

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING,
HELD IN AN CRAOIBHIN CENTRE, TERMON ON TUESDAY, 9TH JUNE,
2015 AT 2PM**

MDL 235/15 MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MDL 236/15 OFFICIALS PRESENT

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

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Michael Mc Bride.

MDL 237/15 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, the Minutes of Municipal District of Letterkenny Meeting held on 12th May, 2015 were adopted.

MDL 238/15 ENVIRONMENT

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

- Recent Legislation –
 - SI 196 of 2015 The European Communities (Classification, Packaging, Labelling and Notification of Dangerous Substances)
 - SI 197 of 2015 Waste Management (New Household Kerbside Waste Collector Obligations)
 - SI 198 of 2015 Waste Management Pay to use compactor units (PTU's) under a permit Future Regulations on Household Waste Collection in the Summer

Household and Commercial Food Waste Regulations
Amendments
Regional Waste Management Plans

- Community Clean-ups – 43.5 tonnes of waste collected in May 2015
- Dog Fouling Patrols & Bins
- Litter Fines – 83 issues year to date & 23 fines paid
- Prosecutions – 5 prosecutions before the courts and 1 case successfully prosecuted
- Blue Flag Beaches – 13 Blue Flags awarded in Donegal
- Green Coast Beaches – 5 in Donegal – Rathmullan lost award due to failure to comply with water quality requirements of one poor result in 2014
- Lifeguards and Beach Infrastructure – Lifeguards to be deployed by Saturday, June 27th on all Blue Flag Beaches.
- Water Quality – EU Bathing Water Directive 2006

The Members thank Dearn Mc Clintock for his report referring to their disappointment at Rathmullan losing its Green Coast Award. Cllr. C. Brogan asked that the Council write to Irish Water immediately in relation to Rathmullan losing the Green Coast Award due to failure in complying with water quality requirements.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride paid tribute to the 3 volunteers who travelled from Dublin to organise and participate in the cleaning of the Dunlewy to Glenveagh Road. Cllr M. Mc Bride outlined that the individuals involved would be returning to Donegal for the Gaelforce North Adventure Run and asked regarding the possibility of making a small presentation to the volunteers at that time.

Dearn Mc Clintock advised that:

- Dog Fouling Bin could be provided subject to agreement on emptying & maintenance.
- Billing for Pay by Weight Refuse Collection would be monthly and tags could not be purchased
- Refuse could be taken to C.A.S. and weighed
- Waste Collectors responsible for providing Brown Bins

MDL 239/15 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

C. Mc Gettigan, Planning briefed Members in relation to report previously circulated which was noted by the Members.

The Members were advised that an update on Planning Enforcement would be presented at the July Municipal District Meeting.

MDL 240/15 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE

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

- Fanad Lighthouse – €20,000 Funding from SDF and €25,000 Tourism Fund, hoping to secure additional funding from Udaras
- Donegal Marathon – First of the series of Roadshows to promote participation and include advice on training, injury prevention and nutrition to be held in the LYIT on 10th June, 2015.
- Rathmullan Beach Playground – Launch of extension to Playground to take place on 25th June, 2015.
- Playgrounds – Annual maintenance of 5 no. playgrounds complete.
- Donegal Tourism – Website www.govisitdonegal.com is performing strongly with an increase of 70% from same period last year.
- Regional Cultural Centre – Summer Programme incl. Earagail Arts Festival Visual Arts and Music Programmes
- Donegal County Museum -Exhibition of the Bell and Shrine of St. Conall Cael - 15th June 2015 to 13th July, 2015.
- County Donegal Heritage Plan (2014-2019) – to be presented to Elected Members for adoption.
- National Heritage Week – August 22nd to Sunday, 30th August, 2015
- Dry Stone Walls Seminar and Rock Detectives Club in Leann Glencolmcille on Saturday, 20th June, 2015.
- Learning through the Landscape – Professional Development Course for Primary Teachers
- County Donegal in 1916 – Heritage Education Pack – 5,000 copies will be produced – Ongoing Research
- Donegal Gathering – Website and Facebook Page – continuous increase in usage
- Donegal Youth Council – Complete Shake UP Sports Event for 100 young people in Finn Valley Centre June 12th, Launch of Young Carers Film June 10th, Meeting with Donegal Regional Councillors on June 9th, Awards presentation for Pride of Place awards Social Inclusion Week, Road Safety Advertisement Launch June 14th ahead of Rally
- Annual Irish Aerial Dance Festival – 6th – 20th June, 2015, Aura Leisure Centre, Regional Cultural Centre and Community Centre
- Sortland Brass and Wind Ensemble – Visiting Donegal(26th-28th June, 2015)

C. Martin, Development Officer also referred to the HSE Healthy Cities Initiative and that it was hoped that Letterkenny would take

part in this initiative going forward. This was welcomed by the Members.

Cllr. J. O'Donnell referred to the Municipal District area being dependent on Donegal Tourism as their Brand and that those producing products in Donegal should be given an opportunity to come under the "Donegal Tourism Brand". Cllr. J. O'Donnell suggested that public meetings take place in this regard and that information signs are rolled out etc.

Cllr. M. Quinn referred to the "County Donegal in 1916" Heritage Education Pack and believed that the aims should be a stand alone 1916 Rising Education Pack and significance of this should not be diluted with other events. Cllr. M. Quinn asked that this item be included on the Agenda for the next meeting and that clarification be sought from the Heritage Officer regarding emphasis on 1916. L. Ward, Director advised that a group in the Council were currently involved in the 1916 Commemorations with previous proposal put to Members that it would be led by Community SPC and a report brought back to Members. It was agreed that C. Martin, Development Officer would come back with a comprehensive report on the 1916 Commemorations at the next meeting.

Cllr. J. Kavanagh referred to Playgrounds in Private Estates and queried if such playgrounds were covered by Council's insurance. Cllr. D. Shiels also referred to the need for clarification in relation to playgrounds and also in relation to grass cutting. Cllr. D. Sheils also outlined that estates within the Town Council area were now going to loose out. Cllr C Brogan advised stated that it was never the intention that the Council would cut grass in all estates taken over by the Council.

L. Ward, Director referred to a previous meeting where the Members were presented with the policy on Taking in Charge of Housing States. This policy included the taking in charge only of Playgrounds which formed part of the condition of planning permission.

F. Doherty advised that the former Town Council cut grass in some Council estates but that this was not the policy in Donegal County Council and that it was intended to continue to cut grass in the former Town Council area until the end of the year and as Councillors decide from then on.

A brief discussion followed with Members seeking further clarification in relation to grass cutting in certain areas and the unfairness of the current procedures. Cllr. L. Blaney proposed that a workshop be held to clarify issue of grass cutting and to look at in detail the overall open space budget. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle and agreed.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride congratulated all on the Launch of the Mulroy Drive with Sean Quinn, CEO, Failte Ireland for attending the Launch. Cllr. M. Mc Bride outlined that this was a great example of Failte Ireland working with local groups and the business

community etc and asked that a letter of congratulations be sent to Mulroy Drive Development Group. This was seconded by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey.

MDL 241/15 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 follow ups from previous MDL meetings;

Speed Checks – Carried out by Road Design at Kerrykeel School, Chestnut Grove Ramelton, Rosapenna Cottages, Elm Court, Ramelton. Following results of the speed checks it was not recommended that physical measures be implemented. However, these locations would be referred to the Gardai for enforcement at upcoming Collision Prevention Programme Meetings.

Recommended Change to the Road Maintenance Programme 2015

Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation advised the Members that as part of the 2015 Road Maintenance programme, members had allocated €16,800 to Surface dress 1,000m of the LT62923 Doon Well to Cloncarney Road. Since this recommendation, the Council had been advised that under the Letterkenny Regional Water Scheme, it was proposed to replace the existing watermain on the Cloncarney Road in the near future and that a Site Investigation contract would commence soon.

It was proposed that the watermain would be generally laid in the centre of the carriageway and as such, full road width resurfacing would be carried out then.

Accordingly, the Roads Executive recommend that the €16,800 funding be reallocated to the LS5342/4 in Carmoney, Cranford as the condition of this road had deteriorated and if it was surfaced dressed this year, would prevent the need for a Road Improvement Grant in the near future. The proposed reallocated location was within the same Road Senior Supervisors area.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell, the Members agreed the above recommendation.

E. Kelly, Area Manager advised that as requested at previous meeting, a further request was made to Minister Mc Hugh seeking a meeting with Minister Donohue. E. Kelly advised that Minister McHugh has also informed him that Stranorlar Municipal District would be requesting a similar meeting with Minister Donohue and therefore, Minister McHugh suggested that a group deputation, with a representative from each Municipal District present, meet with the Minister to highlight the concerns they had for their areas.

A lengthy discussion followed with the Members outlining that they would not be in agreement of a group delegation referring to the urgency to address the deterioration of the roads in the Letterkenny Municipal District area. It was agreed to invite Minister Mc Hugh to attend the July Municipal District Meeting or on an alternative date.

Cllr. I. Mc Garvey asked regarding the setting up of a meeting with all Oireachtas Members. L. Ward, Director advised that when Infrastructural Plan was finalised for the County that a meeting would be requested with the Oireachtas Members so that the document could then be brought to Government level. L. Ward outlined that it was hoped to provide an update on the Infrastructural Plan at the next MDL Meeting.

***MDL 242/15* 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 advised that under the Housing Strategy Programme 2015-2020 that a separate funding scheme for Approved Housing Bodies which were currently a number of applications being processed with schemes mainly in the Letterkenny area.

The Members were advised that the Council were currently implementing the new Housing Assistance Programme (HAP) for new applicants since the 25th May 2015 which was discussed in detail at previous Workshop.

M. Mc Bride referred to proposed audit regarding the presence of mica referring in particular to an estate in Kilmacrennan with alleged presence of Mica. L. Ward, Director advised that no investigation has been initiated in the Letterkenny area and that the focus currently was in the Inishowen area. Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid proposed that houses were tested for Mica prior to works being carried out which could be a saving in the long term.

The Members again referred to the high number of refusals with J. O'Donnell proposing that applicants are reviewed perhaps every six months in order to source interested tenants. Cllr D Shields noted that there was a 97% occupancy overall and that tenants were generally satisfied at accommodation provided.

E. Kelly, Area Manager advised that assessments were carried out prior to making an offer and every file was reviewed at least every 2 years. L. Ward, Director advised that it was a resource problem to review more frequently.

MDL 243/15 TOWN TWINNING

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

That this Council introduce a Town Twinning Programme for towns in the Municipal area.

The Members were informed that

Letterkenny had a Sister City Agreement with Elizabethtown in Pennsylvania and also received delegations from Vielum in Poland. The Council would explore Town Twinning options with the Department of the Environment.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh referred to the opportunity for all towns to be twinned with towns across Europe etc referring to the huge Polish community in this area. Cllr. J. Kavanagh asked that the Council look into progressing the area of town twinning and revert back.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to his visit to Elizabethtown, PA which was twinned with the former Letterkenny Town Council and their focus on Healthcare within their town and facilities for the elderly. Cllr. M. Mc Bride further advised that he has been in contact with Donegal Youth Council re possibility of engaging in a project with Elizabethtown. L. Ward, Director advised that the matter would be forwarded to Community & Enterprise Section and a report brought back to Members.

MDL 244/15 LURGYBRACK – ESCAPE ROAD

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

That the Council refresh the escape route coming down Lurgybrack

The Members were informed that;

This escape route was refreshed in recent months. DCC Roads have sought funding from the NRA for replacement of the aggregate and refreshing of marking/signage etc.

MDL 245/15 TARING HAWTHORN HEIGHTS

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

That the Council tar the road in front of houses numbers 25, 26 and 27 at Hawthorn Heights or include this as a priority in the next programme.

The Members were informed that;

The Road Improvement and Road Maintenance Programmes were set by members at the start of each year. There was no allocation set aside this year for this location. Members have the option of including in next years programme.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh asked that in the interim if large potholes could be repaired. Cllr. J. Kavanagh also confirmed that he had been in contact with Minister J. Mc Hugh who has confirmed Minister Donohue had agreed to meet with the Letterkenny Municipal District with a date to be finalised.

MDL 246/15 DISABLED PARKING BAY – CHEMIST CARRIGART

Cllr. J. O'Donnell proposed that;

This Council put a disabled parking bay at the Chemist in Carrigart to help people with disabilities to access the Chemist easier.

The Members were informed that;

This would be assessed in light of the heavy traffic congestion that already exists in Carrigart.

Cllr. J. O'Donnell outlined that he has met with the Roads Engineer who would be assessing the situation and he was not moving the motion.

MDL 247/15 PUBLIC TOILETS – DOWNINGS PIER

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

That this Council carry out essential repairs to the public toilets at the pier in Downings as they have got to the state now that you couldn't use them.

The Members were informed that;

It was proposed to close the toilets and apply to the Department. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for funding under the Marine Leisure & Marine Tourism Scheme if there is such a scheme next year.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell outlined that he would not be in agreement of closing the existing toilets and asked that the

Council request the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine for 2 portaloos (1 standard and 1 disabled) to be installed until such time as refurbishment takes place.

MDL 248/15 LOADING BAY LOWER MAIN STREET, LETTERKENNY

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

That this Council install a loading bay on the right hand side of Lower Main Street, Letterkenny to assist businesses on this side of the street.

The Members were informed that;

This was discussed at the previous meeting, where members were advised that there was insufficient room for a loading bay on the right hand side, but that a location was identified on the left hand side. If a loading bay was on the right hand side, the remaining footpath would be below specification, and hazardous. Notwithstanding this, the location on a bend is not suitable for the installation of a loading bay.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell reiterated that the loading bay was required on the right hand side and asked that the Roads Engineer meet with himself on site in this regard. This was agreed. However, F. Doherty advised that as per the answer given at two MDL meetings in a row, there was insufficient width to install a footpath and loading bay to specification width.

MDL 249/15 BRIDGES – RAMELTON & DRUMONAGHAN

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

That this Council check the condition of the Bridges in Ramelton & Drumonaghan.

The Members were informed that this would be referred to the Bridge Inspection Team in Road Design

MDL 250/15 MEETING WITH IRISH WATER

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

That this Municipal District seeks a Meeting with Irish Water to discuss Sewerage Treatment in our M.D as a matter of urgency.

The Members were informed that;

The Council could request Irish Water to attend a meeting of the Municipal District to update the members on their current capital investment programme including projects and works planned for the Letterkenny Municipal District in particular.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey raised his concerns in relation to the future of Irish Water and availability of funding to deal with existing problems. On seconding the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney referred to Rathmullan losing its Green Flag and the need to meet with Irish Water.

A brief discussion followed and it was agreed that Irish Water be asked to address Members at a future Municipal District Meeting. Cllr. C. Brogan referred to previous request to meet Senior Management within the Council who were working with Irish Water. L. Ward, Director advised that previous motion had been discussed and agreed to arrange said meeting.

MDL 251/15 KILMACRENNAN CHURCH

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

That this Municipal District helps Kilmacrennan Church of Ireland to complete the car park that is available for general public and to Donegal County Council.

The Members were informed that;

This has been referred to Irish Water and we were currently awaiting a response.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey felt that the Council need to take responsibility with Council using this car park for access to sewerage treatment plant and carpark also was being used as a public carpark. On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell also agreed that the Council should take responsibility and make some contribution to the carpark.

L. Ward, Director advised that no undertaking can be given at this stage and that the motion would be referred to Water Services for consideration.

MDL 252/15 LONG TERM PARKING – BUS USERS

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

That we find a suitable car park to accommodate long term parking for holders of bus passes who may wish to go on multiple day trips.

The Members were informed that

There are a number of locations around Letterkenny where there was no charge for parking, any of which could be considered for overnight parking. The Council did not have any official "long term" car park with a mechanism in place to facilitate payment in excess of one day.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to attendance at recent "Care of Aged" event where it was brought to his attention the problem for elderly using CIE bus for 2-3 day breaks with no facility to leave their car. On seconding the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle outlined that CIE have a moral responsibility to provide car park spaces for their customers and that previous discussions took place with CIE and Tesco. A brief discussion followed and it was agreed that the Council write to CIE and Tesco in this regard.

MDL 253/15 TIDY TOWNS GROUPS

Cllr. M. Mc Bride proposed that

That this Municipal District commits a sum of €5,000 to each active Tidy Towns group in our 2016 Budget to help them purchase equipment and defray the costs incurred by our local community volunteers.

Cllr. L. Blaney asked M. Mc Bride to consider amending motion to include Tidy Towns groups and Development Associations. Cllr. M. Mc Bride agreed to the amendment which was seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney.

The Members were informed that;

Budget allocations and funding through the Strategic Development Fund are a matter for Council Members.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to the contribution by all Tidy Towns Groups to the way towns were presented and that it was unfair to ask volunteers to cover both their time and costs.

MDL 254/15 RIVER LENNON

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

That we ask the inland fisheries board for a report on the salmon and trout stock in the river Lennon and what is the road map going forward with a view to returning the river to full fishing rights.

On proposing the motion Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to previous motion to re-open the River but that River was opened on a catch and release and would like river to be used to its full benefit. Cllr. M. Mc Bride asked for a report on stock and forecast when River could be fully opened. On seconding the motion Cllr. J. Pat outlined that fishing in the area has a huge potential and that “catch and keep” would attract more to the area with potential for local farmers to sell their licence for the day.

MDL 255/15 CONWAY GRAVEYARD

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

That this Council find money to complete the footpath the whole way to Conwal Graveyard. This is badly needed along this stretch of road.

The Members were informed that;

There was currently no identified budget for the completion of this footpath. Members have the option of including in next year's programme.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid outlined that completing the footpath would not be a major cost and that people preferred walking to the Graveyard in good weather. Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid asked that this footpath receive priority if any monies become available this year. Cllr. C. Brogan on seconding the motion also referred to high numbers accessing the graveyard by foot and the possibility of sourcing additional funding on health and safety grounds.

MDL 256/15 TIDY ESTATES COMPETITION

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

That this Municipal District continues with the Tidy Estates Competition started by the Letterkenny Town Council in Letterkenny and fully supported by Tidy Towns and Residents Associations across the town.

The Members were informed that;

The Council have traditionally ran an annual Local Authority Tidy Estates Competition and would be running the annual competition again this year. This would include Local Authority Estates in the

former Letterkenny Town Council area. Advertisements would be placed in local press at the end of June.

MDL 257/15 WINDYHALL ROAD

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

That we enter into discussions with landowners who own the land at the bad bends at the Windyhall Road with a view to realigning this very busy and dangerous part of the Windyhall Road.

The Members were informed that;

There were currently no identified allocations for the procurement of land. Roads would however re-initiate discussions with the landowners regarding potential procurement in readiness. Pending the reinstatement of the Specific Improvement Grants, the MDL were not in a position to carry out road realignments.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to the serious bends on the Kilmacrennan side of Windy Hall with an increasing number of cars, vans, bikes, walkers etc. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle asked that the Council talk to land owners and carryout road realignment in the interest of all road users

On seconding the motion, Cllr. M. Quinn also referred to the huge increase in traffic in the area and that this road was included in presentation to the Minister.

MDL 258/15 FANAD LIGHTHOUSE

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

That DCC erect at least two life buoys at Fanad Lighthouse.

The Members were informed that;

Following a tragic accident at the Fanad Head Lighthouse in August 2014, the Council immediately assessed the Fanad Lighthouse area and identified a need for additional ring buoys at the location.

The registered owner of the land and cliff area surrounding the derelict coastguard buildings beside the Fanad Head Lighthouse was identified but he could not be contacted. With the help of the newly formed Forbairt Fhanáda Teoranta., the Council would again

endeavour to contact the owner of these lands and seek permission to erect additional ringbuoys.

The Council has also contacted The Commissioners for Irish Lights and requested that the Irish Lights Property Manager review the ringbuoys at the Lighthouse and improve, as necessary.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that a further accident has since occurred and referred to the huge increase of traffic in the area with Fanad Lighthouse etc.

MDL 259/15 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Shiels, seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, it was agreed to suspend Standing Order Number 5 and to continue with the meeting after 6.00pm until agenda was completed.

MDL 260/15 RATHMULLAN CAR FERRY

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

That DCC makes an all out effort to ensure that the Rathmullan to Buncrana Car Ferry is operational this summer.

The Members were informed that;

The Rathmullan to Buncrana Car Ferry was currently out to Tender and we would have an update on the Tender Process this week

On proposing the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that closing date for receipt of tenders was the previous day and would ask that the Council make every effort and try and provide an extra contribution to get the Ferry up and running. Cllr. L. Blaney also referred to his disappointment with Inishowen Municipal District not providing any funding through the Strategic Development Fund.

MDL 261/15 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ROAD SIGNAGE

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

That this Council put proper pedestrian crossing road signage in place at Letterkenny Main Street to encourage pedestrian use of Letterkenny Main Street and to make proper use of the various crossing points which exist but are not marked for crossing as they should be in order to facilitate safe pedestrian crossing at all times.

The Members were informed that;

The various crossing points on the Letterkenny Main Street were signed and lined in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual. (With regards to signage, the guidance advocates the erection of Pedestrian Crossing signage (W140) “where the visibility to an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing ... is impaired by a bend or hump in the road” which does not relate to these crossings.

On proposing the motion Cllr. D. Shiels referred to lack of road markings at pedestrian crossings and the need to prioritise pedestrian safety. Cllr. I. Mc Garvey on seconding the motion referred to issues raised by businesses at Upper Main Street that need addressed and who believed that layout prior to improvement works served better. Cllr. J. O’Donnell proposed that Main Street be left as is with Cllr. G. Mc Monagle asking for clarification on the motion. A brief discussion followed with Cllr. D. Shiels asking that Council Engineer meet on the Main Street to examine the issues which was agreed.

MDL 262/15 ROAD WIDENING CRIEVESMITH TO ROCKHILL ROAD

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

That this Council consider a scheme of road widening from Crievesmith Park at Crievesmith, Letterkenny out along Crievesmith following out through the Rockhill Road passing Bomany as far as the Bridge at Newmills with a view to also constructing a footpath from Crievesmith Park out along Crievesmith out through the Rockhill Road passing Bomany as far as the Bridge at Newmills to facilitate residents and others using this road for running and cycling and other sports.

The Members were informed that;

Pending the reinstatement of the Specific Improvement Grants the MDL were not in a position to carry out road realignments/widening.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels asked that the Council consider widening and installing footpaths to link complete circle with Ballymacool/Conwal Road. Cllr. D. Shiels also referred to the potential of Rockhill as a tourist attraction and the need to improve the access road etc.

MDL 263/15 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEMES - CCTV

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

That this Council initiate a process of engaging with residents in various estates in Letterkenny who have already formed

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes or who wish to consider forming a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme with a view to introducing a Council led scheme of installation of CCTV systems at the entrances to these estates with a view to making a serious effort to assist residents and Gardai alike in prevention and detection of incidents of crime in the Letterkenny area.

The Members were informed that;

The CCTV system previously installed in Letterkenny was under a Department led funding scheme. No localised funding schemes were available for extension to existing system or further areas throughout the town. However, the Council could consult with the Gardai authorities to see if any other funding is available in this regard.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels referred to Letterkenny being a large town verging on a City and asked that the Council write to the Department of Environment regarding installing CCTV cameras at entrances to estates. Cllr. D. Shiels outlined that studies have shown that installing cameras in residential estates have proved very effective and make people feel safer in their homes.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey would like to see a pioneer scheme in some estates.

L. Ward, Director advised that the Council would write to the Department in this regard and also consult with the Gardai.

Cllr. C. Brogan referred to success of existing CCTV system in Letterkenny and that it would be good to give elected Members a demonstration of existing system. Cllr. C. Brogan also suggested that the Council write to the Superintendent inviting a presentation from the Crime and Drugs Unit at our July Meeting.

MDL 264/15 TRAFFIC CALMING – FORD GARAGE CARNAMUGGAGH

In answer to his question, if the Council could provide traffic calming measures above the Ford Garage at Carnamuggagh Close, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

There were already traffic calming measures installed on this section of the N56, with street lit islands located. The accident database showed no records of accidents at this location, and accordingly this would not qualify for the installation of additional traffic calming measures.

MDL 265/15 MARKET SQUARE

In answer to his question if the Council could refresh the road markings and replace the litter bins at the Market Square, Letterkenny, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

Resources were currently involved in the repainting of bins railings and seats at the Market Square in collaboration with Tidy Towns and Chamber of Commerce. The lining at Market Square had been added to the schedule for implementation by the Contractor.

MDL 266/15 FIRE TENDER - MILFORD

In answer to his question if the Council could advise if it has plans to replace the Fire Tender in Milford as it is the oldest in the County, and has to cover a large area, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

Funding for the purchase of fire appliances was provided by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. Funding had been sought by Donegal Fire Service for a number of appliances that included a replacement for the existing appliance in Milford. As of to date no response had been received to the request. Should funding be provided any decision on the allocation of funded appliances would have regard to the number of appliances requested, the number of appliances for which funding has been provided and to the operational needs of the Fire Service.

MDL 267/15 ROAD MARKINGS GLEN VILLAGE/CHURCHILL VILLAGE

In answer to his question as to what is the update on road marking in Glen Village and Churchill Village which he raised at previous meetings, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

These would be carried out on the next road lining contract within the area.

MDL 268/15 ROAD GRITTING PLAN

In answer to his question as to when are we getting a chance to amend the road gritting plan so that roads can be added to it as a matter of urgency, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

This was a county wide matter and does not fall within the MDL remit.

MDL 269/15 SPEED SIGN – KILMACRENNAN VILLAGE

In answer to his question as to when will the speed sign and pole be erected again on the entrance to Kilmacrennan Village which was broken due to a car hitting it in the snow months ago, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

This was referred to the NRA for replacement under their maintenance programme, awaiting a date from them.

MDL 270/15 N14/COOLBOY TO KILMACRENNAN

In answer to his question if there is any progress on the N 14 or Coolboy to Kilmacrennan, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

In relation to both locations, the progress outlined at the previous meeting relates.

MDL 271/15 JUNCTION IN KILMACRENNAN

In answer to his question if this Municipal District will address the serious junction in Kilmacrennan as a matter of urgency, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

Traffic calming and junction improvement measures at the junction in Kilmacrennan were carried out last year. There were currently no plans to carry out any further works at this location

MDL 272/15 WATER SUPPLY – POLLAN DAM

In answer to his question as to at what stage is it proposed to supply water to Letterkenny from the Pollan Dam, Buncrana, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

The Council can request Irish Water to attend a meeting of the Municipal District to update the members on their current capital investment programme including projects and works planned for the Letterkenny Municipal District in particular.

MDL 273/15 TRAFFIC SURVEY – GLENVEAGH ROAD

In answer to his question if the Council have any results for the traffic survey which was passed here at Council on the Glenveagh road travelling towards the NW, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

There were no results in relation to a traffic survey at this location. The carrying out of a survey was on the programme for Road Design.

MDL 274/15 DISABILITY WORKS

In answer to his question as to when do we plan to carry out the walk of Letterkenny with disability groups to review their needs with a view to incorporating them into our works over the term of Council, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

As advised at a previous meeting “A date can be set following the allocation by Councillors of an amount from the MDL budget for improvement of facilities. An audit by Age Friendly was recently carried out identifying measures for which no budget had been identified to date.”

MDL 275/15 HEDGE CUTTING REPORT

In answer to his question as to when can we be given a hedge cutting report for 2013 and 2014, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

Hedges were cut on an as required basis at times within the hedge cutting season, where staff were available in between the various other programmes.

MDL 276/15 DISABLED PARKING – SCALLY’S PRACTICE

In answer to his question as to when will extra disabled parking bays be marked out in the car park at Scally’s Practice which he raised as a motion earlier this year and still hasn’t been done, Cllr. J. P. Mc Daid was advised that;

One additional disabled car parking space would be added to the current arrangement at Justice Walsh Car Park. This had been added to the lining schedule for implementation.

MDL 277/15 GLENMAQUIN SCHOOL

In answer to his question if there has been any progress made in relation to his motion concerning crossroads and safety barrier at Glenmaquin School, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that;

As advised at previous meeting, this had been referred to Road Design. A report would be brought to a subsequent meeting.

MDL 278/15 TIDY ESTATES AWARDS

In answer to his question as to who were the winners of the Tidy Estate Awards in Letterkenny and were the names of the winners circulated to the local press, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that;

The following was the results of the 2014 Tidy Estates competition as emailed to Members on 24th April, 2015.

TIDY ESTATES COMPETITION 2014

| CATEGORY | WINNERS |
|----------|---------|
| | |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Best Overall Scheme | Solomon's Hill |
| 50 Houses or More | 1 st Carolina Park 2 nd Beechwood 3 rd Glenoughty |
| 25-49 Houses | 1 st The Grange (47-83) 2 nd Hazelwood Drive 3 rd Wolfe Tone Place |
| Up to 25 Houses | 1 st College Row 2 nd Westhill 3 rd Solomon's Grove |
| Special Merit | Muckish Avenue |
| Consolation Prizes x 4 | Meadow Hill Foxhills Beinn Aoibhinn Orchard Grove/An Garainn |
| Special Ward – Trees | Glenoughty Close |
| Most Improved | Slieve Sneacht/Errigal Road |

MDL 279/15 FAIRGREEN HILL

In answer to his question as to when can we expect a report into the problems experienced and reported by the residents of Fairgreen Hill to this Council in relation to dampness and other structural defects, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that;

The houses in Fairgreen Hill were surveyed in March 2014 to establish the extent of the problem. When we complete the assessment of works carried out in Glendale Drive where there were similar issues, it was proposed to carry out a further survey of the houses in Fairgreen Hill to determine if the situation had changed since the original survey in March 2014. It was hoped to complete this survey over the summer months following which a specification for any remedial works deemed necessary would be prepared.

A funding source would have to be identified for any works proposed and it was likely that any work that would be carried out would be on a limited number of houses initially to test any works/methods before carrying out any works to any further houses.

MDL 280/15 PUBLIC STREET LIGHT - DOWNINGS

In answer to his question as to when will the Public Street Light at the end of the Murlog Road above the Harbour Bar in Downings, which was erected about six months ago, be switched on, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

This had been completed and the light was now working.

MDL 281/15 TOWN CENTRE SIGN - MILFORD

In answer to his question as to when does DCC hope to have the Town Centre sign erected beside the Old Tech in Milford, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

This should be completed before the end of July.

MDL 282/15 WOOD ROAD, LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question if the Council can urgently review the state of the lower half of Wood Road, Letterkenny leading to the junction with Cullion Road given that there is ongoing repetitive potholing occurring on this road annually and where patching works are not working and improved drainage measures may be necessary, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

Some drainage was done on this Road at 3 different locations in 2014 but the Road was patched out and would be put on the Recommended Restoration Programme for 2016.

MDL 283/15 ROAD MARKINGS – OLDTOWN BRIDGE

In answer to his question if the Council can take steps to renew the road markings from the Oldtown Bridge, Letterkenny passing the mini roundabout and up to and including the entrance to McNeely Villas and Ros Suilighe as these road markings have become very worn and need replacing, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

This had been added to the lining schedule for implementation.

MDL 284/15 TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES – LISMONAGHAN ROAD

In answer to his question if the Council can provide him with an update on his previous request by Motion in October 2014 that “this Council arrange to provide new and improved traffic calming measures on the Lismonaghan road in Letterkenny from the Hillview estate down to the bottom of the road where it meets the Leck Road” and can the Council also as a matter of urgency take steps to install speed reduction measures above the entrance to the Hillview/Woodpark Estates at Lismonaghan, Letterkenny, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

This had been referred to Road Design. A report would be brought to a subsequent meeting. There was substantial traffic calming carried out at this location some years ago with the speed limit also being moved out to above the entrance to Hillview/Woodpark. The accident data base did not show this as a high accident location.

MDL 285/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 14th July, 2015 in The Letterkenny Public Services Centre.