

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

MDL 129/15 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 130/15 OFFICIALS PRESENT

Ruth Diver, Planning
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 131/15 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Mc Monagle seconded by Cllr. D. Shiels the Minutes of Municipal District of Letterkenny Meeting held on 10th March, 2015 were adopted.

MDL 132/15 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ruth Diver, Planning briefed Members in relation to report on Unfinished Estates/Public Safety Initiative as previously circulated. The Members welcomed update given. Cllr. D. Shiels referred to issue for those selling houses with questions from buyers and if a database could be compiled in relation to the status of each estate. L. Ward, Director acknowledged the request from Cllr. D. Shiels and that the Council would look into this.

In relation to queries regarding takeover and involvement by Irish Water, L. Ward advised that there was now clarity on the role and responsibilities of Irish Water and the Council with "Memorandum of Understanding" between Irish Water and Local Authorities. Irish Water will take responsibility for water and wastewater in estates taken

over by the Council and the Council will be responsible for roads, public lights etc.

L. Ward further advised that he expected that substantial progress would be made in the coming months in relation to takeover. The Council's Taking in Charge Policy will be reviewed and be presented at the May Council Meeting. It was also proposed to present a list of all estates that had applied for Takeover.

It was also agreed to advise members when the public lights in Gleann Eadain would be completed.

Development Land

L. Ward also advised the members that the Council had been invited in a Pilot Project with D.O.E.H.L.G. and Irish Water.

L. Ward further advised that he expected that substantial progress would be made in the coming months in relation to this.

MDL 133/15 COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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

- Fanad Lighthouse – Finalise leasing agreement with Commission of Irish Lights. Funding being sought for management and promotion of the accommodation. Interview for Managers position.
- Donegal Marathon – Workshops to be held in partnership with Donegal Sports Partnership to highlight issues such as stretching, nutrition and running techniques. PR Consultant now in place.
- Letterkenny Age Friendly Initiative – Draft plan being worked on with partners with a view to launching in May.
- Letterkenny MD Playgrounds – Annual maintenance of playgrounds – to be completed by mid April, 2015
- Rathmullan Beach Playground – Tenders being assessed for extension of Rathmullan Beach Playground. Appointment of contractor hopefully by mid April 2015 with works to be complete by end of June 2015.
- Junior Achievement Programme – Junior Achievement is the leading provider of enterprise education to young people aged between 5-18 yrs. Volunteers successfully sought and trained with visits to schools in the MD area next month.
- IPB Pride of Place Competition 2015 – Highlights Local Authorities commitment to supporting active community groups. Applications/nominations date extended due to funding requirements. Short listing will take place agreed date. Interviews to take place in April/May.
- Library Highlights – Members can now download and borrow from a selection of hundreds of e-books and e audio books through library website for free. Also 30 digital magazines can be downloaded free to library members.

- Bealtaine 2015 – To be launched on 1st May in Central Library.
- 1916 Document Study Pack – Production of education booklet depicting life in Donegal in general in the year 1916. First draft of text of booklet almost completed.
- LYIT Dice Conference – A 2 day design conference at LYIT on 16th & 17th April with an evening event on Thursday 16th April, 2015 at the Regional Cultural Centre.
- Remote Photo – 5th to 23rd May 2015 – Independent Donegal festival dedicated to photographers creating work in a remote or rural context. Exhibitions and workshops in RCC and County Museum.
- Distorted Perspectives – RCC 30th April to 3rd May – Music and Art Festival in partnership with Eargail Arts Festival. Gigs to be held at RCC
- May Concerts – RCC Letterkenny – Julie Fowles (Scotland) 6th May and Mary Gauthier (USA) 15th May
- Donegal County Museum – Travelling Exhibitions including WW1 on 23rd April in Cathedral Hall, Raphoe and Connection and Division on display in Letterkenny PSC in April.
- Letterkenny Town Forum Meeting to be arranged
- Tidy Estates Prizes for Letterkenny Town to be issued shortly.

MDL 134/15 WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

E. Kelly, Area Manager, briefed Members on report previously circulated. The Members noted the content of the report which included details on (a) Community Activities, (b) DCC support to National Competitions such as Tidy Towns and IBAL Anti-Litter and (d) enforcement.

A brief discussion followed with the Members welcoming the report but referred to their disappointment that no one from Environment Section was available to present the report. The Members requested an official from Water & Environment to attend future meetings and requested a presentation at next meeting on illegal dumping, including details on number of fines issued, cleanups, number of prosecutions, Recycling Centres and also requested further details on enforcement of Smokey Coal Ban.

The Members also discussed the possibility of having arrangements in place to empty recycling banks over Bank Holiday Weekends and put procedures in place to clear rubbish/boxes etc from around recycling banks.

The Members also raised their concerns in relation to the cleaning of litter on the Letterkenny/Lifford Road in conjunction with the IBAL Anti-Litter League and the dangers associated with same.

L. Ward, Director advised that an Official would be present at the May Meeting and future meetings going forward.

MDL 135/15 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 MDL meeting held on 10th March, 2015;

Carraig Craobh – Confirmation that estate had not been taken in charge by the Council. Public Lighting was taken over in the estate in 2013 by the former Letterkenny Town Council.

Glen Speed Limits – Confirmation that existing 50kph zone was fully signed as per requirement. The issue of speeding will be referred to next CCP meeting with the Gardai.

In response, Cllr. J. O'Donnell noted that speed limit signs were in place and asked regarding the possibility of putting some form of road markings on the road.

Review of Speed Limits on Roads in Housing Estates

The Members were advised that the Council were considering the application of 30km/h speed limits to appropriate estates within their administrative areas in conjunction with a recent published circular from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. Following submissions received from the public, it was intended that the locations identified would be assessed in accordance with new revised Guidelines to be issued by the Department this month. Estates within the control of the Council are to be assessed initially and clarification has been sought from the Department in relation to non-Council estates.

Public Consultation on Flood Management Under the CFRAMS

Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation briefed Members in relation to the above. The Members were advised that Public Consultation Days were organised to provide an opportunity for all interested persons to view and comment on Draft Flood Maps for Donegal, including Ramelton, Rathmullan, Kerrykeel, Downings and Letterkenny.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to previous request for report into the flooding at Ramelton outlining that he could not accept waiting public consultation period and report at the end of 2016. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle asked that the Council put forward a report and present to Members as soon as possible.

Ballymacool Road/Dual Carriageway/Woodlands Road

The Members welcomed confirmation that works on Ballymacool Road were to be prioritised with works due to be awarded next month. F. Doherty further advised that interim works will take place on the Dual Carriageway next week pending patching works scheduled for

May/June with Council actively seeking funding to complete these works.

Cllr. C. Brogan outlined his disappointment at lack of progress on this road and asked that the Council write again seeking a meeting with the Minister for Transport.

Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to the urgency on the completion of the Woodlands Road. Cllr. I. Mc Garvey also referred to speed limit which had previously been extended out to Loughnagin area and problem of number of speeding fines in this location.

Speed Detection Vans

Cllr. C. Brogan referred to Speed Van parked in Loughnagin in private property and the need for consultation with the Council in this area.

Cllr. C. Brogan asked that the F. Doherty raise this matter with Senior Management.

***MDL 136/15* 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

L. Ward, Director informed the Members that a Circular has issued from the Department outlining details of a new Tenant Purchase Scheme with further details to follow from the Department.

A brief discussion followed with the Members once again outlining their concerns at the high number of housing refusals. E. Kelly, Area Manager advised that reasons for refusals varied greatly and that a detailed update was prepared for Members at recent Housing Workshop. The Members also referred to the lack of clarity in relation to “location options” on housing application form, whereby it should be made clear to applicants that it is not necessary to fill in 3 preferred locations if they were sure that they only wished to be rehoused in one particular location. The Members outlined that this may also be adding to the high refusal rates.

E. Kelly, Area Manager further advised that the HAP Scheme (Housing Assistance Programme) was being introduced in Donegal from the end of June. HAP was a new form of housing support provided by local authorities. The introduction of HAP would mean that local authorities can now provide housing assistance for households who qualify for social housing support, including many long-term rent supplement recipients. Under HAP, local authorities will make the full rent payment on behalf of the HAP recipient directly to the landlord. The HAP recipient will then pay a rent contribution to the local authority. The rent contribution would be a differential rent – that is, a rent based on income.

In order to qualify for HAP, a household must be qualified for social housing support by their local authority, which means the household must qualify to go on the local authority housing waiting list. HAP recipients would be responsible for finding their own accommodation in the private rented market. HAP allows recipients to take up full-time employment, while still receiving housing support.

C.W.O.'s would continue to pay Rent Supplement for existing applicants and for people becoming unemployed.

The Members also referred to the length of time it took to process housing loans/grants etc querying if it was practical for the Council to be dealing with loans at all.

MDL 137/15 STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Mc Monagle seconded by Cllr. C. Brogan the Members agreed to allocations under Strategic Development Fund as agreed at previous Workshop. It was further agreed that a copy of allocations would be forwarded to each Member.

MDL 138/15 STRATEGIC ISSUES

L. Ward, Director referred to summary given as April Council Meeting on Infrastructural Priorities for the County. It was agreed that the Council Members would meet in Workshop Sessions at Municipal District Level to discuss Infrastructure Requirements in each area. Cllr. C. Brogan welcomed the progress on this matter following his motion at County level for a "Donegal Plan" to discuss with Oireachtas Members which would assist in securing funding for additional infrastructure for the development of the County.

It was agreed to hold Workshop at 10am on Monday, 20th April, 2015 in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

MDL 139/15 LETTERKENNY TENNIS CLUB

E. Kelly, Area Manager referred to correspondence received from Letterkenny Tennis Club. E. Kelly advised that Letterkenny Town Council had leased a portion of land to the Tennis Club a number of years ago and that the Club were now seeking an additional plot. The Members were advised that the proposed disposal of this additional plot went as far as Section 183 with Letterkenny Town Council but was not progressed at the time. E. Kelly advised that the Tennis Club were now proposing to make a planning application and sought the approval of the Council as owners of the land. The Club were also proposing to make an application under the Sports Capital Programme. The Members were advised that S183 would have to go before the Council again if disposal was to proceed. A brief discussion followed and on the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan seconded by Cllr. I Mc Garvey

the Members agreed that a letter issue to the Tennis Club in order to progress their planning application.

MDL 140/15 REQUEST FOR RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION

E. Kelly, Area Manager referred to correspondence received from Paul Maguire and Paddy Walsh requesting to make a presentation to a Municipal District of Letterkenny meeting in relation to their writing a book on World War One. On the proposal of Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh the Members agreed to meet the deputation at the May MDL Meeting.

CIVIC RECEPTION – ULSTER SENIOR LEAGUE TEAM

Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to Ulster Senior League Team's previous success in winning the National Tournament and proposed that the Council hold a Civic Reception in their honour. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. C. Brogan with Cllr. M. Mc Bride to revert back with a suitable date.

Motions

MDL 141/15 FUND - ATHLETES

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

That the members and management of this Municipal Council consider all possible means of setting up a fund to support athletes from the Letterkenny Municipal area who are challenging for a place or who have already qualified for the Olympic Games in Rio in 2016.

The Members were informed that

As part of Budget 2015, discretionary funding was included in respect of these Strategic Development Funds and members Development Fund with allocation of this funding a matter for consideration by individual members.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels outlined that he would like to see these athletes supported and that it would be a great honour for this Municipal District to have athletes at the Olympics. Cllr. C. Brogan raised the question re availability of funding. A brief discussion followed with the Members outlining that funding or a special bursary could be considered as part of the 2016 Budget.

MDL 142/15 LETTERKENNY ATHLETIC CLUB

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

That this Council issue a letter of congratulations on behalf of the Letterkenny Municipal Council to Letterkenny Athletic Club in recognition of the many ongoing international successes of its athletes including the recent international medal winning performances of Mark English and Anne Marie McGlynn and international championship appearances of Danny Mooney and Brendan Boyce.

MDL 143/15 NAMING OF ROUNDABOUTS ETC

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

That this Council formally consider the naming of the various roundabouts in Letterkenny in memory of some of the many great men and women who have contributed greatly to the history and prosperity of the town of Letterkenny and perhaps commence with the naming of a roundabout as the 'John Chambers Roundabout' in honour and recognition of the composer of the song 'Letterkenny Town'.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. D. Sheils asked that the Council do everything to add to the identity and history of the town referring to the risk of the town losing its identity and that areas other than naming of roundabouts could be looked at. This motion was seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh outlining that the Council need to be clear on criteria to be used which was agreed by the Members. It was agreed that this would require further discussion and perhaps a working group could be set up.

Cllr. C. Brogan referred to agreement by former Town Council to honour the late Cllr. T. Culbert and asked that this matter be followed up.

MDL 144/15 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING TO TOWN PARK

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

That the Council examine the safety for pedestrians of the crossing to the Town Park at the Hospital Roundabout, and advise the Members on same.

The Members were informed that;

The Council have examined the pedestrian crossing to the Town Park at the Hospital. Whilst accident statistics do not indicate this to be a hazardous location, it is deemed that additional signage from the Knocknamona approach, advising of pedestrians crossing will improve the current configuration. This signage to be erected.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh referred to the safety issue when coming off Circular Road and that crossing further up was a lot safer. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to the possibility of a barrier to stop pedestrians from using crossing. A brief discussion followed with the Members asking that the issue be further examined given the high volume of traffic in the area.

MDL 145/15 EXIT TO CULLION ROAD

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

That the Council assess the exit to Cullion Road from the main Ballybofey Road, with a view to making it safer.

The Members were informed that;

The Council have examined the junction of the Cullion Road with the N13. Accident statistics do not indicate this to be a hazardous junction. There is a potential hazard at all junctions onto National Roads by virtue of the inherent default speed limits of 100km on the National Road network. The junction of the Cullion Road with the N13 does however have a turning lane, and sight lines above DMRB standards, which are well maintained by Council, and being fully signed in accordance with design guidance, there are no uniquely treatable identified hazards associated with this junction.

On proposing the motion Cllr. J. Kavanagh advised that there was no hard shoulder on this road when coming from the Ballybofey direction. On seconding the motion, Cllr. C. Brogan outlined that this was a very dangerous junction and asked that the Council look at it as a matter of urgency and refer to the NRA. Cllr. C. Brogan further asked that a report be brought back to the Council on the matter.

MDL 146/15 CIRCULAR ROAD

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

That this Council examine the problem of water lying at various locations on Circular Road following heavy rainfall.

The Members were informed that;

This will be examined and findings reported to a subsequent MDL meeting.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh referred in particular to exit at Ballyboe and crossing at Glencar Shopping Centre. On

seconding the motion, Cllr. G. Monagle referred to gullies not working in the area.

MDL 147/15 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING – AURA LEISURE CENTRE

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan (in absence of Cllr. J. Mc Daid) seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, the following motion was adopted;

That this Council consider putting a pedestrian crossing close to the entrance of the Aura Leisure Centre.

The Members were informed that;

There is an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing currently in place at the Aura leisure Centre.

MDL 148/15 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS – ROAD TO GLENSWILLY CHAPEL

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan (in absence of Cllr. J. Mc Daid) seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell the following motion was adopted;

That this Council consider putting extra safety precautions at the junction turning right up to Glenswilly Chapel. It is on the R250 and the hump on the road leading up to the junction is potentially very dangerous and it is only a matter of time until there is a serious accident.

The Members were informed that;

This will be examined and findings reported to a subsequent MDL meeting.

MDL 149/15 CIVIC RECEPTION – GAVIN SHEVLIN

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan (in absence of Cllr. J. Mc Daid) seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle the following motion was adopted;

That this Council have a civic reception for Gavin Shevlin who won the world Irish Dancing Championships in Canada last weekend. This is a great achievement for the County and must be recognised. I would also ask that this motion be forwarded to full Council meeting in Lifford also.

MDL 150/15 GLENMAQUIN NATIONAL SCHOOL

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

That the Council's Road Design Team devise a plan to enhance the safety of road users at Glenmaquin National School crossroads with

part of that plan to include a safety barrier along the length of the school building adjacent to the road.

The Members were informed that;

This would be referred to Road Design.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to recent visit to the school for their 150th Anniversary and outlined a number of issues for the school. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to the possibility of placing a safety barrier in front of hedge and asked that a report be brought back to the Council in this regard.

MDL 151/15 ROAD LINING – KILMACRENNAN ROAD

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

That the Council renew the road lining on the Kilmacrennan Road, Circular Road and De Valera Road.

The Members were informed that;

The Council periodically renew line-markings throughout the Municipal District as prioritised by the executive based on safety, traffic volumes and budget. Parts of the locations referred to in the question were covered under the current programme, with remainder to be reviewed.

MDL 152/15 INCENTIVE FOR LOWER MAIN STREET, LETTERKENNY

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

That this Council introduce some type of incentive to attract the much needed business injection to Lower Main Street, Letterkenny as this part of our Town has got very run down looking.

The Members were informed that;

The Council in an effort to ease the financial burden on businesses and to assist them to reduce their cost base introduced a Small Business Grant Scheme in 2015 as part of the 2015 Revenue Budget. All business rate payers are eligible, however, this scheme is aimed primarily at small and medium enterprises, which for the purpose of this exercise are those that pay up to €5,000 p.a. in rates. 79.3% of all rate accounts fall into this category in 2015.

Under Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by Section 43 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 a Local Authority can resolve to provide assistance in money or in kind, may

takes such measures, engage in such activities or do such things in accordance with law, as it considers necessary or desirable to promote the interest of the Local Community. Assistance in money or in kind includes grants, loans, guarantees or other financial aid. The granting of such assistance is a reserved function of the Council.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Scheme was to ease the financial burden on commercial rate payers in the County by providing an annual grant to fund a proportion of their annual rates liability, subject to certain terms and conditions being met.

HOW THE SCHEME WORKS

The Scheme provides for a grant of up to 5% of the annual rates bill (excluding arrears) on each commercial rated premises, subject to a maximum annual grant of €250 and subject to certain terms and conditions being met. The grant is payable by means of a reduction in the annual rate demand for the commercial premises and is applied at the end of the financial year.

This means that in 2015, over 79% of rate payers in Donegal can make a saving of the full 5% of their rates bill while the remainder can making a saving of €250.

Based upon the proposal as currently framed the estimated cost of this scheme to the Council in 2015 is €250,000.

THE TERMS AND CONDITONS OF THE SCHEME

To qualify for the Small Business Grant Scheme, the following terms and conditions apply:

- *The grant is applied to the current year's rates only (not applicable to arrears).*
- *Rates must be paid in full by the deadline of the 30th November 2015 – this includes customers paying by monthly direct debits and standing orders.*
- *There must be no arrears on the account by the deadline date.*
- *The grant is applied to the rate account at the end of the financial year.*

A detailed information sheet issued along with each Rate Demand for 2015 advising each rate payer on the details of the scheme.

The Council could explore options for a scheme to improve the appearance of the area which could be considered in advance of the next budget meetings) as no budget currently exists for any such scheme in the MD.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell acknowledged the above small rates reduction but outlined that an incentive such as urban renewal, tax incentive, grants etc was required to bring the heart beat back into Lower Main Street. Cllr. J. O'Donnell asked that the Council revisit this matter and

revert back with incentive proposals. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney who also welcomed some form of urban renewal scheme etc.

Cllr. D. Sheils referred to his disappointment with the motion raised outlining that motion was very degrading to the residents and business owners on Lower. Main Street. Cllr. D. Sheils outlined that Port Road was in a worse state than Lower. Main Street and asked that the motion be reworded. A brief discussion followed with the Members outlining that this was an issue for a number of town centres nationally and asked that the Council investigate if the Department are currently looking at this problem. There was no seconder to Cllr. D. Shiels' proposal to reword motion proposed.

Cllr. J. O'Donnell advised that his motion was positive in trying to revive the Lower. Main Street area and was not singling out any business referring to his disappointment at the negative twist put on his motion.

MDL 153/15 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Cllr. I. Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh, it was agreed to suspend Standing Order Number 5 and to continue with the meeting after 6.00pm until agenda was completed.

MDL 154/15 COASTAL EROSION – PORTSALON GOLF CLUB

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

That this Council address the coastal erosion at Portsalon Golf Club which is bringing all types of tourism and revenue into the local economy and also throughout our county. This is a major concern and worry for all landowners in coastal areas.

The Members were informed that;

It was understood that this erosion is within the golf club on their property and not at the public beach. The Council would not be responsible for this since it is on private property but acknowledges that it is a problem at several locations around the County on private property.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell outlined that this was a major concern and that money was required urgently from a national fund to protect entire coastal line. This motion was seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney advising that he wished that this motion be referred to Workshop scheduled in Lifford on 11th May, 2015.

MDL 155/15 IRISH SIGN LANGUAGE

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

That this Municipal District supports the Irish Deaf Society's call for Irish Sign Language to be recognised as an Official Language.

Cllr. L. Blaney thanked the Members for their support outlining that he would like to table this motion at Plenary Council.

MDL 156/15 MOYLE VIEW ESTATE

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

That this Council agrees to tar the road at Moyle View Estate, Milford.

The Members were informed that;

This road was not on the agreed RI or RM Programmes as adopted by Council for 2015.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that the front of the estate was never tarred and asked that Roads Section and Housing come up with a budget to solve the problem.

MDL 157/15 PEDESTRIAN MARKINGS – MAIN ST MILFORD/KILMACRENNAN ROAD

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

That this Council make the pedestrian road markings more visible at the junction of Main Street, Milford and the Kilmacrennan Road for road users.

The Members were informed that;

This would be reviewed with a view to identifying required measures.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney referred to the dangerous at this junction and the possibility of more signage. On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell outlined that this issue had been brought up previously and that speed reduction approaching the junction was required and perhaps a lighting system introduced. Cllr. L. Blaney requested a report back as soon as possible.

MDL 158/15 SPEED LIMIT SIGN – LOUGHNAGIN

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

That this MD requests a review of the Speed Limit Sign at Loughnagin to the Roundabout at Keys's Shop, Ballyraine

The Members were informed that;

This speed limit was reviewed previously and deemed to be the appropriate speed limit. This was advised to the MDL at a recent previous meeting. There are no plans to review again in the near future.

On proposing the motion Cllr. I. Mc Garvey acknowledged that this matter had been discussed earlier and would like the speed limit in the area to be reviewed. Cllr. L. Blaney referred to the possibility of having the speed reduction taken back as far as Golf Club junction. Cllr. C. Brogan raised his concerns if Council increase speed limits given issues in the past. A brief discussion followed with the Members agreeing that the matter be reviewed and a report brought back to the Members.

MDL 159/15 IRISH WATER

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

That this MD request projections from Irish Water for Sewage treatment in the following towns – Rathmullan, Ramelton, Kilmacrennan, Churchill, Milford, Kerrykeel, Carrigart, Downings and Glen Village as a matter of urgency

The Members were informed that;

This information can be requested from Irish Water by the Council or can be got from Irish Water through the dedicated arrangements that are in place for councillor engagement. The relevant contact details have been provided to the elected members.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey outlined his grave concerns re Irish Water and asked that the Council invite Irish Water to meet Members of the Letterkenny Municipal District. Cllr. J. O'Donnell referred to the lack of engagement with Irish Water.

L. Ward, Director outlined that as advised at yesterday's Plenary Council meeting any Municipal District could make a submission to Irish Water's Strategic Plan by 17th April, 2015.

Questions

MDL 160/15 UNFINISHED ESTATES

In answer to his question if the Council can confirm (1) how many unfinished estates in the Letterkenny Municipal area on its takeover list have no bond in place because of the fact that the original bond was

allowed by the Council to be rolled over to another estate and (2) can the Council give the names of each estate affected and the value of the bond which was released and allowed to be rolled over, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

The planning authority was not aware of any case in Letterkenny MD where a bond was not in place to complete an unfinished housing estate which had made an application for taking in charge because the Council agreed to the original submitted bond being rolled on to another of the developer's housing estates."

MDL 161/15 AURA SPORT & LEISURE

In answer to his question if the Council can furnish him with a copy of its correspondence exchanged with Aura Sport & Leisure Management Ltd (both sent to Aura and reply correspondence from Aura to the Council) in relation to issues raised by me at the February 2015 and March 2015 Municipal Council meetings in relation to (1) enquiring as to the cause(s) of the high number of personal injury claims arising at the Aura leisure Centre Letterkenny and enquiring as to how many personal injury claims have arisen since the commencement of occupation of the premises and enquiring as to whether there are safety issues at the premises which require attention; and (2) requesting the extending of the availability of free swimming for children up to the age of 12 at the Aura Leisure Centre and making it known that the Letterkenny Municipal Council favours increased use of the facilities at the Aura Leisure Centre Letterkenny by children, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

The issues raised were brought up at Board of Directors meeting by Council representatives on the Board asking that a reply be given. The Council are currently awaiting a formal reply. However, the Board were advised that because of ongoing legal cases, Aura were not in a position to comment on a number of matters raised.

MDL 162/15 RATHMULLAN/PORTSALON PIERS

In answer to his question if the Council has any planned commencement date for refurbishment works at (1) Rathmullan Pier estimated to cost €2.6 million and (2) Portsalon pier estimated to cost €1.4 million, both of which projects are identified in the Marine Capital Budget 2015-2017, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that

Both Rathmullan and Portsalon piers require significant refurbishment works. It was expected that 75% of the required funding would come from State Grants and the remaining 25% funding would come from the Council's Own resources by way of matching monies. Neither of these funding sources was in place at present and as such there was no commencement date for the refurbishment works.

MDL 163/15 LOADING BAY – LOWER MAIN STREET, LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question if the Council could examine the possibility of providing a loading bay on the right hand side of Lower Main Street, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

This was currently being reviewed with a view to identifying potential for a loading bay.

MDL 164/15 ALLOTMENTS – ARD O'DONNELL

In answer to his question if the Council could advise on the future management of the allotments site at Ard O'Donnell post town council, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

The future management of the allotments site at Ard O'Donnell would be processed by Donegal County Council.

MDL 165/15 SMOKEY COAL

In answer to his question if the Council could advise on the number of inspections that have been carried out in relation to the sale of smokey coal in Letterkenny, the number of breaches detected if any, and what action, if any, has been taken on same, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

Under the Smokey Coal Regulations Donegal County Council have in 2015 to date conducted 16 retailer and supplier site inspections, 12 delivery vehicle observations and 4 mobile vehicle checkpoints in conjunction with the Revenue Commissioners.

This had resulted in 2 Enforcement Notices being served by the Council, one on a Retailer and the other on a Supplier and one Warning Letter to a householder regarding the burning of bituminous coal.

MDL 166/15 LISMONAGHAN ROAD

In answer to his question as to what progress has been made regarding his motion in the October meeting re proposals that the Council has to remedy the situation where Residents of Rowan Park on the Lismonaghan Road have expressed serious concerns of the danger of exiting the estate due to the speeding traffic coming down the hill and around the corner vision lines are severely impaired and urgent action is required, Cllr. J. Mc Daid was advised that;

This has been referred to Road Design, and findings would be reported to a subsequent meeting.

MDL 167/15 FAIRGREEN HILL

In answer to his question if the Council can have a report on the proposed works to be carried out at Fairgreen Hill housing development Letterkenny to address the subsidence and dampness issues raised by residents of the estate and what time frame is set for these works to begin and end, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that

The Council carried out remedial works to a number of houses in Glendale Drive, Letterkenny that were experiencing similar problems with severe dampness and work was ongoing. The nature of works was complex in context of problems being encountered. The approach in Glendale was being reviewed including the nature and extent of the works and methods used. It was proposed to firstly conclude our investigation / review of works in Glendale to determine the best solutions to ensure lessons learned can be transferred to any further works which are to be carried out elsewhere.

The houses in Fairgreen Hill were surveyed in March 2014 to establish the extent of the problem. It was now proposed to carry out a further survey of houses in Fairgreen Hill when we complete the assessment of works carried out in Glendale Drive to determine if the situation has changed since the original survey in March 2014 and to prepare a specification for any remedial works deemed necessary. A funding source will 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 168/15 FOOTPATHS - LONGLANE

In answer to his question as to when will the footpath repairs be carried out on the Long Lane, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that;

These works were programmed to be carried out in May.

MDL 169/15 FLOODING REPORT - RAMELTON

In answer to his question as to when will we be furnished with the report into Flooding at Ramelton on 5th August 2014, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that;

As previously advised, the OPW are the lead agency for flood risk management in Ireland tasked with the identification of flood mitigation measures, and to that end recently held public consultations in relation to the flooding at Ramelton. The DCC were not yet in receipt of the report relating to Ramelton from the OPW.

MDL 170/15 BUS SHELTER - KILMACRENNAN

In answer to his question if he can get an update on the progress made regarding repairs to the bus shelter in Kilmacrennan, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

Expressions of interest were sought last year for prices to carry out works to the bus shelter to no avail. Further requests would now be initiated

MDL 171/15 TRAFFIC SURVEY – GELNVEAGH ROAD

In answer to his question if he can get an update on the progress made on the traffic survey on the Glenveagh road approaching the N56 which we undertook to do here at a previous area meeting, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

This had been referred to Road Design, and findings will be reported to a subsequent meeting.

MDL 172/15 SLIABH SNEACHT

Cllr. M. Mc Bride asked that Donegal County Council provide the residents of Sliabh Sneacht with a gate to protect the rear entries to their property after a recent spate of serious burglaries. It was agreed that Cllr. M. Mc Bride would seek clarity on the issue in order that the matter can be assessed.

MDL 173/15 FERRY SERVICE FOR RATHMULLAN

In answer to his question if the Council can give an update on the tender process of the Ferry service for Rathmullan, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

Tenders can be requested for a 2015 service should the necessary resources be allocated towards this end. Previous years allocations for the Swilly Ferry came through the Letterkenny Electoral area, the Inishowen Electoral Area and the Bunrana Town Council.

MDL 174/15 PUBLIC TOILETS - RATHMULLAN

In answer to his question if the Council can agree a date today of when they will hold a public meeting with the residents of Rathmullan regarding the public toilets in Rathmullan with proposed layout drawings and a commencement date and time scale of this project as its vital that this beautiful sea side town get these toilets this year, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

The Council would arrange an initial meeting with the residents before the end of the month to look at proposals for the development of the facilities in Rathmullan. The members would be advised of the arrangement to facilitate their attendance.

MDL 175/15 BUS STOP – MR CHIPPIE CARPARK

In answer to his question if this Council will look at doing something about the Bus stop at Mr Chippie as its causing major traffic jams and very dangerous at busy times when there is 2 buses at this stop and there has being a number of accidents at this spot, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

This bus stop was designed and has full capacity to hold two coaches at the same time without encroaching on the road. Whilst there are no reports of major traffic jams, there are reports that drivers sometimes use the live carriageway as a drop off point. There are no identified structural improvements that will eliminate this practice. Garda enforcement may be the solution here and this will be brought to the attention of the Gardai.

MDL 176/15 PUBLIC TOILETS – RATHMULLAN

In answer to his question if the Council will hold a public consultation meeting with the residents of Rathmullan regarding draft design of public toilets before the end of this month, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

The Council would arrange an initial meeting with the residents before the end of the month to look at proposals for the development of the facilities in Rathmullan. The members would be advised of the arrangement to facilitate their attendance.

MDL 177/15 TOWN CENTRE SIGN - MILFORD

In answer to his question if the Council will erect a Town Centre sign beside the old Tech, Milford indicating the direction of the Town Centre to the vehicles that use the Church Road, Milford, which he has already requested on numerous occasions, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

This sign had been erected since the previous meeting.

MDL 178/15 CRASH BARRIER – MILFORD TO KERRYKEEL ROAD

In answer to his question as to when will this Council repair the crash barrier beside the " Hawks Nest " on the Main Milford to Kerrykeel road, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

This would be assessed for inclusion in any upcoming crash barrier programme if appropriate.

MDL 179/15 HOUSING – DISABILITY FACILITIES

In answer to his question if this MD should recommend that all new Housing Development include facilities on Ground Floor to accommodate a Person with disability to avoid adaption to houses in future, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

The Council in principle would be supportive of the proposal that all new Housing Developments would include facilities on Ground Floor to accommodate a Person with disability to avoid adaption to houses in future.

Certainly a small percentage of the new stock can have such a provision, however, a universal approach will have a huge cost implications due to increase in the floor areas and an additional level deck shower facility at the GF, for which further thinking is required and also we need to obtain an approval and clearance from the Department who are funding the Social Housing. The department takes such decisions on national bases rather than for a particular area. The Houses are being designed in accordance with the departments guidelines “ Quality Homes Sustainable Communities”, which provide details of accommodation for the various house types.

MDL 180/15 FOOTPATHS - RAMELTON

In answer to his question as to when is it proposed to construct the agreed Footpaths around Ramelton for Health & Safety reasons, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

Footpaths were constructed in Ramelton in 2014, there were no plans or identified funding for further construction of footpaths in 2015

MDL 181/15 VOLUNTARY SPORTS ACTIVITIES

In answer to his question if Community & Enterprise will compile a List of all the Voluntary Sports activities in the Letterkenny Municipal District, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

A list would be compiled and issued in due course.

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, 12th May, 2015 in the Milford Public Services Centre commencing at 2.00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Administrator

Mayor

Date: _____