

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING,
HELD IN LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY,
13th JANUARY, 2015 AT 2PM**

MDL 1/15 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

MDL 2/15 **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Liam Ward, Director of Service
Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate & Housing Services
Ciaran Martin, Community & Enterprise
Conal Mc Gettigan, A/Senior Executive Planner
Frances Friel, Staff Officer

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Michael Mc Bride.

MDL 3/15 **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Kavanagh seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle the Minutes of Municipal District of Letterkenny Meeting held on the 11th November, 2014 were adopted.

MDL 4/15 **REQUEST RECEPTION OF DEPUTATIONS**

The Members considered a request from SNAP (Special Needs Accessible Playpark) seeking to meet with the Municipal District members.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride, referred to a request that had been received from Fanad Lighthouse Development Committee to meet with the Municipal District members.

Cllr. Mike Quinn also referred to a request from Ramelton Tidy Towns Committee to meet with the Municipal District members.

Liam Ward advised the members that Standing Orders require that requests for deputations to be heard by the Municipal District members were to be submitted in writing 14 days before the date of the meeting.

A brief discussion followed and on the proposal of Cllr. L Blaney seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell the Members agreed to meet the 3 deputations as requested at the February Meeting. It was further agreed that going forward Standing Orders would be adhered to in relation to requests for deputation whereby all requests must be made in writing for consideration.

MDL 5/15 **COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES**

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

- Donegal Marathon planning a return for 2015 with a proposed route change and marketing plan to be developed.
- SNAP Charity – Request to meet with Municipal District to identify further options in terms of making the Town Parks in Letterkenny more accessible.
- Donegal Community & Economic Plan – work is ongoing on the plan and it is expected a draft will be available in the first quarter of 2015.
- Public Participation Network – Initial Meeting due to take place in January, following which representation will be selected to the various Council Committees.
- Donegal Age Friendly County Initiative –it is hoped to progress this initiative with the establishment of the local steering group, who will hold their first meeting in early January in Letterkenny.
- Fanad Lighthouse – Ongoing meeting to be scheduled with community to discuss development of the site and associated marketing plan.

Cllr D Shields requested that the MDL provide financial assistance to support the Donegal Marathon and the International Athletics Track Meeting at Letterkenny Aura on the 10th July and other athletics events in the M.D.L.

The Members thanked Ciaran Martin for his report with Cllr. G. Mc Monagle suggested that the Council consider meeting with the Athletic Club and Donegal Marathon Committee.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride congratulated the Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce for the x-mas lights, carol services etc in Letterkenny and also their initiative on setting up the Letterkenny Christmas Market.

MDL 6//15 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

The Members considered report previously circulated in relation to the following;

- Follow up from Meeting held on 11th November, 2014
 - Milford Town – new parapets have been placed on the Bunlin Bride, Milford.
 - Kerrykeel Footpaths – refurbishment of footpaths at Kerrykeel had been completed.
 - Pedestrian Crossing Lights Circular Road – Replacement of lights and widening of upper crossing and replacement of heads at lower crossing was proceeding.
 - Flooding Repairs (5th August, 2014) – Extensive repairs had been completed to most of the locations affected by the flooding. As of December 2014, the DOT has covered nearly 80% of the additional costs incurred by the MDL in this additional work.
 - Traffic Lights at Lennon View, Ramelton were to be replaced
 - Traffic Lights at Tesco Roundabout to be repaired the following week
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- MDL Bridge Strengthening Prioritisation List 2015

Fergal Doherty briefed Members on list of bridges recommended for prioritisation from the Roads Department in relation to application for funding in 2015 for Bridge Strengthening. He, advised that 127 bridges were inspected but that funding would only cover up to 3 bridges for structural maintenance and recommended the following;

1. Bridge No 3146 (or 90) at Castlegrove
2. Bridge No 3177 at Pluck
3. Bridge No 3161 (or 70) at Umlagh

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney, seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell the Members agreed that the above bridges be prioritised for funding in 2015. The Members also raised their concerns in relation to other bridges that are in a dangerous state and recommended that additional funding be sought for bridge strengthening.

MDL 7/15 **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Conal Mc Gettigan, A/Senior Executive Planner briefed Members on report previously circulated on following items;

- Development Applications Unit update
- Planning Enforcement Figures for 2014
- Taking-in-charge update
- Public safety Initiative & SRF update

07.01 **Letterkenny General Hospital**

Conal Mc Gettigan, A/Senior Executive Planner advised the Members that a member of Planning staff had been assigned to review all the planning files in relation to Letterkenny General Hospital and that a report was expected to be completed in 3 – 4 weeks.

Planning permission was required for trench works around Errigal College to solve flooding issue. Council Officials met with the HSE last week.

Cllr. D. Shiels referred to the second flooding incident at the Hospital in August 2014 and welcomed meeting with HSE. Cllr. D. Shiels outlined the need for an expert detailed report with retention application why HSE believe works now will prevent further flooding and referred to his concerns regarding HSE carrying out unauthorised works. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle welcomed report on building of the new Emergency Unit and on works to prevent future flooding but queried why flooding took place and why measures were not put in place to prevent flooding. Cllr. J. O'Donnell outlined his concerns at the remedial works being carried out at the Hospital were not adequate to address the matter. Cllr. L. Blaney asked that current Councillors on the HSE Forum outline the concerns of the Members and revert back to the Municipal District. Cllr. C. Brogan referred to briefing by HSE in September which he attended and whereby an indication was given that a full report would be available in November. However this report has not as yet been made available and outlined the need for the public to know what went wrong. HSE need to ensure that flooding does not re-occur. Cllr. M. Mc Bride also raised his concerns at the remedial works taking place and felt that drains should be concreted and requested that the Design Team be invited to come in to meet the MDL and explain new system.

C. Mc Gettigan advised that:

- Drain required Planning Permission
- Report due to be completed in 3 – 4 weeks
- HSE and DCC have had meetings
- HSE advised to submit a Section 5 Notice

MDL 8/15 **HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES**

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

- Progress Report – Grants/Loans Reports
- Progress Report – Casual Vacancies

A brief discussion followed with the Members raising their concerns in relation to the numbers of applicants refusing Council housing. The Members asked for further details on refusals and it was agreed that this matter would be discussed at Workshop agreed for 29th January, 2015.

In relation to Housing Grants, Cllr. J. O'Donnell asked for a report on what grounds grants refused. Cllr. J. Kavanagh also referred to the difficulty in securing Housing Loans.

L. Ward, Director advised that each Local Authority have a credit committee and that all loan applications were considered by the Housing Agency and the Council's Credit Committee before a decision was made.

Motions

MDL 9/15 **RAILING – CARRAIG CRAOIBH, LETTERKENNY**

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

That this Council as a matter of urgency and in the interest of residents safety install a railing at the lower end of the green at Carraig Craoibh Letterkenny.

The Members were informed that;

This is a private estate over which the Council have no remit. Further information in relation to the requested location of railing is required. If deemed appropriate, Roads will procure cost estimate for same, for consideration from maintenance budget.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to the substantial drop and hazard for children. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle outlined that previous works had been carried out by the Town Council. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle also referred to the steep gradient in this estate and queried the possibility of a safety barrier to prevent cars from going over the green in icy conditions. F. Doherty, Area Manager advised that he would look into the status of this estate and revert back to the Members.

MDL 10/15 FOOTPATH AUDIT – LONG LANE

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry Mc Monagle seconded by Cllr J. Kavanagh, the following motion was adopted;

That this Council carry out an audit of footpaths on the Long Lane and where necessary carry out repairs.

The Members were informed that;

Roads can carry out an audit and include in the 2015 footpath prioritisation list to be agreed with Councillors.

MDL 11/15 SNAP CHARITY

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

That this Council pledges to continue to work in partnership with SNAP (special needs accessible play park) Group and that we convene a meeting with the group soon to discuss future funding and programs to provide accessible play equipment for our Parks.

The Members were informed that;

DCC will continue to work in partnership with SNAP to develop the accessible play options available in Letterkenny. We will convene a meeting to discuss all possible options open to us in the Town Parks and will bring any agreed plans to the members in due course.

There was no budget allocated to the project in 2014 to cover payments but the group are welcome to submit an expression of interest to the 2015 Strategic Development Fund, where members may make an allocation to SNAP.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle hoped that the Municipal District could continue with the long association this Charity had with the Town Council and welcomed decision to meet a deputation at the February Meeting.

MDL 12/15 BALLYMACOOL TERRACE

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

That this Council consult with residents in the Ballymacool Terrace area of Letterkenny to determine what residents would like the Council to do to prevent further incidents of crime in that area, in particular

with a view to considering if an additional CCTV system should be installed in the area and whether additional or different lighting is needed.

The Members were informed that;

Roads have no issue in such consultation taking place following the identification of a budget for any works that might arise such as upgrading of lights or installation of a CCTV system or other such identified requirements. With regards to crime prevention, the Residents should liaise with the Gardai

On proposing the motion Cllr. D. Shiels referred to Ballymacool as one of the oldest residential areas of Letterkenny and would like to see the Council consult with the residents and offer support in whatever way possible.

MDL 13/15 AUDIT – LIGHTING/FOOTPATHS

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

That this Council carry out an audit of areas of built up residential areas in the Letterkenny Municipal District in relation to Public lighting and public footpaths to establish where gaps exist in lighting and footpaths that need to be resolved and present that audit to the next earliest possible meeting of this Council with a view to considering how these issues may be resolved/prioritised.

The Members were informed that;

A full survey of all public lighting within the MDL built up areas is outside of the scope of the Roads Section under current staffing compliment. Identified deficiencies are addressed as they arise. With regards to public footpaths, identified locations where deficiencies exist were notified to Councillors late in 2014, and additionally identified locations are added to this list. Whilst a certain amount of footpath repairs can be carried out under the maintenance budgets, capital works funding must first be identified before new footpaths can be constructed. Councillors to agree on a prioritised list of footpaths to be repaired/constructed, pending the identification of funding.

On proposing the motion Cllr. D. Shiels referred to certain areas such as Lismonaghan that had gaps in certain locations and the need to join up these gaps. Cllr. D. Shiels outlined that he would like to see the Council focus on small areas to progress improved footpaths and lighting and would like all areas to be listed and prioritised.

On seconding the motion Cllr. I. Mc Garvey also acknowledged works needed in Lismonaghan areas and the need for non-skid surface on corners.

MDL 14/15 CANCER CARE TREATMENT

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

That this Council shall write to the Minister for Health to request that he explain in writing (1) why exactly it is still deemed acceptable by the Minister and his Government for gravely ill Donegal persons to have to travel to Dublin and Galway for Cancer care and treatment and (2) when exactly he plans to remedy this issue and upgrade the cancer care services at Letterkenny General Hospital.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels referred to the stress to patients travelling to Dublin and Galway for treatment which had a negative impact on their recovery and asked that the Council write to the Minister in this regard.

Cllr. I. Mc Garvey on seconding the motion outlined that this was a serious issue referring to the need for unity in treatment of people. Cllr. I. Mc Garvey also referred to the great facilities close by in Derry and Belfast.

L. Ward, Director outlined that this motion had wider implications for all Donegal citizens and that the motion should therefore be brought to County level.

MDL 15/15 ROADWORKS - WOODLANDS

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

That the Council allocate money to deal with the disaster created at Woodlands from Discretionary or other Funds as it is high Risk and unsafe at present, on one of the busiest Roads in Donegal.

The Members were informed that;

As previously outlined, in 2014 the Dept of Transport terminated the Specific Improvement Grant and Strategic Grant programmes in order to maximise the funding available for repair and strengthening work. In the longer term, it is not likely that the unfinished section at Woodlands will be completed until these Grants are reintroduced. For the Council to allocate money from the Discretionary funding is a matter for plenary Council. In accordance with Standing Orders,

Motions relating to county-wide and strategic issues should be submitted to plenary Council. Accordingly this motion cannot be dealt with at Municipal District.

On proposing the motion Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to his disappointment at lack of progress on this road and also that the widening should have taken place at other side of road.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that application should be made to the Department for this funding with this road being one of the busiest non national roads in the Country. Cllr. L. Blaney asked that a letter be sent from the Municipal District to the Minister and Local T.D.'s. Cllr. I. Mc Garvey agreed with this amendment but on condition that if the Council is unsuccessful in securing Department funding that the Council allocate funding to this road.

MDL 16/15 SEWERAGE TREATMENT

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

That the Council clarify what is the Members Role now to Progress Sewerage Treatment in the Towns in our M.D from now on and is there a Programme ready to deal with the Problems.

The Members were informed that;

The programming of water services capital works is a matter for Irish Water.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey asked if Irish Water could be invited in to meet the Council. L. Ward, Director advised that Irish Water were now responsible for this area and that they would be holding regular clinics in each municipal district going forward.

MDL 17/15 WATER SUPPLY - RATHMULLAN

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

That the Administrative Section informs Members on any Programme for our M.D on the proposed Water supply promised for Rathmullan and Timescale.

The Members were informed that;

The programming of water services capital works is a matter for Irish Water.

MDL 18/15 HOUSING CRISIS

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

That this meeting discuss ways and means of how best to address the serious housing crisis in Letterkenny. It is feared that numbers in the county on waiting lists could hit 5,000 by the end of this year.

The Members were informed that;

There are at present a total of 2,245 applicants qualified as being in need of Social Housing Support in the county. 825 of these reside in the Letterkenny Municipal District with 527 having expressed Letterkenny town/environs area as their preferred area of choice.

Arising from the recently announced Social Housing Strategy 2020, the Council are presently drawing up a Programme to target the provision of accommodation through a combination of local authority direct build and the provision by Approved Housing Bodies (AHB).

It is envisaged that approximately 600 units will be made available to the Council and these will be distributed across the County based on the level of need in each Municipal District.

In addition to the provision of these units by the Council and the AHB's, it is likely that a significant number of the qualified applicants need will be met under the proposed new Housing Assistance Payment arrangement when it becomes operational.

On proposing the motion Cllr. J. Mc Daid referred to the increase need for social housing and that social housing must be the main priority in next election campaign. Cllr. J. Mc Daid referred to Government's policy of no longer funding S.I. Houses and Rural cottages. Cllr. J. Mc Daid asked that this MD invite Minister Alan Kelly to see first hand the housing crisis in this area.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. C. Brogan welcomed the Housing Workshop scheduled for Thursday 29th January, 2015. Cllr. C. Brogan also referred to the urgency in having SI's in rural Ireland top of the Agenda and asked that this matter be addressed at Workshop and a case sent to the Minister in this regard.

MDL 19/15 ROAD - CARRIGART

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

That Donegal County Council take over the section of road from Patrick Marley's house in Tullagh Carrigart, past five dwelling houses (ending at Martin Cullen's house in Tullagh Upper - this road also leads onto Commonage Hill and also to bog serving 27 families for turf cutting and sheep farming.

The Members were informed that;

DCC will consider taking over, following the adoption of the policy on 'Takeover of Roads' by the SPC, and subject to the conditions outlined therein.

Whether or not the Council take over a specific road, depends on a number of factors, including:

- *Existence of written consent from the private owner, requesting that the Council consider taking over.*
- *Current state of the road.*
- *Financial implications of Councils maintaining the road.*
- *Number of residences served by the road, and whether the road is of general public utility.*
- *Legal implications of existing 'right of ways' or other legal rights, and the cost of any required rectification/regularisation.*

Upon deciding that it is in the public interest to take over a road, then the official procedure including public consultation in accordance with the Roads Act 1993 is followed.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Mc Daid welcomed the response given and outlined the need to request the re-introduction of LIS Schemes particularly in Donegal with narrow roads etc.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell also referred to the urgency of having LIS Schemes re-introduced as former LIS Roads will become impassable.

MDL 20/15 HOUSING UNITS – GLENDALE DRIVE

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

I propose that this Council abandon its plans to build housing units in the open space area of Glendale Drive.

The Members were informed that;

This scheme previously has been part of 2008-2011 Social Housing Programme and the action plan; however, it did not proceed further at the time due to funding constraints.

The Council submitted the project to the Department for consideration as part of the 2014 Housing Programme due to large waiting list in Letterkenny and fact that this proposal was developed. The proposal was approved in March 2014 as part of the National Job stimulus package, and funding of €850,853 approved for the scheme.

The proposed site was a parcel of land left over at the end on the scheme and had been subject to dumping and damage to the boundary fence. The proposed design should close off the 'gap' at the end of the scheme, secure the area so as to eliminate the possibility of any antisocial behaviour being encouraged due to this area.

The existing housing scheme at Glendale Drive contains 4 no. open spaces constituting 15.3 % of the overall area. It was felt that the overall development will be enhanced and completed by the addition of this proposal and that there was ample open space and a play ground facility already existing in the scheme.

Part 8 will be considered at Council Meeting Scheduled for Monday 26th January, 2014.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. C. Brogan outlined that this proposed development was a major issue for residents and formally proposed that the Council abandon its proposal to erect units and give residents peace of mind. Cllr. C. Brogan referred to alternative Council owned lands in this part of town that could be used. Cllr. C. Brogan asked for full support of the Members that a strong message be sent from this Municipal District that plans have been abandoned. Cllr. C. Brogan outlined that all his party colleagues would be opposing this proposed development at County level.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. Mc Daid outlined his reasons for objection to the proposal namely, high density location, non adherence with disability guidelines etc.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to his question on this matter and did not accept answer given. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to Glendale Drive being an established estate and that residents could not tolerate construction traffic over a 6 month period etc.

Cllr. L. Blaney acknowledged views of the Members outlining that other areas were more advanced for development but that Letterkenny deemed as greatest need.

L. Ward advised that the Part 8 for the proposal would be considered at a future Council Meeting

MDL 21/15 URBAN GARDEN – PADDY HARTE ROAD

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

I propose that this Council name the new works undertaken on the Paddy Harte Road in memory of the late Jim Mc Cormick former Chairman Letterkenny Tidy Towns.

On proposing the motion Cllr. C. Brogan outlined that previous discussions had taken place in honouring the late Jim Mc Cormick and formally proposed that the new works be called “*Jim Mc Cormick Urban Garden*”. Cllr. C. Brogan outlined that this would be a great tribute to Jim and to Tidy Towns with Letterkenny being one of the tidiest towns in Ireland.

MDL 22/15 DERELICT BUILDINGS REGISTER

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Kavanagh seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle the following motion was adopted;

That the MD update the Derelict Buildings Register, and follow up where owners are failing to deal with issues arising from derelict buildings, particularly in housing estates.

The Members were informed that;

The Derelict Sites Register is managed by the Central Planning Unit, County House, Lifford, in accordance with the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act 1990. It defines a “derelict site” to mean any land which detracts, or is likely to detract, to a material degree from the amenity, character or appearance of land in the neighbourhood of the land in question because of—

- (a) the existence on the land in question of structures which are in a ruinous, derelict or dangerous condition,*
- or*
- (b) the neglected, unsightly or objectionable condition of the land or any structures on the land in question, or*
- (c) the presence, deposit or collection on the land in question of any litter, rubbish, debris or waste, except where the presence, deposit or collection of such litter, rubbish, debris or waste results from the exercise of a right conferred by statute or by common law.*

Where an individual wishes to make a complaint in respect of an alleged derelict site/structure/land they are asked to make the complaint in writing, providing certain information including their name, address, contact details and information in respect of the owner of the premises and where they live, together with a map or drawing providing directions to the property. The site is inspected by the local Housing Engineer and where action is deemed necessary contact is made with the

owner by the Central Planning Unit, requesting that the dereliction be remedied."

On proposing the motion Cllr. J. Kavanagh outlined that the Derelict Sites issue was brought up many times at Town Council level but resources were available. Cllr. J. Kavanagh referred to derelict sites being a magnet for anti-social behaviour and that the Council can put a levy of between 3% to 5% of value of building.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle outlined that this was a major problem in certain areas of town and that owners should be penalised. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle also referred to need to speed up this process.

MDL 23/15 REVAMP MARKET SQUARE

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Kavanagh seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle the following motion was adopted;

That the Council carry out a revamp of the Market Square in Letterkenny.

The members were informed that;

There is currently no identified budget for a revamp of the Market Square in Letterkenny. Councillors may choose to allocate from the General Municipal Allocation following budget announcement.

On proposing the motion Cllr. J. Kavanagh advised that time rather than budget was required at this stage with need for trees to be cut down and sculpture badly tarnished. Cllr. J. Kavanagh also referred to possibility of having an explanation displayed on what hiring fair was all about and need to repair lighting etc. Cllr. J. Kavanagh asked that the Town Gardener be involved re landscaping etc.

On seconding the motion Cllr. G. Mc Monagle asked that the Council consider putting this out to Architects/LYIT students to get their thoughts/drawings etc.

MDL 24/15 BLACK'S BRIDGE, GLENCAR

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

That the Council install a continuous white line from Black's Bridge, Glencar to the Gaelscoil Adhamnáin along with speed ramps at the Gaelscoil in order to reduce speed around this area, as there have been many accidents here in the past.

The Members were informed that;

A road safety scheme was carried out at Blacks Bridge in 2013 whereby Chevron signs, warning signs, Lining, traffic calming islands, horizontal traffic calming and a speed ramp just below Blacks Bridge were installed. The Accident database shows no accidents at this location since the implementation of these measures. Significant safety works were also implemented at the Gaelscoil as part of the new school extension last year. Contractors have already been engaged to put down a continuous white line from Blacks Bridge to the Gaelscoil; however no further works are currently planned in this area.

On proposal the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell asked that if the works carried out did not solve the problems that the address the speed issue so that Gardai could police if necessary.

MDL 25/15 SPEED LIMITS DRY ARCH – POLE STAR ROUNDABOUTS

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

That the municipal area with immediate effect begin work on a revised design and review of the speed limits on the Port Road between the Dry Arch and Pole Star Roundabouts taking into consideration traffic flow filtering on to the port road from the Lurgybrack Road.

The Members were informed that;

Design options are currently being reviewed by the NRADO with a view to determining whether to:

- 1. Proceed with the original 2006 Part 8 proposal as they stand (central reserve and reduced speed limit)*
- 2. Proceed with the original 2006 proposals with additional works to make the junctions work for HGVs (this could involve major realignment works at Cullion)*
- 3. Re-examine the 2011 proposal with a view to fresh consultation and Part 8*

Once NRADO have completed this process examining all the options above they intend to revert to the NRA to progress the preferred option. Once at this stage a workshop with MD members presenting an update on how they intend to proceed will be arranged.

On proposing the motion Cllr. M. Mc Bride welcomed options given referring also to the need to reduce speed on this road.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels outlined that this was raised at previous meeting reiterating the need to reduce speed limits. Cllr. D. Shiels referred to the proposal for a barrier outlining that businesses

were not in favour of same and would like to see a trial period of speed reduction and cameras installed.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride asked re possibility of having a workshop on this issue whereby all Members could have their say with F. Doherty, Area Manager advising that the NRA have the responsibility in this matter.

MDL 26/15 BALLAGHERG ROUNDABOUT

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

That a review be carried out on the safety of motorists exiting houses closest to the roundabout at the Ballagherg side of the Mountain Top Roundabout who are turning right towards Letterkenny

The Members were informed that;

Roads can carry out an audit and establish what works if any are appropriate.

Cllr. L. Blaney also asked that the Council re-examine the turn into Curragheas with currently no right turn available.

MDL 27/15 SAND DUNES

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

That this Council put plans in place immediately to prevent any further erosion of sand dunes at Magherawarden, Portsalon and White Shore, Ballyheernan.

The Members were informed that;

The Council is aware of the potential for the erosion of sand dunes at these and many other locations throughout the County and is engaging with the relevant authorities in relation to the options and measures that may be available to prevent further erosion.

On proposing the motion Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that the sand dunes are currently being eroded with excessive damage carried out these last few months with a fear of dunes washing into Portsalon Golf Course. Cllr. L. Blaney asked that the Council address this issue immediately.

MDL 28/15 IRISH WATER METERS

In answer to his question if the Council can please inform him if any notifications is required from Irish Water Meter Installers to the Council before they begin work installing Water Meters on our footpaths and furthermore do they have to comply with the normal Health and Safety guidelines in relation to Safe Pass, Traffic Management, Pedestrian safety, Warning Tape etc and do the council oversee or investigate compliance with Health and Safety regulations of the Water Metre Installers?, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that;

There is a protocol in place which requires Irish Water to routinely notify the Council of the meter installation work programme. They are required to reinstate the footpath to the previously existing condition. The Council has no oversight role in relation to the work of Irish Water contractors.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle pointed out that Irish Water did not leave footpaths in the same standard as other contractors and queried who was responsible for checking footpaths when finished.

L. Ward, Director advised that Irish Water do not need a licence to open roadway but that if Council has concerns on standards that these can be raised locally. L. Ward advised that concerns will be brought to the attention of Water Services Director.

MDL 29/15 PLUNKETT O'BOYLE TERRACE

In answer to his question if as a matter of urgency can the necessary road repairs be carried out at Plunkett O Boyle Tce, Letterkenny before it deteriorates any further, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that;

Emergency road repairs are being carried out on Plunkett O Boyle Terrace. With regards to permanent works, an approximate cost will be established for consideration at the Roads Road Improvement and Road Maintenance Workshop on 27th January, at which the 2015 programme will be discussed.

MDL 30/15 GLENDALE DRIVE

In answer to his question as to who made the decision to use a Part 8 process to develop the green area at Glendale Drive, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that;

This scheme previously has been part of 2008-2011 Social Housing Programme and the action plan; however, it did not proceed further at the time due to funding constraints.

The Council submitted the project to the Department for consideration as part of the 2014 Housing Programme due to large waiting list in

Letterkenny and fact that this proposal was developed. The proposal was approved in March 2014 as part of the National Job stimulus package, and funding of €850,853 approved for the scheme.

The proposed site was a parcel of land left over at the end on the scheme and had been subject to dumping and damage to the boundary fence. The proposed design should close off the 'gap' at the end of the scheme, secure the area so as to eliminate the possibility of any antisocial behaviour being encouraged due to this area.

The existing housing scheme at Glendale Drive contains 4 no. open spaces constituting 15.3 % of the overall area. It was felt that the overall development will be enhanced and completed by the addition of this proposal and that there was ample open space and a play ground facility already existing in the scheme.

MDL 31/15 SNAP CHARITY

In answer to his question if the Council can agree to designate in consultation with the SNAP charity a further additional area in the Ballymacool Town Park for an additional special needs accessible play park and also discharge the outstanding installation costs of equipment recently provided by the Charity, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that

DCC will continue to work in partnership with SNAP to develop the accessible play options available in Letterkenny. We will convene a meeting to discuss all possible options open to us in the Town Parks and will bring any agreed plans to the members in due course.

There was no budget allocated to the project in 2014 to cover payments but the group are welcome to submit an expression of interest to the 2015 Strategic Development Fund, where members may make an allocation to SNAP.

MDL 32/15 LIGHT – COMMUNITY CENTRE

In answer to his question if the Council can arrange to provide a new light at the Pearse Road at the entrance to the Community Centre to avoid further accidents, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that

There is currently an existing public light adjacent to one entrance , and one opposite the other entrance to the Community Centre, and whilst this location is no less lit than the remainder of the road, Roads will procure an estimate from ESB networks for the erection of an additional pole lighting and civil works. There is currently no programme for 'Cllr Lights' and as such funding for implementation will require identification should it be deemed required.

MDL 33/15 ROAD SURFACE - CONWAL

In answer to his question if the Council can carry out the necessary remedial works to the road surface at Conwal, Letterkenny to repair the road surface where the tar macadam has lifted or is damaged/broken so as to render same safe for cyclists and other road users in that area, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

Temporary repairs will be carried out where required. With regards to permanent works, this location can be consideration at the Roads Road Improvement and Road Maintenance Workshop on 27th January, at which the 2015 programme will be discussed.

MDL 34/15 UNFINISHED ESTATES

In answer to his question as to what is the correct number of unfinished estates in Donegal listed and are there any fully completed, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

The total number of unfinished estates in the Council was recorded by the Department as being 67 no. estates as based on its 'National Housing Development Survey, 2013'. Of these 67, 16 no. are contained within the MD of Letterkenny area. None of these estates are considered to be fully completed.

MDL 35/15 HOUSING

In answer to his question if the € 481,095.87c approved for Housing has been allocated and for what purpose, will we provide matching funding and at what level, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that

The total provision for Housing Maintenance for the County in 2015 is €2,825,768. Of this the Revenue provision is €877,268 with the balance of €1,948,500 coming from the Internal Capital Receipts Account.

The budget primarily includes provision for both routine maintenance and the carrying out of repairs to vacant stock together with the payment of property tax.

The budget for payment of the property tax and repair of vacant properties is retained at Headquarters with the remainder allocated to each District based on the number of units to be maintained.

It is expected that based on the adopted Budget, the allocation for the Letterkenny district for routine maintenance will be €428,450.

MDL 36/15 RIVER LENNON

In answer to his question if the Staff of this M.D will carry out a Survey of the possible Angling Hatchery Development potential of the River Lennon from the Quay in Ramelton to Gartan Lake and do the

same for the Lackagh River along with all Angling Clubs already in existence, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

The Council will make contact with Inland Fishers Ireland to make enquiries with regard to the angling potential of the River Lennon and River Lackagh. A report will be brought back to Members when information is to hand.

MDL 37/15 ROAD WORKERS

In answer to his question if the Council any plans to re-employ the temporary road workers in the Letterkenny Electoral Area, Cllr. J. Mc Daid was advised that

It is likely that a number of temporary workers will be required from the 'Seasonal Workers' panel in the new year, however the exact number depends on the allocated budgets yet to be announced.

MDL 38/15 PATCHING WORKS - CONWAL

In answer to his question if the Council can revisit re-visit where the patching was carried out between Letterkenny and Conwall Graveyard (R250)? It is obvious more needs to be carried out, Cllr. J. Mc Daid was advised that;

Temporary repairs will be carried out where required. With regards to permanent works, this location can be consideration at the Roads Road Improvement and Road Maintenance workshop on 27th January, at which the 2015 programme will be discussed.

MDL 39/15 TOWN FORUM

In answer to his question as to when will we have our first meeting of the town forum as agreed by this Council, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

Contact will be made with relevant bodies to convene a meeting in the near future and the Council can confirm that a meeting of the Gateway Economic Forum is scheduled to be held in the coming month.

MDL 40/15 FAIRWAYS ESTATE

In answer to his question if there are any further update on the work planned for Fairways Estate to alleviate sewage issues, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

The contractor has been appointed and should be on site within the next 3 weeks. It is expected that it will take two months to complete the work.

MDL 41/15 ROAD SAFETY

In answer to his question if there any update on the road safety concerns at Illistrin, Lurgybrack and Brownknowe National schools, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

With regards to Illistrin and Lurgybrack, these requests have been referred to the DCC Road Safety Engineer for engagement with the schools and consideration of the issues relating. Findings will be brought to a future MD Meeting. Brownknowe School was discussed at the MDL Meeting of 14th October and the response of that meeting still applies.

MDL 42/15 ELMWOOD DOWNS

In answer to his question if there has there been any progress on getting the play area at Elmwood Downs cleaned up, so that it can be used as a play area, as previously discussed with the council, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

As previously agreed with the Council, a clean up is currently ongoing to leave the area accessible for the residents to use.

MDL 43/15 FOOTPATH ROAD OPENING

In answer to his question if the Council can let him know what permits and notifications are required to open a footpath in a housing estate, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

A Road Opening permit is required to open a footpath on a public road for a private developer. Under the Water Services Act 2013, Irish Water as a state body do not require individual road opening permits to install meters.

MDL 44/15 TRAFFIC CALMING - KILMACRENNAN

In answer to his question if the Council can give an update on what they are going to do about putting traffic calming devices in Kilmacrennan in order to slow traffic down, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that

As per previous meeting, this request has been referred to the DCC Road Safety Engineer. Findings will be brought to a future MD Meeting.

MDL 45/15 ROAD GRITTING

In answer to his question if the Council can hold a meeting where we look at the road gritting plan as I have a number of roads that need to be addressed, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that

As per workshops in relation to Salting Routes, that were held in previous years, this is a County wide issue and must be addressed at plenary Council.

MDL 46/15 DISABILITY ACCESS

In answer to his question if a date can be set to walk Letterkenny with local disability groups with a view to improving access and facilities for them in Letterkenny, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that

A date can be set following the allocation by Councillors of an amount from the MDL budget for improvement of facilities. An audit by 'Age Friendly' was recently carried out identifying measures for which no budget has been identified to date.

MDL 47/15 FLOODING KILMACRENNAN

In answer to his question as to who is responsible for emergency safety measures to prevent flooding at Abbey Village in Kilmacrennan when we experience exceptionally high volumes of water similar to the days in the run up to Christmas, Cllr. M. Bride was advised that;

Abbey Village is a private estate and responsibility for safety measures lies with the owners. The Council however, have in the past supplied sand bags to Abbey Village in a time of emergency, and again in the run up to Christmas further bags were supplied. This however does not remove the onus on the private owners to implement mitigation solutions in a timely manner such that emergency situations do not arise in the future.

MDL 48/15 BALLYMACOOL AREA DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

In answer to his question if the Council will along with other relevant bodies arrange for directional signage in all the estates in the Ballymacool Area, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

Council do not have any remit in private estates. With regards to public estates, further information in relation to the requested signage is required such that a price can be established for consideration. Councillors may choose to allocate from the General Municipal Allocation following budget announcement.

Cllr. L. Blaney advised that emergency services had difficulty finding houses and if a map could be given to them in the interim from planning file pending funding to erect signs.

MDL 49/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The following meetings were agreed:

Housing Workshop to be held on Thursday, 29th January, 2015 at 10am in Milford Public Services Centre.

Roads Workshop to be held on Thursday, 29th January, 2015 at 2pm in Milford Public Services Centre.

Community & Enterprise Workshop to be held on Tuesday, 10th February, 2015 at 10am in Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

Reception of Deputations – Tuesday 10th February, 2015 in Letterkenny Public Services Centre

Snap Charity – 1.15pm
Fanad Lighthouse – 1.30pm
Ramelton Tidy Towns – 1.45pm

It was agreed that the next meeting of Municipal District of Letterkenny would be held in Letterkenny Public Services Centre on 10th February, 2015 at 2pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting.