

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING,
HELD IN THE LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE,
LETTERKENNY, ON TUESDAY, 10th NOVEMBER, 2015 AT 2PM**

MDL 432/15 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. Mike Quinn
Cllr. Dessie Shiels

MDL 433/15 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
Dearn Mc Clintock, Waste Regulation Officer, Environment
Denis Kelly, Senior Executive Planner, Planning
Sinead Harkin, Executive Planner, Planning
Margaret Fitzgerald, Planning

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

MDL 434/15 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Mc Bride seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell the Minutes of Municipal District of Letterkenny Meeting held on 13th October, 2015 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Mc Bride, seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell, the Minutes of Budget Meeting held on 28th October, 2015 were adopted.

MDL 435/15 WESTHILL ESTATE

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

That we include the complete resurfacing of the road at West Hill, Letterkenny in next years Roads Budget.

The Members were informed that;

The 2016 Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance programmes would be decided on by the members in the near future.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle asked that the Council complete the road improvements out of this year's budget. Cllr. D. Shiels referred to Westhill being one of the most established estates in the town and asked that it be given priority.

MDL 436/15 OPEN SPACE AREAS – MANOR VIEW

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

That we put in place a programme for the refurbishment of the open areas at Manor view, Letterkenny.

The Members were informed that;

There was currently no programme of budget designated for the refurbishment of open areas in housing developments.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle outlined that Manor View Estate was taken over by the Council and that the open space areas in the estate were overgrown and unsightly. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle asked that the Council put in place a programme to refurbish the playing areas and eradicate this eyesore. On seconding the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle outlined that this had previously been discussed at Town Council level and that any refurbishment would make a huge difference to the area.

MDL 437/15 ACCESS TO SEVEN SEA ARCHES

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

That this Municipal District make a CPO or other arrangement to access the Seven sea Arches on Lough Swilly at Portsalon, Co Donegal.

The Members were informed that;

The Council would carry out a land search in respect of these lands and revert back to the Council in due course.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey asked that the Council enter into negotiations with residents in the area. Cllr. L. Blaney on seconding the motion asked that Cllr. I. Mc Garvey withdraw proposal

to make a CPO and enter dialogue first. This was agreed by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey who also asked that the “Great Arch” be included in this motion. This was agreed.

MDL 438/15 ACCESS TO AGHADAHOR AREA & BEACH

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

That this Municipal District insists that public access to Aghadahor Area & Beach for Residents & others be restored to pre development Status.

The Members were informed that;

The matter of the access to Aghadachor Beach was examined by DCC Planning Enforcement in 2013, and 2014. (Refers: UD 13/194) The case was also the subject of a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman, and the Ombudsman has since closed this case on the basis the Council have provided assistance and explanation to their satisfaction.

The current access arrangements to the Cuan na Ri (Aghadachor Development) had been authorised by several grants of Planning Permission, including Plan. Reg.No: 10/40242, and were not a matter for Planning Enforcement.

In addition, this matter was raised at plenary Council level on foot of a previous motion by Cllr. McGarvey. In dealing with the matter at the time, the Council’s Law Agent attended a meeting of the Council where the matter was discussed in great detail.

Arising from that meeting, it was recognised by the Council that this was primarily a Civil Matter, but that a further effort would be made through the Mayor of the Municipal District at the time to meet will all parties to ascertain if the Council could assist in brokering an acceptable outcome for all concerned. Following this meeting, the Mayor at the time extended an invitation to all parties to participate in the process agreed by Council. There was no take up from any party to the invitation issued and the matter rests there.

On proposing the motion Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to residents in the area who were seeking re-establishment of right of access which they enjoyed for centuries and asked that the Council clarify the situation. C. Mc Gettigan, Planning confirmed that current access arrangements were compliant as per planning permission.

L. Ward, Director confirmed as per answer that this was a Civil Matter and that arrangements had been put in place to meet with all parties which had not been taken up.

Cllr L. Blaney mentioned allegations on Face book that members accepted money from the developer that require to be clarified by the objectors.

Cllr G. Mc Monagle advised that himself and Cllr M. Quinn, along with Deputy Pdraig MacLochlainn, had met the group and hoped to get agreement from both sides to enter discussions and to address the issues through this process.

MDL 439/15 HARBOURMASTER FOR RATHMULLAN

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

That this Municipal District appoint a Harbourmaster for Rathmullan and all Harbours and Piers within the Letterkenny MD.

The Members were informed that;

Donegal had over 150 Piers and Harbours of varying sizes and level of business around the coast. The Council employ two Harbour Masters. One is based in Burtonport and the other is based in Greencastle. Killybegs had a Harbour Master but they were employed by the Department of Marine. In addition to the two Harbour Masters, the Council had some part-time people who have a very limited role on certain piers and harbours. The day-to-day control and operation of most of the piers and harbours was accomplished through cooperation among harbour users and with the Council intervening from time to time when particular issues arise. The harbours were considered to be a shared space for many activities such as fishing, leisure boating, ferries, lorry movements, boat repairs, storage and the like and often the successful operation and maintaining the facilities in a clean, tidy and safe condition for all users requires cooperation and respect from a number of people. In general, this occurs every day on the piers. There had been a few cases where the Council had had to intervene through its Marine Section and at times delineate certain spaces and reach agreements between users. Some of the piers and harbours had bye-laws which can be enforced.

With regard to the request in the motion to employ a Harbour Master specifically for Rathmullan Pier and other Letterkenny Municipal District piers such as Ramelton, Ballywhoriskey, Portsalon, Downings and the others, it was recommended that firstly the Council consider the issues that the Harbour Master would be expected to address together with how enforcement would be conducted in a measured way. Then the justification of providing funding for a full-time harbour master and travel costs between so many piers over quite a long distance should be considered against the direct benefits. It might be possible to accomplish the bulk of the benefits by other means from occasional intervention by Council and the formation of pier user groups to provide a level of self-compliance with what is expected in

the normal course of using a pier. The money that would be spent on the Harbour Master quite possibly could be spent on minor improvements or facilities at the piers over a period of time.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey outlined that the employment of a Harbour Master would be of great interest and benefit to the community assisting to control activities etc. On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell referred to an incident in Downings last year where a number of boats were set free which would benefit from a Harbour Master. Cllr. J. O'Donnell outlined his support for the motion especially for a Harbour Master in Rathmullan who could also assist in the maintenance of the proposed toilet facilities for Rathmullan.

MDL 440/15 SAFETY BARRIER – GLENCAR

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

That the Municipal District of Letterkenny area install a safety barrier to protect the footpath between the Ard Ri Pub and The Grange in the Glencar area of Letterkenny.

The Members were informed that;

Safety barriers were not a suitable structure to be erected adjacent to a footpath, partly because they operate on a design basis of having a clear 'working width'. More details were required on the specific issue.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to the possibility of a vehicle involved in an accident mounting the footpath. Cllr. M. Mc Bride asked that the Council consider building a solid clay bank at a certain height to protect the footpath. On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh outlined that this area was very busy with walkers and asked that the Council address the issue. F. Doherty, Area Manager advised that the Council would look into this and revert back to the Members.

MDL 441/15 MC DONALDS JUNCTION

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

That the junction at Mc Donalds be reviewed with a view to the smoother flow of traffic as this never was supposed to be a long term structure.

The Members were informed that;

There were documented land issues (insufficient land) that prevented the implementation of previously designed improvements to this junction. These can be further investigated pending the identification of funding.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride outlined that there was no problem with the flow of traffic but that a number of businesses in the area were severely affected by the way the junction was designed. Cllr. Mc. Bride advised that a number of businesses had indicated that they would not pay commercial rates under the matter is resolved. On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid asked that this junction be prioritised in the interest of the businesses in the area.

MDL 442/15 TRENTAGH JUNCTION

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

That we have our Engineers look at the Trentagh Junction at Jim Johnson's to see if articulated lorries can be accommodated to make left turns when travelling from Kilmacrennan towards Glenswilly/Church Hill.

The Members were informed that;

This junction (where the L1512-3 (Letterkenny to Trentagh Road) meets the L1522-1 (Kilmacrennan to Trentagh Road), had been reviewed by DCC Engineers. Due to the significant difference in gradient and acute horizontal angle of alignment between both roads at this junction, there was insufficient room to modify this junction for articulated lorries. To implement a design for the accommodation of articulated lorries would require land take and a new 'slip' road some distance from the junction. There was currently no funding available for construction of same.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride acknowledged the response given but referred to vehicles turning at Joe Harley's carpark. M. Mc Bride referred to the anti-social behaviour now taking place in the carpark with cars etc and that the owners may have no option but to close off the carpark.

MDL 443/15 GRITTING

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

That this Municipal Council include the Glenswilly to Kilmacrannen road on the gritting schedule permanently from this year on, also include the main road leading the whole way up to Glendowan National School and also include the Rockhill road leading out to New

Mills. These are very busy roads and numerous school buses use these routes, hence that's why it's imperative that these roads be gritted and included permanently from this year onwards.

The Members were informed that;

The routes currently being gritted under the Winter Maintenance Plan are those formally agreed by Cllrs at the last Countywide, Winter Maintenance review workshop. Any changes to the programme must be agreed at a further countywide workshop.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid referred to the need for a county wide policy in place that national and secondary school routes should be gritted. On referring to the Bomany Road, Cllr. Mc Daid outlined that this was a very busy road and if it could be gritted at some stage of the day. On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh referred to the Glenswilly to Kilmacrennan Road which had been flagged at a previous workshop and agreed by the Members.

MDL 444/15 TRAFFIC LIGHTS

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

In view of the serious traffic congestion in Letterkenny that this Council revisit and monitor the traffic lights settings throughout Letterkenny namely the traffic lights at the Court house and at the old Dunnes Stores. And also considering the traffic problems throughout the town that we prioritise the Leck road for the specific road grants as this road is getting busier and busier considering the traffic in Letterkenny and urgently needs upgrading.

The Members were informed that;

The Council continually monitor and revisit traffic light settings where problems were perceived or apparent. The settings to the traffic lights at the old Dunne's Stores were currently being assessed.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid referred to complaints received from the public in relation to traffic lights at the Courthouse and at Dunnes Stores. Cllr. Mc Daid acknowledged that a grant was not available for the Leck Road. He asked that given the Woodlands Road has been addressed that the Leck Road now receives priority. Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid outlined that the Bonagee Link Road would take pressure off this road but in the interim that the Council be proactive

and progress the Leck Road. On seconding the motion Cllr. M. Mc Bride outlined that the Leck Road served as a link road around the town and it was imperative at this stage that the road improvements take place. Cllr. M. Mc Bride also referred to the hold up with traffic lights at the LYIT which were in operation even when the College was closed in the Summer. He suggested that motion lights would work better at this location.

MDL 445/15 BROADBAND/MOBILE PHONE PROVIDERS

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

That this Council write to all Broadband and Mobile phone signal providers in this Municipal District and ask them to identify all black spots in the area and ask what plans have they in place to address these black spots as they are just way too plentiful and something needs to be done. It seems the rural areas are worst and are always left behind which is very unfair for people who can work from their home if they have sufficient broadband.

If no response is given after 28 days I would ask the letters be sent again and make them aware that they did not respond to the previous letter.

The Members were informed that;

The main operators in this space would be Eircom, Vodafone, 3, and NWE.

The situation was somewhat complicated at the moment due to the National Broadband Plan. The Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources was currently at the final planning stage of the national broadband plan. DCENR intended to publish a tender at the end of 2015 with a view to appointing an operator or operators to provide broadband services in areas which would not be covered by the commercial operators.

There would be state financial assistance for the National Broadband Plan, and potentially in excess of 50,000 premises in Donegal would be covered by this project. DCENR have indicated that the new system would be implemented in the period 2016 - 2020.

The telecoms operators were of course extremely interested in the broadband plan and the state financial support underpinning it. There was evidence that investment was being held back pending publication of the tender process.

Notwithstanding the above, the suggestion that operators be asked about coverage issues and upgrade plans was reasonable, particularly for the mobile operators.

The main consideration was whether this information should be sought on a countywide basis rather than restrict it to one Municipal District only.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid advised that areas receiving coverage were being upgraded but that blackspot areas should be addressed. Cllr. J. Mc Daid referred to areas like Newmills Road where customers were paying for Broadband but were not receiving adequate coverage. On seconding the motion Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to a number of blackspot areas. It was further agreed to seek said information on a countywide basis.

MDL 446/15 PUBLIC LIGHTING – COLLEGE ROW

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Kavanagh seconded by Cllr. D. Shiels, the following motion was adopted

That the Council upgrade the public lighting at College Row, Letterkenny

The Members were informed that;

The extent of any public lighting programme to be carried out would depend on the allocations agreed by Cllrs from the budget in 2016. Following allocation, a programme for public lighting prioritisation implementation could be decided on by Cllrs.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh outlined that it was mainly retired elderly living in this area and that if yellow lights could be upgraded to white and trees cut back to allow light through. On seconding the motion Cllr. D. Shiels referred to the successful upgrading of lights at New Line Road and that this type of lighting was required throughout the town.

Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation advised that as outlined at previous workshops on public lighting an extensive list of upgrading is required and can be prioritised when funding is identified. F. Doherty advised that the Council would look at trees and address if necessary.

MDL 447/15 PUBLIC LIGHTING – CURRAGHLEA ROAD

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

That the Council provide an update on the public lighting situation along Curraghlea Road, as residents are extremely annoyed that there is no public lighting on the road, and have been lobbying for years to have this addressed?

The Members were informed that;

The lights at Curraghlea were erected by a private contractor, but never completed to switch on stage. DCC Roads were exploring options for potential completion and switch on.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh outlined that 15 lights were never switched on referring to the concerns of residents and B & B business in the area. Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation advised that Airtricity were currently looking into this with the Council waiting on a costing for same.

MDL 448/15 BUS EIREANN

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

That this Council (a) write to Bus Eireann and the Minister for Transport to request that it immediately review the guidelines of the School Transport Scheme in circumstances where Ms Catriona De Ward of Bus Eireann has advised me (in relation to a pick up point being used at Churchill on the Glendowan to Ballinamore Bus Route) in writing that “finding a location with parking arrangements for private cars does not form part of the assessment of finding a suitable location for the purposes of boarding and alighting from a school bus and will not influence the nomination of a suitable pick up point.” – in other words a scenario where Bus Eireann are selecting pick up points for school children in locations where parents cannot safely park when dropping their children to that pick up point; and that (b) this Council request pending such review being carried out and changes being made, request Bus Eireann to relocate from the presently unsuitable pick up point being used on the Glendowan to Ballinamore Bus Route to a safe pick up point at the Stramore National School.

The Members were informed that;

Following the adoption of this motion, a letter would issue to Bus Eireann and the Minister for Transport.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels outlined that he was not happy with response received from Bus Eireann given that pick ups were in the countryside and that the safety of children should be paramount.

MDL 449/15 CANCER CARE SERVICES

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

That this Municipal Council write to the Minister for Health and request that he commit in writing to finally end the years of unnecessary travel for Donegal Cancer patients for cancer care services to Dublin or Galway by either (i) committing to the development of a 9th cancer care centre of excellence at Letterkenny General Hospital within a reasonable timeframe or (ii) in the alternative if the minister does not want to create a 9th centre of excellence that he instead agree to relocate one of the 4 centres located in his own area in Dublin to Donegal in circumstances where Dublin has too many centres of excellence and the entire Northwest has none.

The Members were informed that;

Following the adoption of this motion, a letter would issue to the Minister for Health.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels outlined that patients should have a right not to travel excessive distances for treatment. Patients from parts of Donegal experienced over 5 hours journey to Galway or Dublin outlining the need for a centre of excellence in the North West. Cllr. Sheils asked that the Minister commit to a centre of excellence or decentralisation of one of the Centres in Dublin. On seconding the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to Minister's recent visit with the Friends of Letterkenny Hospital acknowledging the current situation for patients having to travel. Cllr. Mc Garvey also outlined that there should be a greater movement between Donegal and Derry and the need for communication in this area.

MDL 450/15 GARDAI RESOURCES

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

That this Municipal Council write to the Minister for Justice and request that she provide substantial additional resources to The Gardai and the Court Services in our area with a view to tackling the obvious and ongoing crime issues.

The Members were informed that;

Following the adoption of this motion, a letter would issue to the Minister for Justice.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels referred to the current demand on Letterkenny Courthouse when Courts are in sitting. Cllr. Shiels also referred to cuts to Rural Garda Stations and the need for new resources in these areas. Cllr. Sheils referred to the need to challenge cuts if affecting our County. On seconding the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to the elderly mostly affected in rural areas and where currently living in fear.

MDL 451/15 MOTIONS FROM CLLR. C. BROGAN

On the proposal of Cllr. I. Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh, it was agreed that in the absence of Cllr. C. Brogan due to bereavement in the family, that Cllr. C. Brogan's motion would be deferred to next meeting of the Council.

MDL 452/15 MAYOR'S BUSINESS

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle advised the Members that he attended a number of functions as Mayor of the Municipal District of Letterkenny namely; Letterkenny Tidy Towns Awards/Cleaner Community Campaign; Chamber Gala Ball/Awards Ceremony and would be attending the D.Y.S. Event in An Grianan Theatre that night.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle congratulated all business award recipients and paid a special tribute to Ciaran Blaney, Silver Tassie on receiving Business Person of the Year.

MDL 453/15 CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT DONEGAL LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle welcomed Denis Kelly, and Sinead Harkin, Planning to the meeting. Denis Kelly, briefed Members in relation to The Local Economic and Community Plan with main purpose of the Plan to identify and implement actions to promote and support the economic and community dimensions of the county over a 6 year period (Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014).

The Members were advised that the role of each Municipal District at this stage was to consider the draft plan and its consistency with: (i) The Core Strategy & Objectives of the CDP 2012-2018 (as varied) (ii) The border Regional Planning Guidelines 2010 and (iii) That the community elements and the economic elements are consistent with each other.

Each Municipal District and the Regional Authority are invited to make their comments. The LCDC and EDC will consider the comments of each Municipal District and the NWRA at their scheduled meeting on 24th November, 2015 and, subject to their

consideration, the LCDC/EDC will then subsequently advance the LECP to the next Plenary meeting of Donegal County Council. A lengthy discussion followed and on the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney seconded by Cllr. M. Quinn, the Members agreed to the Local Economic and Community Plan as presented subject to the following amendments;

- (i) That action 1.10.2 includes Rathmullan as one of the County's strategic centres of marine activity.
- (ii) That action 1.6.3 make reference to the Joe Bonnar Link Road as an example of potential improvement to transport movement and transportation infrastructure into and around Letterkenny.

The Members thanked Denis and Sinead for their very comprehensive report.

MDL 454/15 CORRESPONDENCE

E. Kelly, Area Manager referred to correspondence received from Health & Wellbeing Division, HSE West seeking permission from the Municipal District to use the Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Park as part of the route for Park Run (a weekly 5k run on Saturday mornings). On the proposal of Cllr. J. Kavanagh seconded by Cllr. M. Mc Bride, the Members unanimously agreed to this request.

E. Kelly, Area Manager referred to correspondence received from Donnan Harvey, Secretary, Cathedral Quarter, Letterkenny thanking Municipal District of Letterkenny for the opportunity to give a presentation to Members at the October Meeting. This was noted by the Members.

MDL 455/15 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

C. Mc Gettigan, Planning briefed Members in relation to report previously circulated which included;

1. Casual Trading – Suitable date for a Workshop
2. Summary of planning applications for each District
3. Appeals (Received & Decisions Notified)
4. Significant Cases (incl. Transboundary applications)
5. Other case types (Part 8's etc)

The contents of the report were noted by the Members. It was agreed that Casual Trading Workshop would take place on 23rd November, 2015 at 1pm in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre, Neil T. Blaney Road, Letterkenny.

Cllr. D. Shiels referred to monthly planning reports and queried the possibility of a more detailed report going forward to include Part VIII,

unfinished estates etc. C. Mc Gettigan outlined that the report was presented as per agreed format for Municipal District.
L. Ward, Director advised that the Council would look at including update on unfinished estates, Part VIIIs in future reports.

MDL 456/15 ENVIRONMENT REPORT

D. Mc Clintock, Waste Regulation Officer briefed the Members on contents of report previously circulated with updates on the following

- **Waste Awareness**
Adopt a Road 2015/2016 – Closing Date 13th November 2015
LA 21 Environmental Partnership Grant 2015 – Donegal allocated €15,700
- **Waste Enforcement Report**
Halloween Bonfires-Mobile Litter Units & Wardens employed
Smokey Coal-Conference in Leitrim in October
Brown Bins - Inspection of Waste Collector's Premises
Enforcement – 126 Fixed Penalty Served, 53 unpaid, 14 cases before the Courts
- **Beach Report** – Works continue at a number of beaches to improve access for visitors of all abilities namely; Murvagh, Fintra, Carrickfinn, Shrove

MDL 457/15 COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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

- Fanad Lighthouse – Works complete on the three holiday accommodation units. Manager expected to be in place on 1st December, 2015
- Ulster Dancing Championship 2015 – Launch to take place on 18th November, 2015 in the Mount Errigal Hotel at 8.00 p.m. €10,000 allocated by Donegal County Council
- Letterkenny Educate Together Primary School – Site identified and contracts are currently being finalised between Department of Education & Skills and Receivers. Planning process in progress
- Donegal Walks & Trails – Applications/Expressions of Interest have been odged to the Dept under the Recreation Funding.
- Playgrounds – Annual maintenance of playgrounds, Rospa Inspections and identification of necessary reports have been carried out with a view to tendering for annual maintenance tender
- Museum – Development of Museum Exhibition for 1916 Centenary – Exhibition to open in March 2016

- Public Participation Network – First PPN newsletter launched in October.
- Donegal Youth Council – Aim to complete 2 more radio ads on driver fatigue and mobile phone use. Shake up sports event planned for 20th November, 2015 in Letterkenny

MDL 458/15 ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

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

- **DOT Regional Road** – Report outlined Road Designs preparation of an application to the DOT under the Regional Road Bridge Rehabilitation Programme for Donegal. As per report, an application for funding in 2016 had been submitted for Magherawarden Bridge. As part of this inspection the bridge ranked 5 Aughnagaady (near Ramelton), was found to have failed (condition 5) and the urgent replacement of this structure is now being progressed.

The Members were advised that works are due to commence on this bridge on 20th November, 2015 with road closure in place.

- **Slow Zones in selected Housing Estates** – Report outlined that “Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (County of Donegal)(Amendment) Bye-Laws 2015 (Certain Housing Estates) were passed by the elected members allowing the Council to proceed with the introduction of the “Slow Zone” signage. These were 30km/hr zones, in selected estates as agreed with full Council, and in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The six locations within the MDL area where a 30km/h speed limit would be introduced include;

1. Knockalla Close Housing Estate
2. An Sruthan Housing Estate, Ramelton
3. Radharc na Cille Housing Estate, Milford
4. Cruach Mor Housing Estate, Letterkenny
5. Leitir Ard Housing Estate, Letterkenny
6. Cashel Park Housing Estate, Letterkenny

The Members were advised that pending funding from the DTTS, this scheme can be broadened out to other estates in the MDL/County in 2016.

- **Speed Limit Review –**
- F. Doherty advised the Members that 5 year period for review of Speed Limits is due and asked that Members submit proposed amendments of Speed Limits prior to the January Municipal District Meeting. F. Doherty further advised that following previous proposals to have speed limits reduced at selected times at Illistrin and Lurgybrack that the NRA/TII have given prior writing approval. Electronic signage would be required at a cost of approximately €6,000 per sign. I. Mc Garvey referred to speed limit from Polestar to Lounnagin and Polestar to LYIT which he felt should be reviewed. F. Doherty, asked that Members submit any proposal for amendments to Speed Limits Byelaws by 12th January, 2015. A special email has been set up and will be available on Members Extranet. Following submission of proposed amendments a Workshop will take place prior to public consultation.

- **Winter Maintenance –**
- The Members were informed that the Winter Maintenance season had officially commenced with the salters on standby to spread salt on selected routes when called out based on weather conditions/forecasts. The Routes to be salted were those agreed in previous years by Members and in Letterkenny they were the same as last year. Detailed interactive maps were available on the DCC web page documenting the routes being salted, with regular updates on call outs maintained via twitter.

2016 Department of Transport – Regional Road Bridge Rehabilitation Programme

The members considered the “Report to Management and Elected Members Advising them of the Selection and Application Process of Candidates Sites for the 2016 Department of Transport Regional Road Bridge Rehabilitation Programme dated 13th October 2015” that was circulated with the agenda. This included the MD Priority List and the Regional Road Priority for the MDL.

MDL 459/15 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

The Members were informed of the following;

Housing Stock

There were currently 1,284 housing units owned and 1,370 maintained by the Council in the Municipal District of Letterkenny.

Fairgreen Hill

Remedial work ongoing at 5 houses and expected to be completed by the end of November. Work to be carried out on two further houses.

Long Term Leasing.

Applications were being assessed on an ongoing basis.

86 houses have been leased in the Letterkenny EA to-date and 5 under consideration.

R.A.S.

There were currently 129 Rent Supplement Recipients who had transferred to R.A.S. in the Letterkenny E.A. and 2 other applications were being processed.

Housing Assistance Payment (H.A.P.).

H.A.P. was introduced in Donegal for all new housing applicants who did not previously get Rent Supplement from 25th May 2015. Since 14th September the Council was dealing with applications from applicants on Rent Supplement moving accommodation and transferring them to H.A.P. The Council had also commenced an agreed phased transfer for all remaining applicants on Rent Supplement to H.A.P. with the intention that all applicants on Rent Supplement were transferred to H.A.P. within two years. 189 Rent Supplement Recipients have been contacted to transfer to H.A.P.

To date 131 HAP applications had been approved and 10 were being processed in the MDL. 270 HAP applications had been approved in the county to date.

Donegal County Council Offers / Vacancies

137 Offers issued in 2015 to date

74 Acceptances

56 Refusals

7 awaiting response

65 Vacancies occurred in 2015 to date

Voluntary Housing Tenancies

Apex Housing Association	62 units
Aras Cois Locha	4 units
Cluid Housing Association	27 units + 4
NW Simon Housing	39 units
Oaklee Housing Association	58 units
S.T.E.E.R.	43 units

2014 House Purchases

Five house purchases completed and allocated.

2015 House Purchases

A number of properties were currently being assessed and five purchases were being processed.

House Extensions

Work commenced on 12th October 2015 on extension to an S.I. in Carrigart.

Voluntary Housing.

Anvers Housing Association, Loughnagin, Letterkenny.

Construction commenced on the construction of a new Group Home on the 28th July 2014 and was now completed.

STEER Housing Association.

A number of other applications from STEER have obtained approval in principle from the Department and are being progressed by STEER. 15 additional Units being allocated at present.

Cluid Housing Association

Application for purchase of 5 houses received provisional approval from Department and being progressed by Cluid. Four houses to be allocated in next few weeks.

Oaklee Housing Association

Application received provisional approval from Department and being progressed by Oaklee.

A.P.E.X.

A.P.E.X. in consultation with the H.S.E. and the Council regarding an application in Letterkenny.

Donegal Fabric Up-Grade Programme 2013

Work completed on 415 houses to date.

Work to commence on a further 87 houses in Carrigart, Kilmacrennan and Milford next week and due to be completed in mid December.

A further 40 houses to be advertised before end of the year.

Social Housing Investment Programme- SHIP 2015-2020

Project Appraisal & Permission to Proceed to Design Stage submitted to the Department for 30 housing units on Council owned land at Long Lane, Letterkenny. The site was circa 2.8 acres and located between Ard na Rí and Manor View.

The lands were zoned as “Primarily Residential” in the 2009-2015 Letterkenny & Environs Development Plan; however this site was re-

zoned in Variation No. 2 June 2013 of the plan as “Primary Residential” “PR7”. Further information on the project forwarded to the Department on the 29th October 2015.

Expressions of interest were sought from landowners for parcels of land they would be willing to sell for development of social housing in the Letterkenny area. The closing date for receipt of applications was 16th October, 2015. A panel had been set up to evaluate the submissions received.

E. Kelly, Area Manager advised that 8 submissions have been received which were currently being assessed.

MDL 460/15 PARKING BAY – MC CLURES TERRACE

In answer to his question if we can we have the Parking Bay at the top of Mc Clures Tce, Letterkenny relined and a sign erected for Residents Parking Only, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that;

Relining of spaces would be included on the roadlining programme. However in public areas, it was not possible to grant exclusive parking privileges along the public road. Whilst signs had been erected in a number of residential locations in the past, these were advisory only, and there were currently no plans for further erection of others.

MDL 461/15 LIGHTS – LONG LANE

In answer to his question as to when will the lights be refurbished at Long Lane, Letterkenny, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that;

Programme currently being agreed with supplier. Not available yet.

MDL 462/15 FAIR GREEN HILL

In answer to his question as to what is the finding of the tests carried out on the houses at Fair Green Hill, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that;

The Council have committed to carrying out some remedial works to a number of houses in Fairgreen Hill. Having regard to the nature of the problem being experienced, the Council arranged for tests to be carried out on the blocks to inform the extent of the works vis a vis the need or otherwise for the complete removal/replacement of the outside block works.

Based on the results of the compressive strength tests, which had indicated that such removal is not warranted. A re enforced render and wet dash finish was proposed and arrangements were now being made to have these works carried out.

MDL 463/15 IRISH WATER

In answer to his question if Irish Water will grant the same Domestic Allowance as Donegal County Council for users in their charges, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

This information can be requested from Irish Water by the Council or can be obtained from Irish Water through the dedicated arrangements that were in place for Councillor engagement. The relevant contact details had been provided to the elected members.

MDL 464/15 LIS ROADS

In answer to his question if the funding will be available for LIS Roads in 2016, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

The availability or not of funding for LIS roads depends on what the Cllrs allocate in the 2016 budget. Previous years budgets were deemed to represent better value for the public when spent on the public rather than private roads.

MDL 465/15 BLUE BANKS

In answer to his questions if work will commence on the Blue Banks in 2016, also has the necessary Land been purchased, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

There was no commencement date for works yet as this would depend on funding from the TII. At previous recent meeting an update was provided in relation to the CPO of lands that was underway.

MDL 466/15 COUNCIL LOANS

In answer to his question if Donegal County Council has approved any Council loans for housing this last 5 years and if so what % of applications were approved, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

28 % of loans considered by the credit committee in the past five years had been approved.

Provisions governing mortgage lending by local authorities are set out under the Housing (Local Authority Loans) Regulations 2009 and associated credit policy. In assessing loan applications local authorities take account of the household's ability to finance the loan based on their net household income with all loans being considered by the Councils Credit Committee.

While it is the case that the rate of refusal of applications had increased, loans issued since the introduction of the revised credit policy were more likely to be fully performing.

MDL 467/15 DOG FOULING STATIONS

In answer to his question as to when will the dog fouling stations planned on a pilot basis be installed in our Municipal District, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

Donegal County Council had supplied and erected Dog Fouling Bins in various locations in the county and was prepared to do so again.

However they were generally erected at the request of a local community group, who would assure the Council that they would service them thereafter.'

MDL 468/15 MEENABALL ROAD

In answer to his question if this Council could explore ways on how money can be sought for the Meenaball Road up past Glendowan. This road is a County road, it's also in the Gaeltacht and is in a serious state of disrepair, I would ask that temporary fixing be done until decent money is secured, I would also ask that this Council to write to our Gaeltacht Minister Joe Mc Hugh to see if money can be secured? Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

This road would be assessed for temporary repair where required. The Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance programmes were the only programmes currently available to the Roads dept for major road repair. The 2016 Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance programmes would be decided on by Cllrs in the near future. Dept of the Gaeltacht had advised that they do not have a budget for Road repair.

MDL 469/15 WINTER GRITTING

In answer to his question if the Council can ensure that grit will be available to the public now coming into the winter? And that the Council start tipping small piles along steep Country back roads which are not covered in the gritting plan, Cllr J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

This was done on an annual basis at select locations. These locations were documented on the interactive map on the DCC web site

MDL 470/15 PARKING CHARGES - CARPARKS

In answer to his question as to what was the result to his previous motion earlier this year to carry out a review of the parking charges in car parks throughout Letterkenny, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

There was no previous motion on record regarding a review of parking charges. The current charges for parking were a source of revenue which should not be lowered. Increasing of charges would require extensive buy in from the business community. There were currently no plans to modify charges.

MDL 471/15 GORTLEE JUNCTION

In answer to his question if the Council could consider installing a traffic light at the Gortlee junction for traffic coming down from Gortlee/ Ashlawn / Oaklands, it is difficult to see the existing traffic lights coming down the hill and this area is very busy with Church of Irish Martyrs etc., Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

The current system appeared to be working efficiently with no reported accidents. A fully signalised junction at this location would have to include additional works for existing arms. Due to the fluctuations in traffic volumes particularly at peak times a fully signalised signals system would have to be a minimum of MOVA standard which was a significant cost.

MDL 472/15 LIGHTING – MARKET SQUARE

In answer to his question if the Council could provide an update on the new lighting for the Market Square, Letterkenny, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

Works were currently ongoing on the completion of the lights at the Market Square.

MDL 473/15 Flooding Rosemount Terrace

In answer to his question if the Council could provide an update on works to alleviate sewage and flooding problems at Rosemount Terrace, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

Works to alleviate the foul sewage issues at Rosemount Terrace were carried out in late August/early September 2015. Water Services would

like to thank everyone for their co-operation in bringing this matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

MDL 474/15 CARNAMUGGAGH UPPER

In answer to his question if the Council could review the current situation of the road located just below Hegarty's Garage at Carnamuggah Upper, Letterkenny where there is a serious problem with water flowing onto same causing the road to have come into a serious state of disrepair and can the Council investigate what needs to be done to stop excess water coming on the road and also make plans to repair the road, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

This road was a private road where responsibility for ensuring that water was prevented from entering the public road lay with the landowner. The Council were to request the owner to take the required measures.

MDL 475/15 BROOKFIELD HEIGHTS

In answer to his question if the Council can advise as to who exactly is responsible for the ongoing situation at Brookfield Heights, Letterkenny where there is continuing waste overflow into the adjoining watercourse and can the Council write to whoever is responsible and ask them to take immediate and urgent action to remedy the situation, Cllr. D. Sheils was advised that;

Brookfield Heights Housing Estate had not, as yet, been taken-in-charge by Donegal County Council and as a consequence the sewage pumping station there was privately owned. However, Water Services in recent times had had to take emergency action to eliminate public health issues at the location of the pumping station. The responsibility still lay with the Developer.

MDL 476/15 GREENLANE DONEGAL

In answer to his question if the Council can engage with the promoter of the "Greenlane Donegal" initiative with a view to developing its tourism potential and benefits for our area and beyond, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

The Donegal Tourism section within the Donegal County Council would engage with the Greenlane Donegal initiative to advise on how best to develop its business potential going into the future.

MDL 477/15 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING - BALLYRAINE

In answer to his question as to when will work start on the new proposed Pedestrian crossing at Ballyraine, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

Works were programmed to commence within the next fortnight, with civil works by DCC and installation of lights by TH contractors.

MDL 478/15 SIGNAGE – IRELAND’S TIDIEST TOWN

In answer to his question as to when will our signage be erected for Ireland’s Tidiest Town, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

These signs were in place on the approaches to the Town - “Welcome to Letterkenny - Irelands Tidiest Town 2015” in both Irish and English.

MDL 479/15 GLENMAQUIN

In answer to his question as to what progress has been made on replacement of the barrier in Glenmaquin, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

There was no safety barrier erected in Glenmaquin. With regards to the school , the play area is enclosed by a block wall. Further information required in relation to where the question refers to.

MDL 480/15 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 12th January, 2016 in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre.