

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING,  
HELD IN MILFORD PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup>  
MARCH, 2015**

**MDL 88/15 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 89/15 OFFICIALS PRESENT**

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

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Michael Mc Bride.

**MDL 90/15 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Mc Monagle seconded by Cllr. M. Quinn, the Minutes of Municipal District of Letterkenny Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 were adopted.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to Carraig Craobh Estate as discussed at previous meeting and it was agreed that clarification would be sought if the said estate was taken over by the former Town Council.

**MDL 91/15 COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES**

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

- Fanad Lighthouse – Meeting on Thursday re finalising leasing agreement with Commission of Irish Lights. Funding being sought for management and promotion of the accommodation.
- Donegal Marathon – Marketing Plan being tendered. Workshops to be held in partnership with Donegal Sports Partnership to highlight issues such as stretching, nutrition and running techniques

- Letterkenny Age Friendly Initiative – Draft plan being worked on with partners with a view to launching in March.
- Public Participation Network – End of March meeting planned with a view to formalising linkage groups (sub-groups such as Social Inclusion etc)
- Junior Achievement Programme – Junior Achievement is the leading provider of enterprise education to young people aged between 5-18 yrs. Call for Volunteers with Donegal County Council
- IPB Pride of Place Competition 2015 – Highlights Local Authorities commitment to supporting active community groups. Entry is by way of Council nomination – applications/nominations by 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2015.
- Central Library - Radio Frequency Identification Technology (RFID) has been introduced to the Central Library in Letterkenny to enhance self-service facilities for members.
- Seachtain na Gaeilge 2015 – Festival of Irish language and Culture 1<sup>st</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2015
- 1916 Document Study Pack – Production of education booklet depicting life in Donegal in general in the year 1916. First draft of pack produced.
- DCC Scheme of Arts Grants 2015 – Limited financial assistance available for the promotion of Arts activities. Advertised in local press over weekend of 19-21 February.
- County Donegal Heritage Plan – Draft County Dev Heritage Plan (2014-2019) to be placed on public review and finalised. It will then be presented to elected members of DCC for adoption.
- Historic Landscape Characterisation – Draft reviewed and amended. Peer review and finalisation to take place.
- Audit of Geological Heritage Sites in North Donegal – Field research undertaken and draft final report in preparation.
- Archaeology Box for Schools – Workshops delivered to 2300 pupils in Letterkenny, Dungloe, Donegal Town, Stranorlar areas. To be extended in 2015 to Inishowen and Killybegs areas.
- It was agreed to hold a Workshop on the Strategic Development Fund in Letterkenny PSC at 10.00 a.m. on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

***MDL 92//15 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION***

F. Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation referred to previous adoption of Bridge Restoration Priority List. In this regard, F. Doherty referred to correspondence received from Road Design who had now recommended that list should be re-prioritised as follows;

1. 90 Castlegrove
2. 206 Aughleard

3. 172 Ballyaghderg
4. 70 Umlagh
5. 3177 Pluck

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle the Members recommended that the Priority List as recommended by Road Design be approved.

### **2015 R.I. and R.M. Programme Prioritisation**

Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation briefed Members in relation to content of his report seeking adoption of 2015 R.I. and R.M. Programme Prioritisation. F. Doherty outlined that at workshop on 27<sup>th</sup> February, the proposed 2015 RM programme, and draft 2 of the proposed 2015 RI programme, based on announced grants for the Municipal District Letterkenny were discussed. As the announced R.M. grant was similar to that of last year, there was no change to the proposed R.M. Programme.

Cllr. D. Shiels proposed the adoption of the RI Programme and the RM Programme as detailed in Appendix 1. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle.

Cllr. L. Blaney outlined his concerns in relation to the overall roads budget which he believed should be looked at as a whole. Cllr. L. Blaney did not agree with Letterkenny Town area receiving same funding as 2014 at the detriment of rural areas. In this regard Cllr. L. Blaney proposed a counter motion that the RM and RI Budgets be discussed together. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey.

Cllr. C. Brogan referred to his disappointment at the constant referral to urban/rural divide. Cllr. C. Brogan outlined that clarification was needed on the €507k retained at Centre. He pointed out that option 1 rather than option 4 as agreed for distribution of the €507k to Municipal areas, at workshop meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2015, would have given approximately €275,000 to Letterkenny compared to the €105,000 agreed. This would allow the Council to redistribute funding taken off rural areas back into these areas.

F. Doherty further advised that following discussion in relation to the reduced R.I. grants, a Draft 3 now formed part of his report in Appendix 1 which took into account the following;

- a) Within the Letterkenny Town R.I. Programme, Circular Road and the Back Lanes at Muckish Avenue and Slieve Sneacht to the value of €20k were to be included in the programme, with the €20k to be taken equally from all others in the Letterkenny Town Area

- b) Allocation of funding to be further refined reflecting the percentage of Non-National roads in the RSS areas other than Letterkenny, with required changes to schemes within each RSS area as per the Executives recommendations.

As there were two motions proposed the matter was put to a vote. Six Members voted in favour of Cllr. D. Shiels motion and four Members in favour of Cllr. L. Blaney's motion. Cllr. D. Shiel's motion proposing the adoption of the RM and RI Programme, seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was therefore adopted.

### **2015 Roads Budget**

Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation briefed Members in relation to the 2015 Roads Budget, advising that at the workshop on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2015, the MDL Roads budget for 2015, based on the announced grants for the Municipal District Letterkenny was discussed. Due to the allocation of budgets on a "per km" basis, and the abolition of the former Town Council, previous methods of allocation of budget to the various overseers areas was not now viable, and an alternative model, based on the retention of similar levels of service in the Letterkenny Town RSS Area, was presented for discussion. F. Doherty presented a Draft 4 of the Roads Budget which included the addition of the allocation of €105k from the 6<sup>th</sup> March workshop. F. Doherty further advised that taking into account points raised above, the 2015 Roads Budget as presented in Appendix 2 could be considered for adoption. F. Doherty outlined that the Budget as presented in Appendix 2 did not include the €105K extra funding agreed at Workshop in Lifford on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2015.

A brief discussion followed with the Members once again raising their concerns at €507k being kept at Centre and being only made aware of this at Workshop on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2015. It was agreed that Members would seek extra funding for the Letterkenny Municipal Area.

Cllr. D. Shiels proposed adoption of the Budget as presented in Appendix 2 excluding the additional allocation of €105k pending additional funding being sought. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. C. Brogan.

Cllr. L. Blaney proposed that the Council do not approve the Budget as presented, pending further discussion and better distribution of monies. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell. Cllr. L. Blaney referred to his issue with Letterkenny Town Area covering 7.2% of non-national roads in the Municipal area but was receiving 35% of overall Budget and wished to put on record that this was not to be a precedent for every other year. Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that he was not aware of a decision to allocate budgets by an alternative method other

than per km. Cllr. L. Blaney also outlined his concerns with €200k for Road Sweeping in the Letterkenny Town area and €725k on parks and open spaces. Cllr. L. Blaney referred to green areas in other towns and villages in the Municipal District and that each Tidy Towns Group should receive a small portion of budget. Cllr. J. O'Donnell asked for breakdown on Street Cleaning and Parks and Open Spaces Budget for Letterkenny.

A lengthy discussion followed with a number of Members outlining what Letterkenny achieved over the years, which they believed should be maintained, outlining that all areas benefited from the success of Letterkenny. However, a number of Members felt that villages in rural areas should be supported and developed further. As there were two proposals put forward the matter was put to a vote. Six Members voted in favour of Cllr. D. Sheil's motion that the Council adopt the 2015 Roads Budget as presented, excluding the €105k pending additional funding being sought. Four Members voted in favour of Cllr. L. Blaney's motion that the Members do not accept the Budget in its present format pending further discussion and better distribution of monies to other areas, especially in relation to Parks and Open Spaces Budget.

Cllr. D. Shiels' motion was therefore carried with the 2015 Roads Budget adopted as presented.

### **Disposal of Land – Doobalagh, Letterkenny**

Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation briefed Members in relation to proposed disposal of land to Mr. Jim and Mrs Claire Maguire at Doobalagh, Letterkenny. The Members were advised that during the course of constructing the realigned N13 at Doobalagh in the 1890's, the NRA acquired under COP, as section of land from the Maguires that was subsequently not required for the construction of the road. It was now proposed to sell the land back to the Maguires. On the proposal of Cllr. J. O'Donnell, seconded by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey the Members agreed to the disposal as outlined and circulated.

## ***MDL 93/15* PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Members noted content of report previous circulated on the following items;

- Summary of planning applications for the District
- An Bord Pleanala – New Appeals, Decided Appeals
- Strategic Infrastructure Development (Stranorlar MD)

Conal Mc Gettigan, A/Senior Executive Planner advised that report in relation to General Hospital is near completion and will be presented at full Plenary Council as issue was initially raised there. C. Mc Gettigan

further advised that a detailed report on Planning Enforcement will be available for next meeting.

**MDL 94/15 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

E. Kelly, Area Manager advised of change in figures circulated with 41 casual vacancies (23 vacancies created this year). 27 offers of accommodation have been made with 12 accepted, 9 refusals and 6 outstanding. E. Kelly also advised that as agreed at Housing Workshop held on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 that the Council would proceed to advertise “Choice Based Letting” in respect of 3 Fairgreen and 13 Ard Na Ri. Closing date for said applications is 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2015.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle raised his concerns with lack of emergency accommodation and the need for a Housing Strategy and would welcome a Housing Workshop in the near future.

Cllr. C. Brogan referred to the lack of resources in housing maintenance given over 1,400 houses in the area and the possibility of additional staff given the income generated from housing rents. Cllr. C. Brogan outlined that recruitment was required as a matter of urgency.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to standard of workmanship in relation to repair to fascias following recent snow and also a part kitchen replacement to a house in the Trentagh area that did not match existing kitchen.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to roof vents that are coming off and that installation Company should be asked to address the problems. E. Kelly, Area Manager advised that he would follow up these matters and revert back to Cllr. M. Mc Bride.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride also referred to need for Tenants Handbook to clarify responsibility of a number of issues.

L. Ward, Director advised that the Tenants Handbook will be reviewed through the SPC and is tabled for SPC Agenda on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2015.

**MDL 95/15 USE OF BERNARD MC GLINCHEY TOWN PARK**

E. Kelly, Area Manager referred to request received from Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal seeking use of the Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Park to host a Family Fun Day on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan seconded by Cllr. D. Shiels the Members unanimously agreed to this request.

**MDL 96/15**    **SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS**

L. Ward, Director briefed Members on Schedule of Municipal District Works as circulated. The Schedule detailed a plan of repair and maintenance work in each of the respective Municipal Districts and in respect of a number of local service areas. The Members were also provided with a schedule of the Discretionary Development Fund (allocated as part of the 2015 Budget allocation) and a schedule of available monies per electoral area in respect of the Members Development Fund with a sum of €6,350 available for allocation by each individual elected member.

A brief discussion followed and on the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan, seconded by Cllr. G. Monagle it was resolved that the Letterkenny Municipal District hereby adopt for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015, the Schedule of Municipal District Works as circulated as required by Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) and in line with requirements of Circular LG27/2014/Fin21/2014.

**Motions**

**MDL 97/15**    **BRIDGES**

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

*That this Council apply for specific funding to deal with the bridge problems in Letterkenny Municipal District.*

The Members were informed that;

*Specific funding is allocated on a County Basis. 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.*

Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation further advised that at a previous workshop the Members agreed a priority list for repairs to bridges.

**MDL 98/15**    **BLUE BANKS ROAD**

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

*That this MD ask that funding be provided for the long talked about Blue Banks Road improvement.*

The Members were informed that;

*The NRA has provided €700,000 funding towards the N56 Coolboy to Kilmacrennan Realignment Scheme. This is predominately for land acquisition with part allocated to review and completion of detailed design and Tender Documents. Notice of Confirmation with respect to the CPO was issued in January and following the statutory period for appeal Notice of Operation will be published shortly. The NRO will be seeking approval from the NRA to issue the Notice to Treat in the coming weeks. The priority of the scheme to Donegal is increased due to the parallel priority program for the upgrade of the Goldrum to Letterkenny Watermain, works for which would ideally conjoin the proposed road works.*

**MDL 99/15 GLEN VILLAGE, CARRIGART**

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

*That this Council consider providing speed reduction measures in Glen Village, Carrigart.*

The Members were informed that;

*Further information required in relation to where the perceived speeding issues are in Glen Village, such that a proper assessment can be carried out and findings brought to a subsequent meeting.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Donnell referred to the major safety hazard for young children crossing the road and asked that the Council address this issue in terms on speed limit signage etc.

**MDL 100/15 FLOODING FOOTPATH – DALY TERRACE**

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

*That this Council address the issue of regular flooding on the footpath between Daly Terrace and Blacks Centra.*

The Members were informed that;

*This footpath is currently in poor shape and is programmed to be replaced this year at which time any flooding issues on the footpath will be addressed.*



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 101/15 RESIDENT ONLY PARKING – BEECHWOOD ROAD**

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

*That the Council provide resident only parking signs at the cottages on*

The Members were informed that;

*Council to review. It is noted that in the event that these were erected, it would only be an advisory sign and is not enforceable under existing bye-laws.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh advised that Beechwood cottages were occupied by both the elderly and disabled and referred to the difficulty of visitors parking in the area. Cllr. J. Kavanagh outlined that signs were effective in other areas.

**MDL 102/15 ROAD LININGS – LIDL MILFORD**

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

*That this Council puts new Road Linings in place at the entrance to Lidl in Milford.*

The Members were informed that;

*Non-completion issues are being addressed with the developer who carried out these works to ensure that they are completed to standard. New lining will be carried out in the course of closing this out.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. L. Blaney advised that the lines on the road were also very unclear and that the overall design needs to be addressed.

**MDL 103/15 BALLYMACOOL ROAD**

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

*That this Council prioritises the Ballymacool Road (R250) on the Roads Programme as this road carries a huge volume of traffic and needs urgent repair.*

The Members were informed that;

*On the current RI programme before Councillors for adoption, repairs to the Ballymacool Road (R250) are included to the value of €110,210. If adopted, repairs to that value will be carried out on the Ballymacool Road.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Mc Daid referred to the Roads Programme which was adopted today and asked that this road be addressed as soon as possible.

**MDL 104/15 BONAGEE LINK ROAD**

Cllr. J. Mc Daid proposed the following motion;

That this Municipal District write to the Minister to seek funding that will enable the Council to continue with the planning process and CPOs for the Bonagee Link Road and the new bridge, so that if substantial funding becomes available in the next couple of years work could commence straight away without delay.

The Members were informed that;

**ANSWER:** *NRA funding is applied for and granted or not, on a County level. 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.*

**MDL 105/15 DUAL CARRIAGEWAY**

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

*That this Council write to the NRA asking for funding to resurface the Dual Carriageway as it is breaking up in a number of places. This road will only get worse through time with the large volume of traffic it carries and needs repaired.*

The Members were informed that;

*MDL have advised the NRDO in writing, as recently as this month, of the state of the dual carriageway, as well as other National Roads, and have requested that they be considered for funding.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Mc Daid asked that this be addressed as soon as possible given the current state of the road.

**MDL 106/15 AURA LEISURE CENTRE**

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

*That this Municipal District correspond with Aura Sport & Leisure Management Ltd to request that it extend the availability of free swimming for children up to the age of 12 at the Aura leisure Centre Letterkenny given that the existing free swimming age of 3 is not sufficient and is limiting the use of the swimming pool at the Aura Leisure Centre Letterkenny by children and that this Municipal Council make it known in writing to Aura Sport & Leisure Management Ltd that it favours increased use of the facilities at the Aura Leisure Centre Letterkenny by children.*

The Members were informed that;

*This request can be forwarded to Aura Sport & Leisure Management Ltd if the Members so wish.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. D. Shiels outlined that the Centre was underused and that families could not afford to avail of the facilities. Cllr. D. Shiels felt that Aura were privatising what was a public facility and asked that a strong message be sent to Aura that Council would like to see increase usage by children in areas such as swimming, track, pitches etc. This motion was seconded by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey.

Cllr. C. Brogan outlined that the Members do not have a role in this regard and does not come under the remit of the Council. Cllr. C. Brogan advised that as a Board Member the facilities at the Centre are very well attended with Aura actively following up with Schools to increase use of the Centre by children. Cllr. C. Brogan advised that the Board is currently working with Aura to try and increase the events at the Centre. Cllr. J. Mc Daid referred that perhaps it would be more realistic for Aura to reduce swimming for U'12's.

Cllr. D. Shiels acknowledged that Aura Leisure Centre was one of the best facilities in the Country but Aura should encourage greater access for children and that no child should be unable to use the facilities due to monetary reasons.

**MDL 107/15 MARINA – NEIL T BLANEY ROAD**

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

*That this Municipal District consider developing a flagship marina and visitors centre at the Land it owns at the Neil T Blaney Road to open up the centre of Letterkenny and the natural water amenity that is*

*the River Swilly to waters ports such as pleasure boating and kayaking.*

The Members were informed that;

*The proposal will initially be assessed by Council's Design Team and proposal will be considered in line with current funding streams that are available.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. D. Sheils outlined that the Council should be proactive and act with vision and earmark this site for a tourist attraction and make use of the one amenity the town has. Cllr. D. Shiels asked that the Council look into funding that may be available for such a project.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to the great benefit of the Swilly and would like to see fishing introduced. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle outlined that this proposal had come before the Town Council on numerous occasions but that a lot of work was required. Cllr. C. Brogan referred to previous problem of raw sewerage which had now been addressed.

L. Ward, Director advised that Community & Enterprise section of the Council would make contact directly re availability of any funding.

#### **MDL 108/15 SPEED LIMIT – MOUNTAIN TOP**

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

*That this Council commence the statutory procedures under the Road Traffic Act 2004 to apply a special reduced speed limit at the Mountain Top area of Letterkenny of 60 kmph out as far as the Illistrin School and that the Council also consider extending a public footpath out as far as the Illistrin School.*

The Members were informed that;

*This was referred to the Roads Safety Engineer from a previous meeting. A report will be brought to a subsequent meeting when completed. There is currently no identified budget for the construction of a footpath to Illistrin School*

On proposing the motion Cllr. D. Sheils referred to the road safety issues at the school and on this basis that the Council can apply a special speed limit in the area.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey asking re possibility that consideration to be given even during school hours. Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to recent figures that conveyed that Ireland had one of the lowest levels for children walking to school.

Cllr. C. Brogan outlined that he would not agree with reducing speed limit the whole way down from Mountain Top to Illistrin school. Cllr. C. Brogan also referred to problems at Lurgybrack School and asked that D. Shiels amend motion to include Lurgybrack. Cllr. C. Brogan advised that permission was given to reduce speed limits at both schools but that management of the Council refuse to do it. Cllr. D. Shiels agreed to include Lurgybrack School.

A brief discussion followed with F. Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation advising that the Roads Authority cannot make a reduction to speed limits without go ahead from NRA. F. Doherty further outlined that a report was required from the Road Safety Engineer who was currently looking at both these locations. Cllr. C. Brogan asked that Road Design be informed that the Members are frustrated at the length of time progressing this issue and the number of times it has been brought up. The Members asked that F. Doherty progress this matter and revert back as soon as possible.

### **Questions**

#### **MDL 109/15 SI APPLICATIONS**

In answer to his question if an S.I. house application can be processed at present, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

*It is proposed that the provision of rural dwellings will form a component of the new Housing Programme.*

*Arising from the fact that the Council ceased acceptance of applications for S.I.'s in 2011 at the time when no capital funding was being made available for new builds, work is presently ongoing in the context of preparing a Draft Policy for consideration by the Strategy Policy Committee in the context of the development of a new Programme. Such a policy will include guiding principles in terms of who would qualify and the conditions which may be associated with any site which may be put forward.*

#### **MDL 110/15 LIS APPLICATIONS**

In answer to his question if an LIS application be processed now, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised

*There are no LIS Schemes for 2015.*

**MDL 111/15 BROADBAND**

In answer to his question as to when will improved Broadband be provided in our MD in the Programme of upgrade, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

*The Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources have strategic responsibility for the development and implementation of Telecommunications and Broadband Policy.*

*The Department is currently in the planning phase of the National Broadband Plan which is designed to bring high speed broadband to areas of the Country where no existing or planned high speed broadband exists.*

*It is likely that this scheme will be put out to tender towards the end of 2015 or early 2016.*

*The Department has offered to make a presentation to the Plenary Council on this project, and arrangements are currently being made in this regard.*

**MDL 112/15 SEWAGE ISSUES – MAIN STREET/ROSEMOUNT TERRACE**

In answer to his question if any progress been made on resolving the sewage issues problems effecting businesses on Main Street and residents in Rosemount Terrace, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

*Within the next two weeks, the Water Services Authority will carry out a CCTV survey of the foul sewerage network, serving a number of business premises at Upper Main Street, Letterkenny. The foul sewerage network to the rear of the business premises flows in the direction of Rosemount Terrace where it joins the public sewerage network. On completion of the CCTV survey, any defects identified will be programmed for repair following consultation with the relevant landowners and the relevant business people.*

**MDL 113/15 DERELICT BUILDINGS REGISTER**

In answer to his question if any progress has been made on updating the Derelict Buildings Register, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

*The Derelict Sites Register for Donegal now includes the former Town Council functional areas within the county and it is continuously maintained and updated through the Central Planning Unit. In the event of a complaint being received by the council that a site is derelict, it is inspected initially by the Housing Engineer for the area to confirm if it is a “derelict site” within the meaning of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 (as amended). If it is deemed to be a derelict site then the property owner is contacted, by the Central Planning Unit, to seek*

*resolution through negotiation, in the first instance. Under the Act a 'Derelict Site' means: 'any land (in this section referred to as "the land in question") 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 or under statute or by common law.'*

*Should the property owner fail to remedy the dereliction then the Council is empowered to take enforcement action, although the preference is to resolve the dereliction through negotiation, in the first instance. Should any person wish to bring a derelict site to the attention of the Council then they should make their submission in writing and include information that enables the location and ownership of the property to be readily identified. This should preferably include a drawing or a site location map showing clearly where the building is situated and the name and address of the registered owner of the property.*

**MDL 114/15 YELLOW BOX – BALLYRAINE ROAD**

In answer to his question if the Council can renew the yellow box on Ballyraine Road, as it is very badly faded, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

*This is on the programme for renewal, and should be carried out within the next few weeks.*

**MDL 115/15 PORTSALON CROSSROADS**

In answer to his question that as funding is secured for visions lines at Portsalon Crossroads, when does Donegal County Council intend to commence work at this dangerous junction, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

*Works will be carried out following completion of design. It is anticipated that works will be completed before the summer.*

**MDL 116/15 DUAL CARRIAGEWAY**

In answer to his question if his Council propose to get the contractor that laid the road surface on the Dual Carriageway outside Letterkenny back again to fix the many holes appearing on this road, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

*The NRA in conjunction with the NRADO have commissioned an investigation into the reasoning for the failure of the surface course on the Dual Carriageway. The findings of this investigation will dictate what actions that will be carried out by the NRA.*

**MDL 117/15 PUBLIC TOILETS RATHMULLAN**

In answer to his question as to what is the update regarding the draft plans and public consultation on the Public Toilets in Rathmullan, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

*The Council had preliminary engagement previously with a community group around a proposal to develop toilets and lifeguard facilities at Rathmullan. The proposal was well received but did not progress because of funding. As previously advised it is intended to consult with the local community/community groups in the coming weeks on a proposal to develop the necessary facilities at Rathmullan. The Council will keep the Letterkenny Municipal District members updated on progress and advise on any planned meetings with the local groups in advance.*

**MDL 118/15 LIGHTS – CARRIGART**

In answer to his question if the Council ensure that the lights at Ulmagh Cottages in Carrigart are fixed as soon as possible, Cllr. J. Mc Daid was advised that:

*These are being referred to Airtricity for repair.*

In answer to his question if this Council can ensure that the light across from the Carrigart Hotel is connected up? As it is wasted as it sits at the moment and the area could do with the lighting, Cllr. J. Mc Daid was advised that;

*This is being referred to Airtricity for repair.*

**MDL 119/15 PEARSE ROAD JUNCTION**

In answer to his question as to what plans has this Council to address the existing junction at the Pearse Road beside McDonalds? Local businesses are suffering as a result of the layout and it needs to be addressed as soon as possible, Cllr. J. Mc Daid was advised that;

*There are room restrictions at this junction that prevent the construction of a footpath, that would allow connectivity between the*



*different commercial areas. There are currently no plans to carry out any works at this junction in the short term.*

**MDL 120/15 OLDTOWN BRIDGE**

In answer to his question if the Council can commission a suitable sign to properly identify the significant Letterkenny landmark that is the Oldtown Bridge, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

*The Council have in the past worked closely with the local Heritage Group with regard to provision of signage at key locations in the town.*

**MDL 121/15 CULLION ROAD JUNCTION**

In answer to his question if the Council can widen the entrance to the Cullion Road from the Port Road by removing part of the existing embankment to make more room and make same safer for vehicles entering the Cullion Road and also exiting the Cullion Road, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

*This is referred to Road Design, and a costing will be brought to a subsequent meeting following their report.*

**MDL 122/15 CAR PARKING CHARGES**

In answer to his question if the Council can confirm what precise income was received from parking charges in 2014 and how that income is made up by reference to (1) the Main Street and (2) each individual car park owned and operated by the Council, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

*This information is not available at given notice, but can be presented at the next MDL.*

**MDL 123/15 TOWN FORUM**

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

*It is hoped that the first meeting will take place before the end of April.*

**MDL 124/15 JOE BONNAR ROAD**

In answer to his question as to what is the current position on the Joe Bonnar Road as agreed previously to set funding aside for this road, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

*Finance have advised that there is a commitment to fund the Joe Bonner Road from development charges in the sum of €500,000*

*approx. Road Design are currently designing and can present current standing at a future meeting if requested.*

**MDL 125/15 FLOODING - RAMELTON**

In answer to his question if a report has been drawn up as to the cause of flooding at Ramelton on August 5th 2014, and what if any remedial works have taken place since to ensure that flooding will not reoccur again and finally can the findings of this report be discussed with the residents of the area most badly affected by the flood, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that

*The Donegal County Council have referred the Ramelton flood affected area to the OPW as the state body tasked under the EU Floods Directive with flood risk management, (for inclusion in their study under the National CFRAMS programme.). To that end, the OPW held a Public Consultation Day on 3rd March (last week) in the Milford Public Services Centre, where by their Draft Flood Maps relating to Ramelton were on display. As per advertisement in Donegal News, the publics "comments on the draft maps and your experiences of flooding in these areas would be most welcome" . It is assumed that those affected by flooding in Ramelton conveyed their experiences, such that they can be incorporated into the OPW's study.*

*Pending the outcomes of the study under the CFRAMs programme (North Western -Neagh-Bann) , there are no readily identifiable 'quick fix' structural solutions that the Council can implement, and we continue to maintain road drainage infrastructure to the fullest extent possible under current resources.*

**MDL 126/15 EPA – WATER QUALITY**

In answer to his question if the Members can we be brought up to date with the ongoing prosecution against the Council by EPA in relation to water quality in Letterkenny, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that;

*The prosecution against Donegal County Council by the EPA in relation to the Letterkenny Water Supply has been adjourned to the sittings of the Letterkenny District Court on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015.*

**MDL 127/15 BROADBAND PROVIDERS**

In answer to his question if the Council can invite in to our next Municipal District Meeting the Broadband Providers for our Municipal Area to give us a presentation on the availability and strength of our Broadband service throughout the Municipal District, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that;

*The Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources have strategic responsibility for the development and implementation of Telecommunications and Broadband Policy.*

*The Department is currently in the planning phase of the National Broadband Plan which is designed to bring high speed broadband to areas of the Country where no existing or planned high speed broadband exists.*

*It is likely that this scheme will be out to tender towards the end of 2015 or early 2016.*

*The Department has offered to make a presentation to the Plenary Council on this project, and arrangements are currently being made in this regard. Eircom are also due to make a presentation at a future meeting. Following both these presentations a decision can then be made if the Members wish to invite other Broadband Providers. It is estimated that there would be 12 or more Broadband providers in this MD area.*

**MDL 128/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Municipal District of Letterkenny would take place on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre commencing at 2.00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.