue Flat, 5 Green Coast Beach Awards
7. Water Safety – Beach Lifeguards in place
8. Beach Maintenance
9. Bathing Water Quality

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle congratulated all involved in the Municipal District in relation to clean ups etc. He referred to the ongoing issue with dog fouling. D. Friel advised that Lifeguards have been given relevant bags with Wardens controlling Parks and Beaches in relation to the issue.

Cllr. L. Blaney also paid tribute to the work of the Environment Section especially being the joint highest with Kerry in the Country for Blue Flag Beaches.

Cllr. L. Blaney referred to the Pay by Weight bin collection service coming on stream on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2016 outlining that the public were not fully aware of new regulations.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle acknowledged the advertising campaign carried out but that the public were not aware of charges. He welcomed Workshop arranged tomorrow to discuss this matter.

Cllr. I. Mc Garvey queried status of Rathmullan Beach with D. Friel advising that Rathmullan lost its Green Coast approximately 2 years ago with a 4 year period before title can be returned.

Cllr. J. Kavanagh also acknowledged achievements in relation to retaining Blue Flag Beaches which was a great selling point for the County. He also welcomed work carried out on access to a number of Beaches.

### ***MDL 241/16 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. Hopefully open through the week by mid June
2. Donegal Marathon – Continued Roll out of Public Relations Plan
3. Educate Together Primary School – Awaiting planning approval in advance of closing purchase
4. Playgrounds – Maintenance works complete and to be checked.
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 –

busking Festival 16<sup>th</sup> July, Social Media Campaigns, Advert in Donegal Airport Magazine, Meeting with Letterkenny Tourism

- 241.1 The Members also considered summary report from that morning's Workshop in relation to Development Fund Initiative 2016. A sum of €10,000 was now available to the Municipal District following opening of the Foyle Ferry with initial proposed subvention not now required. On the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney, seconded by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey, the Members approved the following allocations;

<b>Group</b>	<b>Allocation in €</b>
<b>Letterkenny Tourism</b>	<b>€500</b>
<b>Downings Tidy Towns</b>	<b>€1,400</b>
<b>SNAP</b>	<b>€300</b>
<b>Donegal Comhtas na hEireann</b>	<b>€1,000</b>
<b>Railway Track Termon</b>	<b>€1,000</b>
<b>Kerrykeel Tidy Towns</b>	<b>€1,050</b>
<b>East Donegal Pony Club</b>	<b>€250</b>
<b>White Strand FC</b>	<b>€250</b>
<b>Jujitsu Club</b>	<b>€250</b>
<b>Glenswilly National School</b>	<b>€1,000</b>
<b>Cancer Bus</b>	<b>€1,000</b>
<b>Letterkenny Rovers</b>	<b>€1,000</b>
<b>Letterkenny Tourism</b>	<b>€1,000</b>

***MDL 242/16      ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION***

C. Cannon, Roads & Transportation briefed Members in relation to content of his report previously circulated. Report included the following update;

**Dual Carriageway Overlay**

The Westbound (Inbound) lanes of the Letterkenny Dual Carriageway which is 4,250metres in length had been showing signs of deterioration over the last number of years and as a result funding was sought to overlay same. Council have now been granted funding of €900,000 to carry out this work. Tender Documents were being prepared at present and it was envisaged that works would commence on site by the end of August 2016.

Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid referred to monies already spent in relation to drainage etc and asked if this could be recouped. C. Cannon, advised that an application had been made in this regard with no response received to date.

**Speed Limit Workshop**

E. Kelly, Area Manager advised that it was proposed to have further Municipal District Workshops to present maps of the proposed changes to current speed limit byelaws. It was proposed

to have morning workshop with Members and an information viewing for the public in the evening. The Members agreed to have the said Workshop on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 from 10am to 1pm with public session from 3pm to 8pm.

**MDL 243/16 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 446 HAP applications had been approved and currently 5 applications were being processed in the Letterkenny office. A total of 953 applications had been processed countywide.

A total of 41 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**

37 Offers issued to date

13 Refusals

19 accepted

5 pending

28 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**

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 is proposed to carry out works to a further 95 houses for the 2016 programme.

### **Social Housing Investment Programme- SHIP 2015-2020**

Further information has been submitted to the Department on the proposal for 34 housing units on Council owned land at Long Lane, Letterkenny on the site is 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 has 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 recently to look at the various options of supply.

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

Cllr. D. Shiels referred to his questions no 28 and 29 on the Agenda and the responses given. He queried proposed development in the Mountain Top area and the exact location of same.

E. Kelly, Area Manager advised that the site was adjacent to existing Council Scheme and that the process had not gone to contract yet. He advised that the site would be an extension to existing scheme which had planning permission.. Cllr. D. Shiels queried original Developer of Cnoc Ard Estate with Cllr. G. Mc Monagle advising that Brian Brogan had built the existing 40 social houses in the development.

Cllr. D. Shiels expressed the view that the Council should be paying a low rate to reflect the current market.

Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that it was important to see if this land represented value for money. He acknowledged that there were approximately 9 applications received in response to public advertisement and that only 2 met the necessary criteria with one subsequently withdrawing their application. He felt that criteria should have stipulated that site should not be adjacent or close by to an existing social housing site. E. Kelly advised that the criteria was included in the original add in local papers and would be circulated to members.

Cllr. D. Shiels outlined that he would like to get clarity on assessment of project and how Council only ended up with one proposal. He also queried fact that proposal was currently with the Department.

E. Kelly, Area Manager advised that 2 schemes were currently with the Department as outlined and that the Council would be advertising again for the Letterkenny Municipal District in order to meet its targets under the Social Housing Implementation Programme 2015-2018. He

further advised that reports had been presented to the Municipal District Meetings on this over this last 6 months.

L. Ward, Director also advised that reports had been presented at each Municipal District meeting over this last 6 months which had been very clear. He outlined that Officials present at today's meeting were not in a position to clarify who was selling as they were not dealing directly with the matter. He advised that the Council were only in early negotiations at this stage and that Members were kept informed at each Municipal District Meeting.

Cllr. D. Shiels asked that the Council be more forthcoming with information to Members as he would not like a situation similar to that what happened in Glendale Drive to materialise again.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle asked what exactly was the Member querying with Cllr. D. Shiels confirming that he wished the following information to be made available to Members; (a) Map of Site (b) Purchase Price Proposed (c) Name of Vendor (d) details of application submitted to the Department.

L. Ward, Director advised that it may not be possible to provide all the above information as negotiations were ongoing.

Cllr. L. Blaney acknowledged that item was on the Agenda this last 6 months but that his main issue was clarification of criteria used and confirmation of value for money. He asked that this information be made available for the next meeting.

#### **MDL 244/16 DOWNINGS PIER**

In answer to his question as to when do we see work starting on the widening of the road on the way to the pier to Downings to allow the coast guard to access the pier in emergency cases, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

*These works were still at planning stage and there was currently no budget available or programmed date for completion.*

#### **MDL 245/16 PUBLIC TOILETS RATHMULLAN**

In answer to his question as to what date will construction of Public Toilets in Rathmullan commence, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

*Donegal County Council had 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 and Council was in the process of appointing the Consultant. The*

*tender includes; site investigation, archaeological monitoring and pre-development testing at the site.*

**MDL 246/16 RATHMULLAN TO BUNCRANA FERRY**

In answer to his question as to what date would the Rathmullan to Buncrana Ferry Service commence, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

*The Rathmullan to Buncrana Ferry Service would commence on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.*

**MDL 247/16 SPEED REVIEW**

In answer to his question if he could have a list of the speed review that has been carried out in the Letterkenny Municipal District, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

*This list would be presented at a Workshop on a date to be agreed today with the Members.*

**MDL 248/16 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS – FANAD LIGHTHOUSE**

In answer to his question as to what was the progress if any on the Road improvement works to Fanad Lighthouse and the Peninsula, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

*The only improvement works that were planned for this area were as agreed as part of the 3 year restoration improvement programme and the Annual Restoration Improvement programme.*

**MDL 249/16 SEVEN ARCHES - PORTSALON**

In answer to his question if any effort has been made to acquire access to the Seven Arches at Portsalon, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

*The Environment Section were looking into access to the adjoining beach, the Development Officer would liaise to determine the outcome.*

**MDL 250/16 LAND FOR SOCIAL HOUSING**

In answer to his question if the Council had executed any contracts for the purchase of land for Social Housing purposes in the Letterkenny Municipal area in the last 6 months and if so please give details of the location of the property and the vendor, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

- *In 2015, a request for expressions of interest from landowners interested in selling land in the Letterkenny Town area to Donegal County Council*

*was advertised and responses received. The land parcels were subsequently assessed for suitability for the social housing programme. A number of sites were deemed suitable and discussions have taken place with respective landowners. At this stage, no contracts had been executed for the purchase of any of the land deemed suitable.*

- *In May 2016, a request for expressions of interest from landowners interested in selling land in the Letterkenny MD town of Ramelton to Donegal County Council was advertised and 2 responses had been received. The land parcels would be assessed for suitability for social housing programme in the coming week.*
- *Stage 1 approval from the DoEHLG would be sought to secure the project prior to finalising any purchases.*
- *Donegal County Council owns land in other towns in the MD Letterkenny area and so there would be no requirement to execute any contract for the purchase of land for the social housing programme in those locations.*

#### **MDL 251/16 SOCIAL HOUSING - CONTRACTS**

In answer to his question, the Council had executed any contracts for the construction of Social Housing in the Letterkenny Municipal area in the last 6 months and if so please give details of the location of the appointed contractor and the location of the proposed development, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

*No construction contracts for the provision of social housing in the Municipal District of Letterkenny had been executed in the last 6 months. All schemes in the Letterkenny MD would be progressed through Part 8 (or other approved planning process as determined) prior to tender for construction. All schemes ready to proceed to construction require Stage 3 pre-tender DoEHLG approval and Stage 4 post tender DoEHLG approval prior to awarding of any contract.*

#### **MDL 252/16 FLOODING – AURA LEISURE CENTRE**

In answer to his question if the Council were satisfied that all necessary works had been carried out to ensure that there would be no repeated episodes of flooding to the Aura leisure Centre pitches and the Danny McDaid Track, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

*Studies were being carried out by the office of Public Works (OPW) to identify measures and policies for cost effective and sustainable management of flood risk. These studies were expected to be completed by year end 2016. No works had yet been carried out to mitigate the risk.*

*The OPW was carrying out a Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study throughout the country. This study commenced in the North West and Neagh Bann Districts in January*

2012 and was scheduled to be completed by the end of this year 2016.

The aims of the study were to

- a. assess the risk of flooding;
- b. to identify measures and options to manage the risk of flooding in catchments and for localised high risk areas;
- c. prepare a Strategic Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that sets out the measures and policies that should be pursued to achieve the most cost effective and sustainable management of flood risk;
- d. ensure that public and stakeholder consultation and engagement is achieved.

*The pitches and running track at the Aura Leisure Centre were identified as falling within a 1% Fluvial Event. That means they are at risk of flooding from a one in 100 year flood event. The study considers that FRMP measures appropriate to manage this level of risk would involve strengthening the existing river embankments. A public consultation on options was held in Letterkenny in March 2016. The study is refining options to a preferred option at this stage and a further public consultation meeting will be announced in the coming months. The FRMPs are expected to be completed country-wide by the end of 2016. We have no information at this time about the timing or prioritization of implementation any recommended works.*

*In the meantime the Letterkenny Leisure Complex Development Company was planning to undertake works to raise the level of the biomass boiler that was damaged in the December flooding to a new level above that of those floods. These works were expected to be carried out in the coming months.*

**MDL 25316 DUAL CARRIAGEWAY**

In answer to his question as to when can we expect the works to commence on the Dual-Carriageway following the announcement of the €900,000 grant, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

*Works were expected to commence before the end of August 2016.*

**MDL 254/16 DRAINAGE WORKS – DUAL CARRIAGEWAY**

In answer to his question regarding the drainage work that has been already been done on the Dual-Carriageway by our local Council outdoor staff, will the money that they have spent on drainage be taken out of the €900,000 grant or will it be taken out of our local maintenance budget, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

*The Drainage works already done was taken out of our National Primary Maintenance Budget at present. We have however made an application to the TII to get this money refunded.*

**MDL 255/16 N14 MANOR ROUNDABOUT TO LIFFORD ROAD**

In answer to his question if there was any update on seeking funding for works to be carried out on the N14 Manor Roundabout to Lifford Road, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

*No funding had as yet been approved for this overall scheme.*

**MDL 256/16 KERRYKEEL TO MILFORD ROAD**

In answer to his question as to what progress has Roads Section made on his Motions regarding "Hawks Nest" on Kerrykeel to Milford Road, "The Pans" on Cranford to Carrigart Road and the road passing Browneknowe National School, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

*The section of Road at the Hawks Nest would be surface dressed before the end of July. The Council were currently carrying out investigations to establish what improvements were required at the Pans of Cranford.*

*Road markings were ongoing along the front of Browneknowe School and further works to prevent parking along the School frontage would be carried out over the next 2 months. Hedges had been cut back to improve vision lines also.*

**MDL 257/16 FLOODING – LOWER MOUNT MARION, MILFORD**

In answer to his question as to when does this Council intend to replace the piping adjacent to Lower Mount Marion so as to alleviate flooding problems experienced at Lower Mount Marion and at the Old Technical School, Milford, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

*Investigations works had been completed and it was programmed to have the remaining works completed before the end of September.*

**MDL 258/16 ROADWORKS – TULLY, BALLYHEERIN**

In answer to his question as to when would the Road Works be completed at Tully, Ballyheerin, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

*It was programmed to have these works completed before the end of September.*

**MDL 259/16 FENCE – CHESTNUT GROVE**

In answer to his question if the Council could fix and secure the fence above No. 16 Chestnut Grove? The broken fence is being used as a shortcut through the estate from adjoining estates and is infringing on

the privacy and security of residents in Chestnut Grove, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

*The Council was advised that Chestnut Grove was currently a private estate, Donegal County Council was not responsible for maintenance of same.*

***MDL 260/16 PUBLIC TOILETS RATHMULLAN***

In answer to his question if the Council could look at the cause of flooding issues in Park View estate in Letterkenny and address same, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

*It has been established that the flooding referred to within Parkview Drive was being reported between two private boundaries. Donegal County Council would have no remit in this case.*

***MDL 261/16 SCHOOL SIGN***

If answer to his question if the Council could erect a warning "School Ahead Sign" just before the crossroads at Castleshaghan, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

*We would arrange to get this sign ordered and erected over the next 4 weeks*

***MDL 262/16 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING***

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre commencing at 2pm.