

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING,
HELD IN THE LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE,
LETTERKENNY ON TUESDAY, 8TH MARCH, 2016 AT 2PM**

MDL 94/16 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 95/16 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
Ciaran Martin, Community & Enterprise
Conal Mc Gettigan, A/Senior Executive Planner
Suzanne Bogan, Waste Information Officer, Environment

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

MDL 96/16 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Quinn seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 9th February, 2016 were adopted.

Matters Arising:

Cllr. L. Blaney referred to discussion at January Meeting regarding issues with regard to the Aghadachor Group. As outlined at February meeting Cllr. G. Mc Monagle advised that he made contact with the Chairperson of the Group and requested a formal response to issues raised by Cllr Blaney at previous MDL Meeting but that no response had been received to date.

Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that the issue should not be left and asked that the Mayor once again write to the Group seeking an apology or name the Councillors involved or refer the matter to the Gardai. All Councillors were implicated in Facebook.

Cllr. L. Blaney queried Minute MDL 63/16 asking if this resolution was void at this stage. Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that works at Moyle View, Milford was passed at January meeting under the Restoration

Maintenance Programme and that motion passed at February Meeting would result in lesser works being carried out in this area. Cllr. L. Blaney asked for clarification in this regard. F. Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation advised that the Road Improvements on the agreed 2016 RI programme would be carried out between April and September of this year.

MDL 97/16 ***LENNON BASIN***

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

That Donegal County Council commission a flood evaluation survey on the Lennon basin in the aftermath of numerous recent floods and the damaged caused by them.

The Members were advised that;

The Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) study currently being carried out by OPW was cyclical and under the next round could have areas along the Lennon included as Areas for further Assessment (AFA). Donegal County Council first could ask OPW when the next cycle may start to inform the members. Donegal County Council could also explore with the OPW the possibility of a study funded through the minor works funding stream.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to the recent flooding of private houses, nursing home, fields and the danger of bridges flooding. Cllr. M. Mc Bride outlined that the onus is on the Council to inspect the River Lennon from Gartan to Ramelton and carry out a survey showing all problems along the River. He further outlined that minor works/monies was not sufficient for necessary works. Cllr. M. Mc Bride asked that this issue be kept on the Agenda and dealt with in the short-term.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell outlined that it is vital that the Council act on this issue and put pressure on the OPW to resolve the matter. Residents had to be evacuated from Abbey Village during flooding in January.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, Mayor suggested contacting the OPW regarding the possibility of meeting with the Council in relation to recent flooding. This was agreed.

MDL 98/16 ***CARPARK LOUGH SALT***

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

That the car park at Lough Salt be upgraded and promoted as a local beauty spot to our visitors.

The Members were informed that;

There was no identified source of funding to upgrade car park at Lough Salt at this time.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to the spectacular view looking over at Ards and Atlantic Drive from this car park. He referred to the need to resurface the car park and install benches, rubbish bins etc

On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid outlined the huge tourist attraction in this area which benefits entire community.

MDL 99/16 **COMMUNITY HOSPITALS**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Mc Bride seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney the following motion was adopted;

That the Letterkenny Municipal Electoral Area Councillors support the campaign to keep Ramelton, Lifford and St. Joseph's community hospitals open.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to the large turnout at protest march in Stranorlar which shows the impact proposed closure would have on the public. Cllr. M. Mc Bride welcomed the new proposed hospital for Letterkenny but that this could be used for short stay for those on waiting list which in turn would free up beds in General Hospital. He referred to ageing population and need in 4-5 years time for all 3 hospitals.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney asked that following be added to the motion “and to retain existing capacity” and referred to announcement that hospitals would not be closed but asked that confirmation be given that they be “retain their present capacity” as no confirmation issued on existing beds, outlining his fears that it may be the long-term beds in all 3 hospitals that may be lost. Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that he would like to see long term beds in Letterkenny also.

MDL 100/16 **KILMACRENNAN JUNCTION**

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

Calling on this Council to look at installing a pedestrian crossing at the 4 way junction in Kilmacrennan that leads to the school as there has being a number of near fatalities in recent months.

The Members were informed that;

Significant improvements were carried out in recent times at the cross roads in Kilmacrennan such that sightlines to NRA (now TII) standards were achieved. There were currently no plans in place for the erection of traffic lights at this junction.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell referred to children walking to school and if the Council could facilitate a pedestrian crossing or School Warden. He outlined recent reports of near misses and that the matter needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. On seconding the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey also referred to the dangers at this location and asked the possibility of traffic lights at top of hill in Kilmacrennan.

MDL 101/16 TRAMORE BEACH, DOWNINGS

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

Calling on this Council to consider taking over the Tramore Beach Road in Downings now that it is repaired and ready for take over.

The Members were advised that;

Roads would consider in accordance with Roads Take Over Policy adopted. A methodology of implementing the Roads Take Over Policy was currently being development such that there was consistency across the County. A decision would be brought to subsequent meeting.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell outlined that monies had been received from the Department last year for this Road and that Road was now up to standard for takeover. He referred to the large number of tourists and locals using this beach and asked that the Road be a priority in the Take Over list.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey also asked that this Road be given priority now that it is up to standard.

F. Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation advised that the Members adopted a policy on takeover with the Executive now drafting a means of implementing policy. This Road would be looked at in line with policy.

MDL 102/16 REPAIR OF POTHOLES

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

That an urgent programme be put in place for the repair to potholes that are getting worse by the day. Also identify where these potholes

are and why the potholes are appearing in these certain locations. It is often seen where water is flowing onto the road is where the road starts breaking up and the drainage system along the road is inadequate. Drainage must be addressed when potholes start appearing as it is only a matter of time before they reopen again.

The Members were informed that;

Roads section continually carryout repairs of potholes and improvement of drainage in between carrying out the various other programmes for which funding has been provided.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid outlined that drainage problems need to be addressed as roads were deteriorating rapidly. On seconding the motion, Cllr. C. Brogan referred to need for extra funding for flood prevention and the need for joint-up thinking between OPW, the Department etc.

F. Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation advised that in between works on the Restoration Maintenance and Restoration Improvement that workmen carryout ongoing works in relation to drainage and potholes.

MDL 103/16 FUNDING – FLOOD DAMAGE/PREVENTION

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

How much money are we receiving in this area for flood damage and flood prevention? And what percentage of money did we put in for in comparison to what we have been allocated? I would propose that this Municipal Area ask for additional funding for flood prevention considering the amount of road closers we had during the flooding and the amount of houses which were unable to travel anywhere and as a result emergency services would have been unable to attend the affected areas if they were needed.

The Members were advised that;

A full breakdown of the amount of money that this area had applied for and received, and a list of the roads to be treated with the allocated money was included in the Report to Members for this meeting.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid outlined his disappointment at funding received with only 42% of total applied for received. 21% was received for flood prevention. Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid asked that this Municipal District write to the Minister and Director of

Service outlining Council's disappointment at receiving an allocation of 42% of what applied initially applied for. Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid referred in particular to the issues in the Trentagh area where 28 houses were affected and the need for funding for flood prevention in this area.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. C. Brogan as previously outlined, would welcome a meeting with the OPW and Roads Department regarding preventative flooding and repairs to damaged roads to date. F. Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation advised that Roads Department will continue to keep Roads applied for on the list and as others deteriorate as a result of flooding would be added to existing list. He further outlined that funding received was part of first phase of funding with suggestion that further funding would be available.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, Mayor asked that contact be made with the OPW inviting them to meet with the Council outlining the need to work as a team. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to coastal areas being addressed but that areas such as Kilmacrennan, Trentagh required urgent attention.

MDL 104/16 CARRAIG CRIEVE

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

That this Council as a matter of urgency erect a safety fence around the green area at the Carraig Crieve housing development in Letterkenny.

The Members were informed that;

This estate was a private estate which had not been taken in charge by the Council.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle outlined that the Letterkenny Town Council had previously met with the Developer and reached an agreement for the takeover of the estate. He referred to the dangers associated with the lack of safety fence in the green area and the onus on the Council to protect children in the estate. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle also referred to dangers with retaining walls and need to address.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. C. Brogan agreed with his Cllr. G. Mc Monagle regarding agreement for takeover with former Town Council. C. Mc Gettigan, Planning advised that he had spoken to Frank Sweeney, Planning who had confirmed that estate was not taken over by L.T.C. and that an application made for Carraig Crieve to be taken over. C. Mc Gettigan acknowledged that the Council had a number of tenants in this estate and that a discussion would take place with Housing Services in relation to finding a solution and a more detailed

response would be given. This was welcomed by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle.

MDL 105/16 GLEANN RUA/KILLYLASTIN

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

That in the interest of residents safety we annexe the connecting road from Gleann Rua through to Killylastin Heights thus creating two Cul de Sacs in order that there will be increased safety for residents especially their children at play.

The Members were advised that;

These estates were private estates which had not been taken in charge by the Council.

On proposing the motion Cllr. G. Mc Monagle outlined that the road in question was dangerous with current dip and was only to be a service road to assist with development. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle asked regarding possibility of blocking off road with ornamental fixtures etc in the interest of safety for residents of both estates.

C. Mc Gettigan, Planning advised that Gleann Rua has applied to be taken over and that the Council would look at proposal and revert back with a more details response.

MDL 106/16 SAND DUNES – RINBOY/MAGHERAWARDEN

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney seconded by Cllr. C. Brogan the following motion was adopted;

That this Council investigates the erosion of the sand dunes at Rinboy and Magherawarden and take immediate action to prevent the County Road and adjoining lands being flooded.

The Members were informed that;

Donegal was located within a high energy coastline and was regularly subject to storm influences and potential erosion impacts by wave, rain and wind action.

Coastal dunes were of important value in shoreline protection acting as reserve defenses against encroachment by the sea.

Coastal erosion was a necessary and vital part of any healthy functioning beach and dune system. Without the flexibility that erosion allows, the beach profile cannot adjust to damp down the effects of storms.

Erosion may be cyclic in the sense that it was balanced by periods of accretion leading to no net change in shoreline position. The result of hardening the backshore with shoreline defenses can themselves prove problematic, with a serious risk that the entire beach would be lost due to wave reflection and sand scour.

The Office of Public Works (OPW) was the lead State body for the coordination and is the National Authority for the implementation of the EU Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks. The Irish Coastal protection Strategy Study was a national study which was commissioned by OPW to provide information to support decision making about how best to manage risks associated with coastal flooding and coastal erosion.

The OPW requires that proposals and funding applications for structural measures to prevent or mitigate erosion should be done in conjunction with an appropriate coastal erosion risk management study, which fully investigates, substantiates and demonstrates the merits of any measures being proposed. Such studies must be conducted where erosion risk management works were being proposed in sensitive environmental coastal locations (i.e. those which have environmental designations e.g. NHAs, SAC's, SPA's). The vast majority of Donegal's coastline had one or more such environmental designation.

Funding of flooding and erosion management studies and schemes were considered by OPW, for up to a maximum of 90% of the cost. If successful, Donegal County Council would be required to provide the remaining funding.

The OPW had a limited annual budget for such projects nationally and proposals require; benefits assessment, economic consideration and justification, statutory consents and risk assessment.

Erosion prevention measures in the form of coastal protection works normally had a finite life and therefore the benefit from any such scheme deemed necessary should be seen as a temporary (albeit often lengthy) extension of the useful life of the affected property, land and/or assets. Each and every engineered protection works installed by Donegal County Council must be maintained annually and cost for same budgeted for.

Donegal County Council Environment Section was in the process of developing a Countywide Coastal Erosion Strategy in 2016 via the Strategic Policy Committee.

The erosion of the sand dunes at Rinboy and Magherawarden would be considered and examined and we will provide a report to next Letterkenny MD Meeting.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney welcomed response and report to be available at next meeting.

MDL 107/16 RATHMULLAN FERRY

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

That this Council begins negotiations with the Ferry Operator to ensure that the Rathmullan/Buncrana Ferry is operational from the 1st June 2016.

The Members were advised that;

Council officials were in contact with the Company following their presentation to the Municipal District of Letterkenny on the 9th February and plan to meet with the Company in early March to continue negotiations. The objective was to ensure that the Buncrana/Rathmullan Ferry Service was operational from the 1st June”.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that he felt negotiations were taking place too late in the year as it would be the Summer before decision finalised. He advised that further discussion with Ferry operator and dredging was required. Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that the Operator was willing to progress the matter and asked that the Council do all in its power to reach agreements. He outlined the Operator required a timeframe to advertise etc taking into account tourism from the Wild Atlantic Way etc.

On seconding the motion Cllr. M. Mc Bride outlined the importance of the Ferry for tourism and businesses in the area.

MDL 108/16 KILMACRENNAN JUNCTION

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

I propose that this Council in conjunction with Road Design and Transport Infrastructure Ireland revisit the junction at the square in Kilmacrennan with a view to erecting traffic lights in order to allow traffic to make safe passage

The Members were advised that;

Significant improvements were carried out in recent times at the cross roads in Kilmacrennan such that sightlines to NRA (now TII) standards were achieved. There were currently no plans in place for the erection of traffic lights at this junction.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. C. Brogan outlined that this matter was discussed at previous Electoral Area Meetings and that measures were put in place by the NRA but were evidently not working. He referred

to the dangers at school times, mass times etc and asked that Road Design revisit this junction and consider erection of traffic lights. Cllr. M. Mc Bride, on seconding the motion welcomed motions brought forward by Cllr. C. Brogan and Cllr. J. O'Donnell in relation to this issue and would welcome a pedestrian crossing similar to Ballyraine Halls, Letterkenny.

MDL 109/16 OLD FIRE STATION

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

I propose that this Council demolish the old Fire Station on the High Road, Letterkenny and invest in a new car park in this area as parking has now become a huge problem in this part of the town.

The Members were informed that;

The Fire Service had no ongoing interest in the referenced fire station and its site (bounded by the metal fence to the West, the High road to the East, the library to the South and the Government Building to the North). Alternative uses for the site had been considered at a provisional level with a draft proposition to establish a car park at the location being one of them. This was currently being costed and reviewed at a broad level with the detail of same going to be presented for review and consideration of the MD of Letterkenny when complete.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. C. Brogan outlined that it was 12 years since the new Fire Station opened and that this matter was raised by the Town Council over the years. He asked that the Council now take immediate steps to demolish and provide a much needed short-term car park in the area.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid referred to the current eyesore of the old Fire Station and encouraged Council to replace with car park as discussed.

Cllr. C. Brogan asked that L. Ward, Director bring back a report to the next meeting.

MDL 110/16 PUBLIC LIGHTING

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

That this Council carry out a Survey of the Public Lighting.

The Members were advised that;

The Council had in 2015 authorised Airtricity to carry out a survey of its public lighting inventory in conjunction with its normal maintenance activities. The data was being collected in a manner that meets national guidelines and is intended to facilitate a number of further actions relating to the improvement of both lighting and energy use. Some data has already been delivered to the Council and was currently being analysed and certain reports were being developed. The resulting data would help inform future plans and investment strategies for public lighting.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to the need to upgrade public lighting in a number of areas in light of increased participation in those cycling, walking, running etc.

MDL 111/16 BRIDGE – NEW MILL ROAD

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

That our Council provide a safety barrier at Bridge on New Mill Road near the Town

The Members were informed that;

Roads would review the location referred to, and assess the requirement or appropriateness for a safety barrier. The Cllr should forward further details in relation to which bridge was referred to in the motion.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey outlined the dangers at this location and asked that Road Design look into this matter and consider erection of a barrier and lighting in the interest of motorists, cyclists etc.

MDL 112/16 OPEN SPACE - ILLISTRIN

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

That the Council deal with a problem on open space opposite Dunne's of Illistrin.

The Members were informed that;

As discussed at the workshop in relation to grass cutting within the MDL, there were no resources to extend the current grass cutting programme outside of what already exists. It was an offence under the Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations, 1997, for vehicles to

park on the grass verge and also under planning legislation for vehicles to be parked advertising for sale, and offences should be referred to the Gardai. The Council had limited powers of enforcement, but do issue parking fine notices from time to time at this location.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey outlined that a family in the area were looking after this area but that cars for sale are parked on it. The family have asked re the possibility of relevant signage being put in place.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. C. Brogan asked that the Executive engage with the family who were maintaining the area to see if a resolution could be sought.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride queried the possibility of installing posts and a chain link fence to stop vehicles parking which would be an inexpensive solution.

F. Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation referred to the limited resources available to the Council in relation to grass cutting etc. He outlined that parking fines had issued in the past. It was agreed that the Council would engage with the family in relation to the matter.

MDL 113/16 MAYOR'S BUSINESS

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, Mayor, advised the Members that he attended launch of the 9 Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The Launch was well attended and Cllr. G. Mc Monagle commended the work of the Community Gardai.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, Mayor extended a vote of sympathy to Paddy Hannigan (Citizens Information) and his family on the recent death of his mother Rosaleen. It was agreed to issue a letter in this regard.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, Mayor extended a vote of sympathy to Charlie Cannon (Roads Department) and his family on the recent death of his mother Kathleen. It was agreed to issue a letter in this regard.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, Mayor extended a vote of sympathy to Cllr. M. Mc Bride & Rachael Callaghan and family on the recent death of Claire Callaghan. It was agreed to issue a letter in this regard.

MDL 114/16 REQUEST FOR DEPUTATION

E. Kelly, Area Manager briefed Members in relation to requests received for Reception of Deputation namely;

- (i) Donegal Caravan & Camping Parks Association

- (ii) SIRO (Vodafone & ESB) – Broadband Rollout
- (iii) Errigal Cycling Club

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle advised that he had been in contact with Donegal Caravan & Camping Parks Association who had made a request for deputation to each of the Municipal Districts. E suggested to the group to request to meet the full Council as it was a countywide issue. It was agreed therefore to request group to make request for presentation to full Plenary Council with details for request to be forward to Donegal County Council.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Kavanagh seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle it was agreed to receive a deputation from SIRO at 10am on Tuesday, 12th April, 2016 in the Milford Public Services Centre.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Mc Bride, seconded by Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid, it was agreed to receive a deputation from Errigal Cycling Club at 9.30am on Tuesday, 12th April, 2016 in the Milford Public Services Centre.

MDL 115/16 ADOPTION OF THE SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS 2016

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Kavanagh seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell it was resolved that the Municipal District of Letterkenny hereby adopt for the financial year ended 31st December 2016, the Schedule of Municipal Works as set out in report presented to MDL Meeting held on the 8th March 2016 as required by Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) and in line with requirements of Circular LG27/2014/Fin21/2014.

MDL 116/16 CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, Mayor referred to request from Letterkenny CDP seeking the use of the Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Park for a Charity Event in April, 2016. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan, seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, the Members unanimously agreed to this request subject to submission of relevant insurances etc. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was to revert back with proposed date for said event.

E. Kelly, Area Manager referred to request from Donegal Travellers Project seeking use of the Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Park to run a family event in the Town Park on Thursday 31st March, 2016 in partnership with Donegal Youth Services. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, the Members unanimously agreed to this request subject to submission of relevant insurances etc.

E. Kelly, Area Manger referred to request from Donegal YMCA seeking use of the Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Pak to hold an Easter Egg Hunt in the Town Park on 22nd March, 2016 in aid of Make A Wish Foundation. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan, seconded by Cllr. M. Mc Bride, the Members unanimously agreed to this request.

MDL 117/16 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

C. Mc Gettigan, 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 cases types (Part 8's etc)
5. Unfinished Housing Developments

The contents of the report were noted by the Members.

Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to the number of invalid applications with approximately 1 in 5 applications returned as invalid. C. Mc Gettigan outlined he would look into this to see if there was trend for applications being returned and revert back.

L. Ward, Director of Service referred to previous workshops for Agents etc and perhaps the need to reorganise said workshops to try and reduce the number of invalid applications. He further advised Members that E. Quinn, Senior Planner, Planning would be organising workshops in each Municipal District regarding workforce plan staff complement throughout the County and on the level of service members expect to receive. Members also mentioned access to planners, pre planning enquiries and site meetings.

L. Ward also advised that a Review of the Development Contribution Scheme was ongoing and that a Workshop scheduled for 29th February 2016 had been deferred and a workshop would be rescheduled in Lifford. There needed to be a balance between D.C.S. and proposed capital Works. Public Consultation would follow and a report would be presented to the full Council.

MDL 118/16 ENVIRONMENT REPORT

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

1. Pay by Weight – In force from July 2016
2. End of Life Tyres – New approved Body – REPAK ELT to manage disposal etc of end of life tyres

3. WERLA Offices – Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority Offices now in place in the 3 Irish Waste Regions, with Donegal and Leitrim County Councils responsible for the Connacht Ulster Region
4. Recycling – 3 new Bring Bank sites in the County in Pettigo, Stranorlar and Letterkenny. 73 Bring Bank Sites in total
5. “Big Donegal Clean Up 16” to be launched mid March
6. Waste Prevention Initiatives – Workshops, Tidy Towns Seminar, “No to Junk Mail” campaign, Stop Food Waste
7. Beaches – 21 Beaches – graded Blue Flag, Designated Bathing Water, and Green Coast Award.

Cllr L. Blaney suggested that introduction of “Pay by Weight” be advertised and had concerns that it could lead to increased illegal dumping depending on level of charges.

MDL 119/16 COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

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

1. Fanad Lighthouse – Opening held up as community group await final lease agreement from Commissioner of Irish Lights
2. Donegal Marathon – roll out of public relations plan
3. Educate Together Primary School – Complete Purchase of site
4. Playgrounds – Maintenance works have commenced and due for completion by early April 2016
5. Donegal Walks and Trails – Hope to initiate a deliver strategy in conjunction with the NW Greenway Plan for the Letterkenny to Burtonport old railway walk.
6. Letterkenny Retail Marketing – Forward Planning for Season campaigns and events
7. Public Participation Network – General Meeting of the PPN to be held on 9th March, 2016
8. Greenest County in Ireland for St. Patrick’s Day – local communities and trade providers encouraged to get involved in the greening of their local area.
9. Development Fund Initiative – Closing date 21st March, 2016
10. Community Tourism Diaspora Initiative - Closing Date 11th March, 2016
11. Donegal Youth Council – Projects include Bullying Project and Sexual Health Project, Completion of Road Safety Campaign, YEP project hosing Norwegian Group, Recruitment for new Youth Council for 2016.

The Members thanked Ciaran for his report. The Members queried information in relation to the Development Fund Initiative with applications to be submitted by post to Lifford by 21st March, 2016. A brief discussion followed and it was agreed that

applications would be accepted in any of the area offices by said closing date.

Members also requested that all applications for D.F.I. be vetted for eligibility prior to being presented to members and that a report on the 2015. S.D.F. be prepared including amount allocated, drawdown etc.

MDL 120/16 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. Severe Weather Allocations

Further to DTTaS Circular RW8 of 2016 an amount of €7m was allocated to Donegal for repair works and limited preventative works in relation to the various flooding events that took place between November of 2015 and January 2016. The DTTaS allocations were for non-national roads only.

The total allocation for the MDL is

	Repairs	Preventative	Total
Letterkenny MD	€546,000	€401,589	€947,589

based on an application submitted by the MDL with respect to:

1. Repair Works in respect of Roads, Bridges & Drainage.
2. Preventative works to address flooding on roads particularly those roads which have been subject to repeated flooding in recent years.

Repair Works costs incurred or to be incurred, as per the MDL submission to the value of €546k had been fully funded, and identified preventative works as per the submission of €1,670,000 have been funded to the value of €401,589. As per the roads application the prioritised schemes outlined in Appendix A were to be implemented with the received allocation, representing best value for money with spread across all RSS areas.

Submissions for a total of €278,000 in respect of repairs and implementation of remedial measures to National Roads had not been funded under this allocation. MDL Roads would reapply for this funding directly to the TII.

Where not completed, works were to be carried out through the course of the year in conjunction with the RI and RM programmes.

MDL 121/16 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 was ongoing at 5 no. houses and was expected to be completed by the end of January; however work was delayed due to the weather. Contractor was waiting for appropriate weather to complete the 5 houses underway and commence work on two further houses.

Housing Assistance Payment (H.A.P.)

To date 381 HAP applications had been approved in the Letterkenny office. A total of 716 applications had been processed countywide.

Rent Review

The Council was currently carrying out a Rent Review of all tenants with the exception of HAP tenants. 1,466 rents were currently being reviewed in the Letterkenny office and tenants had been contacted over the past number of weeks requesting that they submit their income details.

Donegal County Council Offers / Vacancies

4 Offers issued to date
2 Refusals
1 accepted
1 pending

8 Vacancies occurred to date this year including 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

2015 House Purchases

Four purchases finalised and one purchase ongoing.

House Extensions

Work commenced on 12th October 2015 on extension in Carrigart.

Donegal Fabric Up-Grade Programme 2013

Work has been completed on 502 houses to date. A further 40 houses were to be advertised in the coming months for the next phase of the project.

Social Housing Investment Programme- SHIP 2015-2020

Further information has been submitted to the Department on the proposal for 30 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 was currently assessing a proposal for 24 houses on land in the Mountain Top area.

Tenant Purchase Scheme

E. Kelly, Area Manager advised the Members that the Department were currently finalising Information Booklet for Tenant Purchase Scheme and that each eligible tenant would be written to in the next couple of weeks. It was also agreed that each Member be sent a copy of Tenant Purchase Booklet.

S.I. Houses

Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid queried any update on the provision of SI Houses. L. Ward, Director advised that Donegal Social Housing Programme included a rolling programme for a number of SI houses each year. To date no funding has been provided but that contact could be made with the Department again in this regard.

Work on Vacant Properties

Cllr. L. Blaney queried the delay in getting minor works carried out on vacant properties prior to reletting.

E. Kelly, Area Manager outlined that when house was vacated, property was inspected prior to tenants vacating. Windows and central heating burner were serviced together with chimney cleaning and wiring inspected on all vacant houses as well as any other identified works.

Questions

MDL 122/16 FLOOD RELIEF

In answer to his question as to what progress had been made on the allocation of the €7 million flood relief to Donegal County Council from the Department of Transport, and what projects had been prioritised in our Electoral Area for this emergency funding, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

A full breakdown of the amount of money that this area had applied for and received, and a list of the roads to be treated with the allocated money was included in the Report to Members for this meeting.

MDL 123/16 SILVER TASSIE TO WOODLANDS ROAD

In answer to his question if the Council could have an update on the resurfacing of the road from the Silver Tassie to Woodlands school and would it need relaying due to the poor quality of the original job, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

Some sections of the surface were to be relayed when the weather was more suitable. Monies had been retained from the original contract, such that the repairs were at no cost to the Council

MDL 124/16 JOE BONNAR ROAD

In answer to his question as to what was the proposed time frame for the completion of the Joe Bonnar Road and the proposed new build adjacent to the Letterkenny Municipal offices, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

Under the Designated Urban Centres Grant Scheme, Donegal County Council was awarded a grant of €2M on foot of an application which consisted of the following works:

- *Construction of a Social Enterprise Centre on a site adjacent to the Letterkenny PSC*
- *Completion of the Joe Bonnar Road*
- *Improvement to Town Centre linkages with work to be carried out in a number of areas.*

The award of the €2 M grant was conditional on match funding being made available through the Council and that the work would be fully completed to allow for drawdown of the total grant funding by 31st December, 2018.

This project was therefore being viewed as having a three year timeframe over 2016, 2017 and 2018. It was anticipated that a Project Co-ordinator would be identified in the very near future to ensure that the works were completed by the 31st December 2018 deadline.

MDL 125/16 OLD ABBEY, KILMACRENNAN

In answer to his question as to when would works commence at bringing the Old Abbey in Kilmacrennan up to safety requirements so people can visit their loved ones again, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

The Council was not aware of any plans for conservation work in relation to Kilmacrennan Abbey at present.

MDL 126/16 NEW PUBLIC TOILETS - RATHMULLAN

In answer to his question as to when would the contract for the construction of the new public toilets in Rathmullan be tendered, and when do we see these facilities complete and delivered to the public, 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 incorporated; Ladies, Gents and Disabled Toilets with Family Changing Room facilities, Information Kiosk/Office and Maintenance Room.

Tender documents for appointment of Consultant to prepare tender contract documents and supervise construction were at an advanced stage. This tender was to include site investigation, archaeological monitoring and pre-development testing at the site.

MDL 127/16 DOG LITTER BINS

In answer to his question if the Council Could install one or two dog litter bins along the Thorn Road, Letterkenny, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that

At the request of a community group the Council would provide dog fouling bins and bags; however the group involved must commit to servicing the bins, as the Council did not have sufficient resources to do so around the County.

MDL 128/16 SLIEVE SNEACHT CLOSE

In answer to his question if the Council could tar the back lane at Slieve Sneacht Close, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

The Restoration Improvement programme having been agreed by members, there was currently no other budget for resurfacing works on public roads. Members may include for agreement in the 2017 RI programme.

MDL 129/16 ST. EUNAN'S COLLEGE

In answer to his question if there was any update on the road crossing at St.Eunan's College, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

This was addressed at a previous MDL meeting. There was no development since.

MDL 130/16 OUTDOOR STAFF - ROADS

In answer to his question as to how many outdoor staff in this Municipal Area were we currently employing for specifically roads only? And could he have a breakdown of how many workers per overseers areas and how much mileage in these areas? How many outdoor staff did we expect to be employing this year? Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised of the following

RSS Area	Km of Road	No of outdoor
LK Urban	82	11
LK Rural	341	8
Fanad	335	8
Carrickart	328	7
Total	1086	34

MDL 131/16 BARRIER – GLENMAQUIN N.S.

In answer to his question if any update in regards to his motion which recently got passed in relation to a safety barrier being erected at Glenmaquin N.S., Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

This had been assessed by Road Design and the installation of a Safety Barrier to specifications was not possible at this location. Road Design was looking at realignment options to bring back at further meeting.

MDL 132/16 PUBLIC TOILETS - RATHMULLAN

In answer to his question as to when does Donegal County Council intend to have the public toilets in Rathmullan advertised for tender, Cllr. L. Blaney 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 incorporated; Ladies, Gents and Disabled Toilets with Family Changing Room facilities, Information Kiosk/office and Maintenance Room.

Tender documents for appointment of Consultant to prepare tender contract documents and supervise construction were at an advanced stage. This tender is to include site investigation, archaeological monitoring and pre-development testing at the site.

MDL 133/16 MOYLE VIEW HOUSING ESTATE

In answer to his question as to when would the road improvements be completed at Moyle View Housing Estate in Milford, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

The Road Improvements on the agreed 2016 RI programme would be carried out between April and September of this year. Detailed programming for implementation of the RI programme across the County was currently being agreed. This would however be 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 134/16 FLOOD FUNDING

In answer to his question as to how much money had this area received from the recent allocation from the Department of Transport for our very severe damage to our roads during the floods and if we could have a breakdown of this for our Local and Regional Roads and what steps are being taken to prevent further damage happening in the future and if we could be presented with the list of roads, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

A full breakdown of the amount of money that this area had applied for and received, and a list of the roads to be treated with the allocated money was included in the Report to Members for this meeting.

MDL 135/16 LAND USE TRANSPORTATION STUDY

In answer to his question as to when was Road Design going to meet with us to discuss the Land Use Transportation Study that was done in and around Letterkenny so that we can implement some of the recommendations that are in it to alleviate traffic congestion, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

The recommendations from the Letterkenny Land Use and Transportation Study were all subject to funding which had not materialised since the study was carried out in 2009. The identified top priorities from the Land Use and Transportation Study included the construction of the Letterkenny Relief Road or "Bonagee Link" as it is called and the Joe Bonner Road, both of which remain the focus of attempts to obtain funding. It is not likely that the Letterkenny Land Use and Transportation Plan would be revisited until substantial

progress is made in relation to the currently identified priorities. More details are required on the specific agenda to be developed before a meeting with Road Design can be arranged.

MDL 136/16 TREES – AUGHNAGADDY, RAMELTON

In answer to his question as to what was the progress on the trees at Aughnagaddy, Ramelton, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

Roads had met with the landowner and the tree cutting contractor on site on Friday 5th February 2016, and the landowner had agreed to take out the overhanging hedge and cut the low level branches within the next couple of months and to cut other trees that would be an issue over a longer period (Due to the costly nature of the works and the requirement for a road closure the works would be carried out in stages). Under the Roads Act 1993, it was the landowners responsibility to ensure that trees, hedges and other vegetation growing on their land does, or could not become , a danger to people using the public road.

MDL 137/16 IRISH WATER

In answer to his question as to what if any is the communication between Irish Water & Council on their future role, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

No new communication had been issued by Irish Water regarding this matter.

MDL 138/16 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 12th April, 2016. The meeting would take place in Fanad to facilitate a visit to the refurbished Fanad Lighthouse.