

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING,
HELD IN THE LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE,
LETTERKENNY, ON TUESDAY, 14TH JULY, 2015 AT 2PM**

MDL 291/15 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. Liam Blaney
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr. Michael Mc Bride
Cllr. James McDaid
Cllr. Ian McGarvey
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr. Mike Quinn
Cllr. Dessie Shiels

MDL 292/15 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
Dearn Mc Clintock, Waste Regulation Officer, Environment
Conal Mc Gettigan, A/Senior Executive Planner
Liam Ward, Director of Service

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. C. Brogan
Cllr. J. O'Donnell

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Gerry Mc Monagle.

**MDL 293/15 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF M.D.L. MEETING AND
A.G.M. OF THE M.D.L. HELD ON THE 9TH JUNE 2015**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Mc Bride seconded by Cllr. M. Quinn, the Minutes of the Municipal District of Letterkenny Meeting held on 9th June, 2015 were agreed.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney, the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Municipal District of Letterkenny held on 9th June, 2015 were agreed.

MDL 294/15 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE

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

- Fanad Lighthouse – Position of Manager has been advertised and further funding secured from Udaras.

- Donegal Marathon – Marketing through Facebook, local print media and leaflet drops. Developing traffic management plan for the route.
- 2016 Commemorations – Report circulated at the meeting on Donegal 2016 Steering Committee, planned activities and Grant Scheme. Funding of €30,000 available for Community Projects with closing date for applications of 24th July, 2015.
- Rathmullan Beach Playground – Works now complete – Project Launch took place on the 25th June, 2015
- 27th Annual Earagail Arts Festival – 10th to 26th July, 2015
- “A Donegal Photo Album” Exhibition – Opens in County Museum from 10th July to 19th September, 2015
- Summer Reading Programmes – Underway in Libraries across the County for children during the school holidays.
- Donegal Youth Council – Party in the Park – 26th August, 2015. Planning for “Shake up Sports”. Completing film and photography project for “Connecting for Life”.
- 6th Annual Irish Aerial Dance Festival took place from the 6th to 20th June in An Grianan Theatre.
- 1st Lughnasa International Friel Festival – Donegal Programme “Welcome for Friel Country” will run from 20th – 26th August.

Cllr. D. Shiels asked that the Council take a lead role rather than having a number of smaller disjointed events during the 2016 Commemorations. Cllr. D. Shiels proposed a parade during Easter 2016, historical photos at Market Square, traditional musicians etc. It was agreed that Cllr. D. Shiels proposal would be forwarded to County Committee.

MDL 295/15 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;

1. RI and RM Programme Updates

The Restoration Maintenance and Restoration Improvement Programmes were ongoing, with the larger of the Contract works having already taken place, such as Ballymacool and Pearse Road.

The Members welcomed progress on both these roads.

2. Completion of Woodlands

Following further representation by the Roads and Transportation Dept to the DTTaS since the last MDL Meeting, confirmation had been received to proceed to complete the outstanding roadworks at Woodlands, and that the DTTaS would either cover the cost of the

works at the end of the year if surplus monies were available or alternatively fund it as a first commitment for 2016. The Council were preparing Contract Documents for the completion of the works at Woodlands with all works to be completed by the end of the year. The Members welcomed the positive update on this Road.

3. Proposed Lighting Programme

F, Doherty circulated report on “MDL Workshop on Lighting Expenditure – 14th July 2015”. The Members were informed at a workshop earlier of the identification of funding for Street Lighting from Roads Central, to the value of €40,000 for the MDL for which Roads Section have been requested to identify locations where this was to be spent.

Cllr. J. Kavanagh proposing the following spend:

- (a) 3 no. lights at Churchill (Estimate €9,000)
- (b) Infill of lighting at Lismonaghan Lower (Estimate €10,500)
- (c) Kerrykeel Village – allocation €6,500 (Estimate €29,990.72)
- (d) Energisation of lights already installed at Curraghlea. (Estimate €4,500)
- (e) Energisation of existing light at Carrigart Estimate €1,500
- (f) Market Square Letterkenny - Upgrade of lighting - Quote €8,193

Cllr. L. Blaney referred to the overall allocation countywide of €200,000 for Street Lighting as this Municipal District of Letterkenny accounted for approximately 25% of the overall area and that monies such be divided in accordance with size of each MD giving this area a sum of €50,000.

A brief discussion followed with Members outlining the need for lighting in nearly all areas on the MD.

Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that the rural areas within this MD were losing out again and proposed that €10,000 be allocated to each Supervisor’s area and used for lights in each area.

This proposal was seconded by Cllr. M. Mc Bride.

As there were now two proposals the matter was put to a vote with 4 Members voting in favour of Cllr. J. Kavanagh’s proposal as outlined above and 4 Members voting in favour of Cllr. L. Blaney’s proposal. At this stage, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle used his casting vote, voting in favour of Cllr. J. Kavanagh’s proposal which was therefore carried.

4. Meeting with Minister Pascal Donohoe Regarding Roads Funding

E. Kelly advised the meeting that he had been advised by Deputy J. Mc Hugh’s Office that Minister Donohoe’s had confirmed to Minister Mc Hugh that he would be willing to travel to Donegal as he would like to

see personally how the developments at Cockhill Bridge were coming on and during that visit, he would arrange for a meeting with Council members and officials.

Minister's Donohoe's office advised that during the Minister's last visit to Donegal earlier this year, he met with John McLaughlin; Seamus Neely; Michael Heaney; Councillor Jimmy Kavanagh; and Donegal Mayor John Campbell in Letterkenny, who were representing Council members. During the meeting, the key road priorities and projects were brought to the Minister's attention, such as the A5 Road, N14 Letterkenny/ Lifford Road. The Minister's understanding was that feedback from the Council was required before the Minister would commit to a date for a follow up visit to Donegal.

5. Workshop on Open Spaces Budgets

It was agreed following a proposal from Cllr L. Blaney that a Workshop be held at 11.30 a.m. on Tuesday 8th September 2015 to discuss Open Spaces Budgets for the M.D.L.

6. Clean Up of Donegal Marathon Route

Cllr. J. P. Mc Daid requested that a litter clean-up take place along the proposed Donegal Marathon route prior to the event.

MDL 296/15 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Enforcement Notices

C. Mc Gettigan, Planning briefed Members in relation to report previously circulated which was noted by the Members. The Members were advised that the total number of Planning Enforcement Notices Served:

2012 – 54

2013 – 91

2014 – 102

2015 (Up to 23rd April) 28

The total number of Planning Enforcement Cases open and investigated in 2015 was 110 up to July and there were currently 22 cases currently in the Courts System for M.D.L.

2. Part 8

In relation to query regarding Active Part VIII's, L. Ward, Director confirmed that record would be amended to remove infill housing development at Glendale Drive under "Active" status.

***MDL 297/15* 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 advised that works are complete on 415 houses to date under the Donegal Fabric Up-Grade Programme 2013 with surveys being carried out on further housing units to identify units with low level insulation.

The Members were advised that there are currently 1,282 housing units owned and 1,368 maintained by the Council in the Municipal District of Letterkenny

The Members were advised that since the introduction of the Housing Assistance Programme (H.A.P) on 25th May, 2015, 14 applications have been approved and 2 were currently being processed.

The members were also advised of a number of approvals to purchase houses had been obtained for 2015 and that further updates would be given on the progress on this.

***MDL 298/15* ENVIRONMENT**

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

- **Recycling –**
 - 70 Bring Bank sites for glass and cans
 - Textile Banks on above 70 Sites
 - 15 Tonnes of Hazardous Household Water collected in 2014
 - August 2015 – 7 collection days around the County to collect waste electrical equipment.
 - 733 tonnes of WEEE collected in Donegal in 2014 (obligation on retailers to take back electrical items on purchase of new one)
 - Licensing of Collection Centre for Scrap Saturday's 10 sites and Farm Film Plastics 15 sites.
- **Awareness (June 2015)**
 - Household Food Waste Regulations
 - Householder Pay By Weight Regulations
 - Road side signage
 - Dog Fouling

- Leave No Trace awareness on the County Beaches and Countryside
- Radio Interviews on Radio Foyle, Highland and Ocean FM on current environmental matters.

- **Legislation**

- The Household Food Waste Regulations extend to 10 towns in Donegal from 1st July, 2015, Ballyshannon, Ballybofey-Stranorlar, Buncrana, Bunbeg-Derrybeg, Bundoran, Carndonagh, Donegal Town and Lifford.
- The Household Pay By Weight Regulations commenced on 1st July, 2015 which requires Household Waste Collectors to have the appropriate equipment on collection vehicles.
- Householders will be paying by weight from 1st July, 2016.

- **Blue Flag Beaches**

- 13 of Donegal beaches were awarded the prestigious Blue Flag Award which places Donegal at joint top of the rankings with County Kerry having the most Blue Flags in the country.

- **Green Coast Beaches**

- Donegal has retained 5 Green Coast Wards since 2014. However, Rathmullan lost its Green Coast Award this year due to failure to comply with water quality requirements due to one poor result in 2014.

- **Water Quality**

- For Blue Flag/Green Coast Award, beaches must comply with the 95th percentile compliance of the above limit values over a 4 year period.

- **Lifeguards and Beach Infrastructure**

- Beach Lifeguards have been deployed on all Blue Flag Beaches since 27th July, 2015

- **Septic Tanks**

- 125 Septic Tanks had been inspected since the commencement of the National Inspection Plan in July 2013.
- 95 inspections planned for 2015, 39 completed to date.
- Registered septic tanks were eligible to apply for grant aid, up to a maximum of €4,000 (means tested)

- **Enforcement**

- 545 Environmental complaints for year to date, 474 of which are for waste and litter
- 88 Litter Fines issues to date
- 34 Litter Fines paid to date 39%
- 17 of which N.I.
- 7 files forwarded to the Courts for non payment of Litter Fines
- 3 Litter Pollution Act 1997 prosecutions for the year to date

The Members thank Dearn Mc Clintock for his comprehensive report.

Members requested clarification as to when the Brown Bins would be delivered to households.

MDL 299/15 USE OF BERNARD MC GLINCHEY TOWN PARK

E. Kelly, Area Manager referred to correspondence received from Donegal Youth Service for the use of the Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Park to hold their annual “Party in the Park” on Wednesday 26th August, 2015. On the proposal of Cllr. G. Mc Monagle seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh, the Members unanimously agreed to their request subject to necessary insurance etc being in place.

MDL 300/15 ST. EUNAN’S U’14

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to the great achievement of St. Eunan’s having 4 teams in Feile na nGael which was the first time in the history of the Feile. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle proposed that a Mayor’s Reception be held in September to recognise their achievement. This was seconded by Cllr. M. Quinn and agreed by the Members.

MDL 301/15 CITY STATUS TO LETTERKENNY

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

That this Council calls on the Minister for the Environment to amend the Local Government Act 2014 to give official City Status to Letterkenny to encourage investment and facilitate its ongoing development as the key economic engine of Donegal and to facilitate and show a commitment to (1) the upgrade of Letterkenny General Hospital to a Regional Hospital to include a cancer care centre of excellence and (2) the upgrade of the status of the Letterkenny Institute of Technology to University status and (3) the development of a dedicated IDA strategy for Letterkenny.

The members were advised that subject to the motion being considered and agreed by Municipal District of Letterkenny, arrangements would be made to forward same to the relevant Government Departments.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels referred to Letterkenny being a magnificent town and would like to see the Hospital upgraded to Regional Hospital, upgrade of the LYIT and IDA Office in this area to help in bringing jobs to the Northwest. Cllr. D. Shiels outlined that Letterkenny has all the facilities of a City and that City Status would help in progressing projects such as the A5 project. On seconded the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle agreed that City Status would open up the area to more funding opportunities, inward investment and also agreed for the need for IDA office in the area.

MDL 302/15 TOURIST SIGNS

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

That this Council in consultation with all appropriate stakeholders including Letterkenny Tidy Towns Committee Ltd and the Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce erect proper Tourist related signs of 'Welcome to Letterkenny' and 'Thank you for Visiting Letterkenny' or suitable alternative wording at the various main entry/exit points to and from Letterkenny including at Port Road, Ramelton Road, Mountain Top and Ballymacool.

The Members were informed that;

Donegal County Council had tourism related "Welcome/Thank You for Visiting" signs at the entry points to Letterkenny. These signs had also been used to promote events in the town when demand arose. However, the Council were seeking to return the signs to their original function and would liaise with the respective partners on this.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels referred to informal signs in other towns welcoming visitors and would like to see such signs located at outer roads of the town before main roundabouts.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to the poor quality of signage and gave Glenveagh National Park as an example and also that tourist interest sports were not well signed.

MDL 303/15 TRAFFIC LIGHTS – ILLISTRIN ROAD JUNCTION

Cllr. D. Shiels proposed the following motion;

“That this Council consider the installation of traffic lights at the Illistrin Road Junction with the N56 to alleviate traffic congestion and dangerous traffic movements at peak traffic times to assist residents and school goers and their families etc”

The Members were informed that;

In light of a previous motion regarding this location, the Council had submitted an application to the NRA for the installation of “Selective Restrictive Speed Limits” at this location. There were no plans to install traffic lights at this location.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels acknowledged the response given but that if speed limits were not reduce that he would like to see traffic lights installed. A brief discussion followed and it was agreed to wait on report and that the Council review speed limits on entire road.

MDL 304/15 FUNDING – SAINT EUNANS SPORTS HALL

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

That this Council support St. Eunan’s College by whatever ways or means in their quest for funding for a new Sports Hall. St. Eunan’s has over 800 students and this facility would be a very important amenity for the school.

The Members were informed that;

The Donegal County Council would work to support and facilitate St. Eunan’s College in any applications that they make to secure funds for a New Sports Hall.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid referred to the large number of students now attending the school, approximately 900 students and 60 staff. Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid asked that the Council write to the Minister in this regard.

On seconded the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels referred to former pupils such as Mark English, Michael Murphy etc and the need to improve the Sports Hall for current and future students.

MDL 305/15 TESTING FOR MICA

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

That this Council test all their houses for Mica that is showing any kind of cracking or deterioration on the exterior side of the building.

The Members were advised that;

Concerns in relation to the presence of Muscovite Mica in the Housing Stock generally in the County had been raised for some time.

In terms of the Council's Housing Stock, suspected cases had been reported in a number of areas, predominately in the Inishowen Municipal District. The matter had been raised by way of motions and questions at plenary Council level.

As a consequence of the above, the Council engaged the services of Consulting Engineers to carry out sample investigations into Cracking to Council dwellings in three separate locations in Carndonagh, Clonmany and Culdaff.

It should be noted that the presence of some cracking in external walls is common place and does not in itself indicate the presence of MICA or defective blocks. Where the level and extent of cracking is severe, this will warrant further investigation in advance of arriving at any conclusions. It is also worth noting that there were many variables to consider in this complex issue and the test results were representative of a small number of samples only.

A Preliminary Engineers Report had now been received following detailed tests carried out on samples of blocks taken from the 3 properties concerned.

The following was a summary of the tests completed and the results found:

Tests Completed:

Tests were conducted by Queens University Belfast and consisted of the following:

- 1. Compressive Strength Tests*
- 2. Mineralogical Composition analysis by X Ray diffraction*
- 3. Wetting / Drying Test*
- 4. Aggregate and Cement Content Tests*

Test Results Summary:

- The block-work tested for compressive strength highlighted a wide variation of results. Outer leaf blocks –(exposed) have been found to have approx 30% less compressive strength than the inner block walls, even though the walls were built at the same time .*
- The block-work tested for mineral composition found a high MICA Concentration (Research has proven this can reduce block-work strength unless its mitigated by the addition of extra cement at production stage)*
- The block-work tested for Aggregate / cement content, identified the samples provided as having a low cement content, though there is no guidance given on what the cement content should be.*
- The block-work tested for Wetting / Drying cycles – highlighted lower resistance of the external blocks to cycles of wetting / drying, when compared with the internal blocks and the control blocks, particularly after higher numbers of test cycles.*

The report confirms that the sample blocks were taken from the above ground construction and recommends that in advance of determining any remedial programme of action that tests should be carried out to the sub-floor blocks. Arrangements are being made to carry out these tests with immediate effect. In addition, the Council is seeking to establish the number of properties that are displaying the same extensive cracking similar to the houses where the sample blocks were taken, with the initial focus in the Inishowen Municipal District, where the greatest level of concern and reporting has been received. This will be extended as necessary upon findings from our ongoing surveying of our housing stock.

When this information is to hand, the Council would prepare a cost estimate of the remedial works necessary to repair the properties concerned. All avenues would be explored to obtain a funding source to carry out these works, in the knowledge that the costs may be significant. The Council had made initial contact with the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in this regard.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid, referred to the huge concern in this area and welcomed response given. Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid outlined the importance of the Council being pro-active in relation to their own Council stock by making sure testing is carried out on any property prior to any substantial works being carried out.

On seconded the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride outlined that the whole issue of Mica would be one of the biggest issues facing the Council.

Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid thanked the Members for their support and asked that this issue be kept on the Agenda and that no substantial works were carried out until testing was carried out.

MDL 306/15 SCHOOL BUS ROUTES

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

That this Council write to the Department of Education and Bus Eireann to seek extensions on a number of bus routes in this municipal area. Some primary and secondary school students are being asked to walk up to 2k in small narrow back roads which is simply not safe.

The Members were informed that;

Subject to the motion being considered and agreed by Letterkenny Municipal District, arrangements would be made to forward same to the Department of Education.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid advised that he had been contacted by a number of concerned parents in relation to their children having to walk 2km on roads without lighting or footpaths and

asked that the Council write to the Department and Bus Eireann in this regard.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels also referred to concerns of parents and asked that the Council do all they can to solve this issue.

MDL 307/15 POTHOLES – LITTLE ANGELS SCHOOL

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

That the Council fix the potholes in the vicinity of the Little Angels School on College Farm Road.

The Members were informed that;

This would be reviewed for inclusion in the maintenance programme.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh asked that if possible if works could be carried out during the summer months prior to school term.

MDL 308/15 CLEANING OF GULLIES

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

That the Council clean the gullies along Circular Road, the Grange and Ashbrook.

The Members were informed that;

Gullies were cleaned on a rotational basis as part of ongoing maintenance. The gullies referred to here would be assessed and cleaned if necessary.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh outlined that water was running down the road during heavy rain fall and that gullies in general were an issue throughout the town.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to the issue of water lying in a number of locations on Circular Road and in particular at Glencar Shopping Centre, and near Hospital roundabout. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle also asked regarding an update on proposed new pipes to be installed on Circular Road and Glenwood.

F. Doherty S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation advised that the Council were currently liaising with Irish Water in relation to installation of foul sewer/storm water pipes. F. Doherty further

advised that a sum of money was on hold from former Town Council to carryout these works but would not be sufficient to cover full cost.

MDL 309/15 ELIZABETHTOWN PA

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

That the Letterkenny Municipal area in conjunction with the Youth Council develop a project with Elizabeth PA, twin town of Letterkenny, to develop relations with mutual benefits for all parties in the future.

The Members were informed that;

The Youth Council were prepared to explore the development of this option subject to the identification of funding and a shared vision of how the project would benefit both areas.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred his visit this year to Elizabethtown and the warm welcome from Mayor Chuck Mummert, Council Officials etc. Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to the excellent facilities available for the elderly such as retirement village etc and healthcare being the main focus in the town.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to the ageing population within Donegal and Ireland in general and the possibility of developing a project in conjunction with the Youth Council.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh referred to the long relationship with Elizabethtown through the former Town Council with links through the LYIT and also link on New Year's Eve.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride welcomed response and support from Council in this regard.

MDL 310/15 LETTERKENNY MAIN STREET

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

That the Letterkenny Municipal District area put a programme in place to clean and maintain pathways and alleyways that connect Letterkenny Main Street with other roads and streets leading to the Main Street.

The Members were informed that;

Public pathways and alleyways were cleaned on a rotational basis as part of ongoing maintenance, including those connecting the Main Street in Letterkenny.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to alleyway between Wolfe Tone Bar and Bar One with dumping and undesirable objects lying around and asked that the Council investigate and respond in this regard.

MDL 311/15 RELOCATION OF TOURIST OFFICE

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

That the Letterkenny Municipal District area explores the possibility of relocating the Tourist Office to a town centre location offering expanded hours at peak times. The Court House springs to mind when its replacement is complete.

The Members were informed that;

The proposal to relocate the Tourism Office had been looked at previously, with the key stumbling block being the lack of visitor access for cars and coaches. This proposal can be revisited with the Visitor Servicing Section of Failte Ireland.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to the difficulties accessing and exiting the Tourist Office with build up of traffic etc and felt that the current Tourist Office was insufficient for the needs of the tourist being closed at weekends etc.

On seconded the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh referred to the great building of the current Tourist Office but felt it was in the wrong location being too far out from town centre.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle proposed an amendment to the motion proposing a “sub Tourist Office” in the town centre. A brief discussion followed and it was agreed to leave the motion as is pending response.

MDL 312/15 KILMACRENNAN JUNCTION

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

That this MD makes the dangerous Junction in Kilmacrennan safe for Traffic and Pedestrians.

The Members were informed that;

Extensive works were carried out recently at the junction in Kilmacrennan, such that full specification vision lines were made possible for traffic exiting from all arms, amongst other works, thus making the junction safer for both traffic and pedestrians. There were no plans for any further works presently.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to the dangers at this junction in particular speeding issues.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney asked that the junction be looked at again and kept under review.

MDL 313/15 ABANDONED BOATS - RAMELTON

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

That this MD deals with the two abandoned Boats at The Quay, Ramelton.

Donegal Co. Council - Marine Section were monitoring a fishing boat the MFV Rival that was moored to the quay at Ramelton and they were also consulting with the owners with a view to having it removed. The owners of the vessel had confirmed recently that they were in discussion with a party interested in purchasing the vessel. Donegal County Council Marine Section would continue to liaise with and support efforts to have this vessel removed from Ramelton. Efforts to discuss the removal of the second wooden vessel from Ramelton were ongoing with the owner.

Cllr. I. Mc Garvey on proposing the motion welcomed the response and hoped that the matter could be solved as soon as possible.

MDL 314/15 MILFORD, RAMELTON & RATHMULLAN SEWERAGE SCHEMES

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

That this MD demands that the extensive Sewerage Pollution problem at Ramelton & Rathmullan be addressed.

Cllr. L. Blaney asked that the motion be amend to include Milford. This was agreed by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey, with the amended motion now seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney.

The Members were informed that:

The responsibility for the provision of the requisite infrastructure at Ramelton and Rathmullan was with Irish Water. The Council would arrange to convey the motion to Irish Water and would update the members at a future meeting of the Municipal District on receipt of a response from Irish Water.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey outlined that this matter was raised a number of times and would welcome a response from Irish Water.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney also referred to the foul odour in Milford area and the need to address this issue.

MDL 315/15 SPEED RAMPS FROM COLLEGE ROW TO GLENCAR ROAD

The following question was submitted by Cllr D. Shiels:

Can the Council can repair and re-mark the speed ramps at Glencar Letterkenny from College Row, passing up past Hawthorn Heights, College Farm Road and Wolfe Tone Place to the roundabout at Circular Road as some of these speed ramps have become damaged and markings have been worn and become faint?

Cllr D. Shiels was informed that:

This would be reviewed for inclusion in the maintenance programme.

MDL 316/15 SPEED RAMPS/SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES – LEITIR ARD, RAHAN

The following question was submitted by Cllr D. Shiels:

Can the Council can install speed ramps and speed reduction signage at Leitir Ard, Rahan, Letterkenny to improve traffic safety and assist residents in providing a safe environment for children in the estate?

Cllr D. Shiels was informed that:

This would be referred to the Road Design Section for inclusion in their review of speed limits, and other appropriate speed reduction measures in housing estates.

MDL 317/15 RESIDENTS PARKING – ARD O'DONNELL

The following question was submitted by Cllr D. Shiels:

Can the Council erect 'Residents Parking Only' signage at Ard O'Donnell Letterkenny to assist residents who are experiencing serious difficulties at times with non resident vehicles using Ard O'Donnell to park?

Cllr D. Shiels was informed that:

The Council would review, in light of the other requests for similar signs. It was noted that in the event that these were erected, it would only be an advisory sign and is not enforceable.

MDL 318/15 POLESTAR ROUNDABOUT

The following question was submitted by Cllr J. Pat Mc Daid:

Can the Council ensure that the poles are painted at the Polestar Roundabout as soon as possible? The Poles are badly faded and should be painted especially now at peak season of the holiday period.

Cllr J. Pat Mc Daid was informed that:

In a previous correspondence with the Artist who designed the Pole Star, he advised that "The Polestar was originally conceived as not having to be painted. The concept was indeed to have nature and the elements take their course on its overall appearance- not dissimilar to the way telegraph poles have aged in the landscape - indeed my original artists visualisation tried to picture the piece in a few years in the future" There are no plans at present to paint the pole star roundabout.

MDL 319/15 OLDTOWN BRIDGE

The following question was submitted by Cllr J. Pat Mc Daid:

Can the Council ensure that the footbridge at the Oldtown Bridge was painted as rust is starting to appear and it would be very important to keep this bridge well maintained?

Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

Tenders were currently being assessed for the painting of this Bridge with a view to the works taking place within the next few months.

MDL 320/15 DRY ARCH ROUNDABOUT

The following question was submitted by Cllr J. Pat Mc Daid:

Can this Council examine the Dry Arch Roundabout to see if both lanes of traffic coming down from Lurgybrack were eligible to head towards Letterkenny? If this can be done it would ease the pressure drastically for traffic coming down from Lurgybrack in the morning and other peak times. Currently it is only marked for one lane of traffic to head towards Letterkenny?

Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

There was insufficient room within the current land take to include for two lanes in the Letterkenny direction at this location. It was Roads experience that traffic congestion on the inward route to Letterkenny occurs nearer the town with the ultimate solution being the construction of the Bonagee Link road. There were no plans for modification of this roundabout at this moment.

MDL 321/15 CYCLE LANE – PEARSE ROAD

The following question was submitted by Cllr. J. Kavanagh:

Would the Council now restore the cycle lane along Pearse Road following the recent roadworks?

Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that:

Following a review of the cycle lane, at the Pearse Road entrance to the Station Roundabout, and taking into account the heavy AADT at this junction, the adjacent footpath at this section (approx 250m) would be designated a shared cycle and pedestrian route, with signage to be erected presently. Cyclists would be able to mount the footpath in the vicinity of Mc Ginley Motors and subsequently return to the carriageway at the drop kerb nearest the stop line at Station Roundabout. Works outstanding included the addition signage and lining.

MDL 322/15 PUBLIC LIGHTING – AN GHARAN, LONG LANE

The following question was submitted by Cllr. J. Kavanagh:

Can the Council take over the public lighting at An Gharan, Long Lane, Letterkenny?

Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

In order for DCC to consider the taking in charge of public lights at An Gharan, Long Lane, Letterkenny an application for the taking in charge of the estate should be made. It was a further requirement that a condition report on the lights and associated infrastructure was carried out and in this regard the taking in charge team had instructed the Council's lighting contractors to survey the estate with a view to assessing the suitability of these lights for take-over.

MDL 324/15 LIGHT – GLENCAR PARK/WOLFE TONE

The following question was submitted by Cllr. J. Kavanagh:

Can a light be provided at the existing pole on the laneway between Wolfe Tone Place and Glencar Park?

Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that:

The programme for expenditure on public lighting would be as per the workshop that took place prior to the MDL meeting, with the prioritisation to be agreed by Councillors.

MDL 325/15 RATHMULLAN PIER

The following question was submitted by Cllr M. Mc Bride:

Was it possible to carry out minor remedial works at Rathmullan Pier to make it safe for people with disabilities as one man recently fell and broke his crutch in a hole on the pier?

Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

The hole in the pier at Rathmullan was a construction joint in the pier, measures little more than 1 inch wide and was a design feature of the structure. Donegal County Council Marine Section would establish if a cover could be fitted to this joint to further reduce the width of the cavity.

MDL 326/15 KILMACRENNAN SEWERGE SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Cllr M. Mc Bride:

Was it possible to have a second exhaust funnel installed in the vicinity of the Post Office in Kilmacrennan to allow the vile gases escape the sewage system rather than backing up into local business and domestic premises.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

The Council would raise this matter with Irish Water and would revert to members with an update on receipt of a response from Irish Water.

MDL 327/15 MACHINERY YARD

The following question was submitted by Cllr M. Mc Bride:

What would be the full financial and practical ramifications to the Municipal District of Letterkenny moving the Machinery Yard back to Lifford and what implications would it have on our fleet?

Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that:

The Machinery Yard were currently based in Lifford, where they provide the servicing for Council owned machinery and arranged for hired in machinery on a countywide basis.

MDL 328/15 FISHING RESOURCES

The following question was submitted by Cllr I. Mc Garvey:

Would this MD promote planned Development of our Fishing Resources with the many Agencies available in Donegal?

Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

The Council would continue to work with Inland Fisheries Ireland, community representatives and other partners to develop and promote the fishing resources in the Municipal District.

MDL 329/15 RATHMULLAN TO AUGHTERLIN CHAPEL

The following question was submitted by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey:

Would this MD (Roads Section) look at what can be done to improve the Road from Rathmullan to Augherlin Chapel and the Car Park by incorporating lay bys along the Route, also to consider improvement of the Road to the Historical Mass Rock as it could become a Tourist attraction along the Wild Atlantic Way?

Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

There were no plans for the installation of lay-bys at present. Future development of the Wild Atlantic Way may provide some means of improvements.

MDL 330/15 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

The following question was submitted by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey:

Will Roads make Pedestrian Crossings safe at Kilmacrennan Rd. / to Milford Car park, Baxter's Corner / Mc Brides Shop, Tank / The Mall & at Whoriskey's Shop / Lower Mall?

Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

There were limited options available for the modification of uncontrolled crossings, consisting mainly of the erection of additional signs. The crossings referred to above would be reviewed in this context.

MDL 331/15 COOLBOY TO KILMACRENNAN

The following question was submitted by Cllr. C. Brogan:

What was the current situation with the Coolboy/Bluebanks to Kilmacrennan project and the proposed new roads at Unifi?
Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

The NRA had provided €700,000 funding towards the N56 Coolboy to Kilmacrennan Realignment Scheme. This was 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 was ongoing.

Preliminary design of the section of the Bonagee link through the former Unifi site had been carried out and the lands procured. Further design works would be carried out following the identification of funding. The management of this was carried out by the NRAD.

MDL 332/15 WOODLANDS

The following question was submitted by Cllr. C. Brogan:

When would works start on the road at Woodlands and when was it expected to be complete?

Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

The Council were preparing Contract Documents for the completion of the works at Woodlands such that all works would be completed by the end of the year.

MDL 333/15 CONVENT/BACK ROAD

The following question was submitted by Cllr. C. Brogan:

When would the works start at the Convent/Back Road in Letterkenny?

Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

Works at the Convent/Back Road would be carried out over the coming weeks, date as yet unknown, but all works would be completed before the schools open.

MDL 334/15 LISMONAGHAN ROAD

The following question was submitted by Cllr. L. Blaney:

Did DCC have any plans to complete the section of footpath above the entrance to the Maples Housing Estate on the Lismonaghan Road, Letterkenny?

Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that:

There were currently no plans for the Council to install footpaths at this location.

MDL 335/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would take place on Tuesday, 8th September, 2015 commencing at 2.00 p.m. in The Milford Public Services Centre.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.