

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY-MILFORD MEETING, HELD ONLINE, ON 11 MAY, 2021 AT 2:00 P.M.

MDL234/21 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. Liam Blaney
Cllr. Kevin Bradley
Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
Cllr. Donal Coyle
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr. Donal Kelly
Cllr. Michael Mc Bride
Cllr. Ian McGarvey
Cllr. Gerry McMonagle
Cllr. John O'Donnell

MDL235/21 OFFICIALS PRESENT

Liam Ward, Director of Service
Patricia McIntyre, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services
Bernadine McGee, Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services
David McIlwaine, S.E.E. / Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Elaine McEntee, Executive Planner
Geraldine Havlin, Assistant Planner
Francis Conaghan, Development Officer
Joe Ferry, A/Senior Executive Scientist
Daragh McDonough, Information Systems

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Donal Coyle

MDL236/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting.

MDL237/21 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh the Minutes of meeting of 13 April 2021 were adopted.

Cllr. Donal Coyle advised that Cllr. Gerry McMonagle had requested that his Motions be dealt with first as he would have to leave the Meeting early. The Members agreed to this.

MDL238/21 LETTERKENNY FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, the following motion was adopted:

“That we invite the OPW to a Workshop meeting to discuss and receive from them an update on the current status of the Letterkenny Flood Relief Scheme.”

Members were advised that:

“The motion is noted and if adopted the Council will make contact with the OPW as requested.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle welcomed the news that 3 schemes at Ballybofey-Stranorlar, Buncrana-Luddan and Ramelton have been identified for progressing and that an initial public consultation will be launched in the coming months for these schemes. He noted, however, that Letterkenny is the premier town with the Town centre and adjacent areas in the flood plains. There have been flooding problems in the Town and in particular at the Aura Leisure Centre. He asked that the OPW be invited to meet with the Members to advise where the scheme is at and to discuss the urgency of it. This would help with discussions with Planners in relation to the Town Plan.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kavanagh noted that Cllr. McMonagle had outlined the matter well and that it is timely to do this now with discussions ongoing on the Letterkenny Plan. A meeting with the OPW is overdue. He asked that New Mills and the River walk also be discussed at this meeting.

Cllr. McMonagle agreed that this would be a timely meeting with the development of the Town into a City.

MDL239/21 FOOTPATH & LIGHTS FROM N14 TO DRUMOGHILL N S & REALIGNMENT OF ROAD JUNCTION AT BIDDY FRIELS

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, the following motion was adopted:

"That we enter an application through the Active Travel for the Provision of a Footpath and lights on the link road from the N14 to Drumoghill National School and that we also look at the realignment of the Road Junction at Biddy Friels."

Members were advised that:

“We will include this location for consideration for inclusion in applications for all suitable funding opportunities. With reference to the realignment of the Road Realignment at the Junction with Biddy Friels I will forward this on to the Road Safety Engineer to carry out a Safety Assessment.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle welcomed the response given that funding opportunities would be looked at and that the realignment of the junction would be considered. This is on the main Lifford road past Morning's yard to the junction and on to Drumoghill National School. There is a setback there which could be used for a footpath. The children at Drumoghill National

School could walk or cycle to school safely if a path was in place. He advised that he had spoken to the local Roads Engineer and had made him aware of what he is proposing.

Cllr. Brogan noted that he was happy to second the motion which had been outlined well. This a small community with the School, Chapel and football pitch in the area.

Cllr. McMonagle thanked Cllr. Brogan for supporting the motion.

David McIlwaine noted that this proposal is a good candidate for the Active Travel Programme and that it would encourage children to walk to school. He advised that this application would be prioritised.

MDL240/21 EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION IN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, the following motion was adopted:

"That this MD investigate and Prepare a Report on 1) Emergency Accommodation availability in MD. 2) The need for Emergency Accommodation. 3) A Proposal to provide emergency accommodation in this MD with the view to creating a Proposal for Department Funding to provide an adequate service for those in need."

Members were advised that:

"Emergency accommodation for homeless persons is provided via a number of mechanisms in the County.

Firstly, there is the St. Colmcille Homeless Hostel in Sallaghgraine, Letterkenny. This accommodation is run and managed by St. Vincent de Paul. The facility was funded by the Department via the Capital Assistance Scheme some years ago.

In addition, where the Council is satisfied that other short term emergency accommodation is necessary in relation to instances of homelessness, we can facilitate Bed and Breakfast accommodation. 90% of the costs associated with the provision of emergency bed and breakfast accommodation is recouped to the Council by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and this is provided for within the Housing Act 1988.

There is a strong focus on preventative measures to avoid homelessness. NW Simon provide a Tenancy Sustainment Service on behalf of the Council to assist people who are at risk of losing their tenancies. NW Simon also provide a Placefinder Service on behalf of the Council which is available to assist applicants who are approved for social housing support to find private rented accommodation with Housing Assistance Payment Support. Finally, the Housing First Programme is operational here in the County since April 2020

and this programme provides accommodation and wraparound supports to persons who have suffered from long term homelessness.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle noted that there is a growing number of people seeking housing, presenting as homeless and sleeping on sofas. He thanked Patricia for the substantive response but noted that the Hostel is at full capacity for as long as he has known about it. He noted that the Simon Community provide support and sometimes help with deposits but this is limited. He noted that B & Bs are regularly used. A centre is needed for short term periods or housing needs to be identified that people can afford to rent. A case should be put to the Minister to seek funding to either extend the Hostel or to provide a new stand alone property. Rents are very high and it is hard for people to meet the cost. He stated that the Council are not seeing the full scope of the situation as family and friends are allowing sofa surfing. A proposal from the Council should be submitted to the Minister outlining the need for further support.

Cllr. Kavanagh noted that he was happy to second the motion. There are more and more cases cropping up with more people coming into the town. This is increasing rather than diminishing. The information should be collated to see where we are at. It is a good idea to have this conversation. He acknowledged the work of the Hostel and the Simon Community. More information is needed to prepare for the future.

Patricia McIntyre thanked the Members for their comments. She advised that she is happy to draft a proposal and will bring it to the Members as the next Housing workshop.

Cllr. McMonagle thanked Cllr. Kavanagh for his support and Patricia for her commitment to move this forward. This needs to be prepared and could be more cost effective.

MDL241/21 SERVICE CABLING IN THE TOWN

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, the following motion was adopted:

“That the Council put in place a plan and timeframe for moving all service cabling in the town underground.”

Members were advised that:

“This would be a very large project and would be required to be progressed in stages. The Letterkenny Roads Section are collaborating with the Urban Regeneration team on a number of schemes in the town which will include environmental improvement type works including the undergrounding of overhead wires were possible.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh noted that this has been discussed a lot and that a good bit of work has been done. This was previously raised when

Town Council existed. This work would contribute towards Tidy Towns work. It would be safer and lower maintenance required and there would be less chance of damage in bad weather. He asked that when other work is being done that this could be included. He noted the work currently ongoing at the Boys' school and wondered was there an opportunity to do this there. He named a number of areas in the town where this work could be done. He noted that it would be a big project over a long period of time. It would be good to have a plan in place with a timeframe for the different areas of the town.

Cllr. Brogan thanked Cllr. Kavanagh for bringing this motion forward. He noted that a presentation from the ESB for future proposals would be beneficial with the town being the North West City Region. The ESB's plans going forward are needed.

David McIlwaine advised that where it is feasible overhead wires are being put underground when projects are being done. There are difficulties where wires are connected to houses.

Cllr. Kavanagh thanked Cllr. Brogan for his support and David for his response. He noted that a meeting with the ESB is a good suggestion.

MDL242/21 COFFEE DOCK FACILITY FOR BALLYMACOOL PARK

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, the following motion was adopted:

“That the Council consider providing a coffee dock facility for coffee/teas and snacks at Ballymacool Town Park.”

Members were advised that:

“This is a Casual trading opportunity, However the current Casual Trading bye laws would have to be expanded and amended to include the Town Parks. This will be referred to the Planning Section for consideration.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh noted that there is a service for the Bernard McGlinchey Town Park with The Vestry located adjacent to the park. There is an opportunity to maybe renovate the toilets building in Ballymacool Park. There is also an opportunity for someone to provide the service there and an opportunity to get money back towards maintaining the park. It could change the atmosphere in the park around the toilet block and may lead to less anti-social behaviour. This could work and should be taken seriously. He noted that there would be plenty of interest in providing the service. A lot of similar services are around since Covid happened.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan welcomed the motion noting that this service would add to the facilities in the park.

Cllr. Kavanagh noted the response given and noted that Councils can do this as the service is available in other areas around the country.

David noted that the motion may have been misinterpreted and agreed to review the feasibility of this proposal. He agreed to discuss this with Planning to see if there is a way forward.

Cllr. Kavanagh noted that this would be a good facility to have in the park.

Liam Ward advised that the matter would be reviewed to see what is possible and noted that a discussion would be held later in relation to Casual Trading.

Cllr. Kavanagh thanked Liam Ward for his response.

MDL243/21 RAMPS AT GLENCAR ROAD

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

“That the Council ask the Irish Water contractor to modify the new ramps at Glencar road, as there are numerous complaints from motorists about them.”

Members were advised that:

“The Member's query was forwarded to Irish Water SLA Regional Lead and a response will be channelled through the local rep. Support desk.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh noted that he has received numerous calls in relation to this. Cars are being damaged on one of the ramps in particular. He had raised a question last month but had received more calls since then.

Cllr. McMonagle seconded the motion stating that he fully supported it and he had also received calls and had experienced this himself. One of the ramps is bigger than what was there previously. He supported the call to look at reducing the ramps in size.

Cllr. Kavanagh thanked Cllr. McMonagle for supporting the motion.

MDL244/21 MEMORIAL BENCH IN GROUNDS OF NEWMILLS CORN AND FLAX

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Michael McBride, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council consult with the OPW on behalf of the Hegarty family of Newmills to have a memorial bench implemented in the grounds of the Newmills Corn and Flax in memory of the Late George Hegarty please.”

Members were advised that:

“The Council have had a number of requests recently for dedications in people’s memory and follow an agreed procedure for processing these including consultation with the land-owner of the proposed location of such a memorial and also the family in question.

Following the adoption of the motion the Office of Public Works in the first instance can be contacted to discuss the matter further.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kelly noted that he was happy with the response given that the OPW would be contacted. The late wife and children of the late George Hegarty are looking for permission to put a memorial bench in place. The late Mr. Hegarty passed away in 2017. He was born and raised in the area and had raised 14 children with his wife. A memorial bench in the grounds would be very fitting and would be a benefit to people walking along the River Swilly. Tourists could use the bench as a place to sit and overlook the river. He was a well known character, always greeting people as they passed by. He also helped out at the Mills when it was in operation. He would have been 80 on 26th July this year. Cllr. Kelly said he looks forward to an update and a positive response.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride noted that the motion had been outlined well and he was happy to second it. There is plenty of room for a bench in the grounds.

Cllr. Kelly thanked Cllr. McBride noting that he would have known the late Mr. Hegarty well. He noted that he looks forward to a positive response.

MDL245/21 DAMAGED RAILINGS ON MANORCUNNINGHAM MAIN STREET

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council take action and replace the damaged railings on Manorcunningham Main Street please.”

Members were advised that:

“These repair works are on the works programme for the RSS area. The roads team will endeavour to have these repairs carried out as soon as possible.”

On proposing this motion Cllr. Kelly noted the response stating that the railing along Main Street is in bad shape and is an eyesore. Children are walking past this railing on the street and parts of it are dangerous.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan noted that he had also raised a question in relation to this railing. He commended Cllr. Kelly for bringing the motion forward.

Cllr. Kelly thanked Cllr. Brogan for seconding the motion and hoped that this work would be done as soon as possible.

MDL246/21 SAFETY SIGNS AT GLENKERRAGH AND CONWALL

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Michael McBride, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council erect two safety signs (Children at Play) on the old Churchill road at Glenkerragh and also on the Magheran road at Conwall please.”

Members were advised that:

“We will carry out an assessment of this location and if it is in accordance with the requirements of traffic signs manual. The traffic signs manual states that "Sign W 142, Children Crossing, may be used to alert drivers to the danger of children crossing roads in residential areas other than at schools and playgrounds. The sign should be provided only in towns and villages, on roads of a primarily residential character with continuous housing frontage. The sign may also be provided at the entrances to housing estates from main traffic routes.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kelly welcomed the response given that an assessment would be carried out in both areas. Parents have been phoning him about the old Glenkerragh Road as a lot of children are out kicking ball on the road and the same at Magheran. He hopes that this can be implemented.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride noted that the situation had been highlighted well and would be a benefit to both areas.

Cllr. Kelly thanked Cllr. McBride for supporting his motion.

MDL247/21 NAMING OF MARKET SQUARE, LETTERKENNY

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Coyle and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, the following motion was adopted:

“When the regeneration of the Market Square is complete, that this Council would name the Square in honour of Barney Doherty, former Director of the Letterkenny International Folk Festival.”

Members were advised that:

“The motion is noted and if adopted arrangements will be made as requested.”

On proposing this motion Cllr. Coyle stated that Barney Doherty was a proud Letterkenny man who was born in 1932, the youngest of 7 and lived at Lower Main Street. He was employed by Donegal County Council and then by Letterkenny Urban District Council. He was passionate about the people and about the Town. He worked as a Rents Collector and as a Rates Collector and

worked on the Register of Electors. He was proud to see the town grow, expand and flourish. He was on the committee for the development of the swimming pool. He was a keen sports man and was involved in both St. Eunan's GAA Club and a founding member of Letterkenny Rovers Football Club. He was a member of the town band, loved acting and was involved in the Letterkenny Pantomime Society and the Letterkenny Vocational Players. He was involved in the fundraising committee for the restoration of St. Eunan's Cathedral and on the St. Patrick's Day Committee. He also ran the bingo for the Hospice. He loved politics and could have been involved but his work ensured that was never an option. He had a great knowledge of the counts and his advice was often sought at times of elections. After he retired he was a founding member of the board of Highland Radio in 1990. He was best known because of the success of the International Folk Festival which was first held in 1969. He was the first ever Director of the Festival and held that position for 25 years. The Festival put the town on the map and was always held in the 3rd week in August. The Market Square was a focal point for the Festival with the stage used for some memorable performances and appearances from household names, band and international acts. Barney was married to May and had a family of 5 all of whom have contributed to life in the town. If the Square was named the Barney Doherty Market Square this would acknowledge the value of the Festival to the town over the years. It would be a great accolade to a man who was passionate about his hometown.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kavanagh noted that there wasn't much that Barney Doherty wasn't involved in. He made a huge contribution to the town. The Festival started and ended in the Square and it would be perfectly apt to have it named in his honour. The Festival put the town on the map and was a great tourism boost for the town.

Cllr. Coyle agreed that this would be a fitting tribute to a man who contributed so much to the town. He had a fantastic committee working with him and Cllr. Coyle said he wanted to acknowledge the work they had done. He thanked the Members for their support.

MDL248/21 REPLACEMENT OF TREES AND SHRUBS AT BALLYRAINE

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Coyle and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, the following motion was adopted:

"That this Council would meet and consult with the Principal of Ballyraine National School regarding the replacement of trees and shrubs at Ballyraine when the work at the Roundabout is complete."

Members were advised that:

"The Roadwork's that the query refers to were carried out as preliminary works for the Letterkenny Traffic Management Systems Project. The Part 8 planning was passed at the Donegal County Council Plenary meeting on the 20th of July 2020. The Part 8 process includes a public/ statutory consultation process, where a notice pursuant to article 81 and relating to this project was

published in the local press on the week ending Friday 22nd May 2020 and all plans and reports were available for inspection or download at www.donegalcoco.ie.

A number of submissions and observations with respect to the proposed development, were received in writing before the end of consultation timeframe, on Wednesday 8th July 2020

All works to be carried out at this location are within Donegal County Council boundaries and will be carried out in accordance with Part 8 drawings.

The vegetation was removed as advance works for the project and were carried out in accordance with the approved Part 8. In the interest of biodiversity the town gardener will be consulted to ensure a range of native planting, wild flowers and wild meadow planting is adopted to assist in visual appearance at the new junction layout and amenity of the area, where it is considered feasible. Donegal County Council will correspond directly with Ballyraine National School regarding these issues.”

On proposing this motion Cllr. Coyle stated that it was unfortunate that consultation had not taken place with the School before the work was done. He noted that David Oliver is a passionate environmentalist with both his work in the School and in the community. He noted that the work is necessary but stated that Mr. Oliver should have been consulted. He is glad to see that he will be consulted in conjunction with the Town Gardener about replanting of the area when work is complete. The area had previously been planted by May McClintock. Trees and shrubs add greatly to the Town. When moving trees and shrubs this should be done with minimum impact. The board of the Ballyraine National School will be glad to know that they will be consulted about the replanting.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kavanagh noted that the motion had been outlined well. He agreed that Mr. Oliver has made a big contribution to the Town and he welcomed the response given. This should be turned into a positive outcome following the negative publicity there has been about it. The pupils could possibly be involved in the replanting.

Cllr. Coyle thanked Cllr. Kavanagh for seconding the motion.

MDL249/21 HIGH KERB ON LARKIN'S LANE AT JUNCTION TO PEARSE ROAD

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Coyle and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council would bring a proposal before the Members of what alternative could be put in place regarding the high kerb on Larkin's Lane at the junction to Pearse Road.”

Members were advised that:

“This is a planter wall. It has previously being assessed and it was determined that the turning radii was in compliance with the required standards.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle said that this is not the first time a motion had been raised in relation to this. Motorists had brought this to his attention as cars are catching on the high wall. Cars are being damaged when turning left onto the Pearse Road and anything that can be done should be done.

Cllr. Blaney seconded the motion noting that it had been outlined well and he was happy to support it.

David McIlwaine referred to the response given noting that it meets with requirements but agreed to look at the visibility of the kerb / wall to see if anything can be done to highlight it better.

MDL250/21 BINS AND SECURITY IN SMALLER PARKS

On the proposal of Cllr. Kevin Bradley and seconded by Cllr. John O’Donnell, the following motion was adopted:

“That the Council consider installing bin’s and security in the smaller Parks. The Residents Gartan Avenue are being terrorised with youth partying. The same problems are being experienced at Ballyboe Park.”

Members were advised that:

“We will carry out a review of the requirement of Bins in the smaller parks. We will liaise with the Gardaí Community Liaison Officer regarding the Anti Social Behaviour in the smaller Parks.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Bradley asked the response given be reviewed as bins are needed in these areas. Security is also required particularly at night as residents cannot sleep with noise. It is up to the Council to man these places not the Gardaí. The Council needs to address this and see what can be done.

On seconding the motion Cllr. O’Donnell said he wished to support the motion. This happens in every town and village with anti-social activity in the parks. CCTV should be installed and this might alleviate the problem. More presence by the Gardaí would also help.

Cllr. Bradley thanked Cllr. O’Donnell for his support.

MDL251/21 TREES AT GLENWOOD PARK

On the proposal of Cllr. Kevin Bradley and seconded by Cllr. Donal Kelly, the following motion was adopted:

“That the Council cut the Tree’s at Glenwood Park as the same at Abbey Park, Manorcunningham.”

Members were advised that:

“With reference to the trees at Glenwood Park, previous times when we have attempted to carry out this action we have been informed by the residents that they are not in agreement with these trees being cut back. We have assessed these trees and concluded that there is no Safety Issue. With reference to the trees at Abbey park we will carry out an inspection and assess if there is a Safety issue and if any action is required.”

On proposing this motion Cllr. Bradley advised that Residents had brought this to his attention. He wasn't aware that Residents had not agreed previously to this work being done but said he will go back to the Committee in relation to this. In relation to Abbey Park, he had raised a motion last year and the problem is still the same there.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kelly said he was glad to second the motion. He asked that the Council liaise with the Residents of Glenwood and Abbey Park to find a solution.

Cllr. Bradley thanked Cllr. Kelly for seconding his motion.

MDL252/21 WATER PIPE AT COOLE, CRANFORD

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council write to Irish Water requesting that they replace the water pipe at Coole, Cranford.”

Members were advised that:

“The Member’s query was forwarded to Irish Water SLA Regional Lead and a response will be channelled through the local rep. Support desk.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney noted that when a motion is raised an answer is expected. He advised that he had received a reply from Irish Water himself and that this response should have been added to response to Motion. He advised that he would forward it to Patricia and asked that the reply be read into the Minutes.

Response to Cllr. Blaney from Irish Water:-

“Irish Water would like to thank the Elected Representative who contacted us in relation to problems with watermain bursts issues within the Coole area of Cranford of Co. Donegal and acknowledge the difficulty that these type of issues can cause for consumers in the area. Nationally there are approximately 63,000 kilometres of water mains. A large portion of these are Asbestos Cement Mains. In many places these pipes are getting to the end of their design life. It is not possible to replace all of these mains given the enormous cost. For this reason sections of mains with the highest bursts frequency are prioritised nationally. All watermain bursts throughout Donegal and nationally are recorded and

prioritised so that funding can be allocated in accordance with the needs of greatest priority. At this moment the Asset Delivery team are working on mains rehabilitation projects nationally and within the county where that burst frequency would be greater than this area. However given recent bursts Irish Water and Donegal County Council will continue to record all bursts in this area and will review later in year to assess if the frequency of bursts on these mains warrant prioritisation for replacement. These section will be kept under review should priorities change. “

Cllr. Blaney stated the Council should also receive the replies so that they can be included with other responses. The water pipe at Coole, Cranford runs for approx. 2.5kms on the main road. In the last number of weeks the bursts have been more frequent. It supplies water to Cranford, Carrigart, Downings and Townlands in the area. It is connected to the reservoir and is an important mains. It is an 8” pipe made of asbestos. Disruption with bursts is causing damage to the County road with the pressure of the water and the road needing to be dug up a lot. People are complaining about the state of the road. It is imperative that Irish Water do something for pipe replacement in the area. He asked that the Council write to Irish Water and ask them to reconsider their response and look at how often the pipe bursts and replace it as soon as possible.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey said that he supports the need for the replacement of the pipe. The response given is not relevant and that Irish Water are trying to get out of their obligations. A request should be sent to Irish Water asking that the issue be dealt with as soon as possible. This request should outline the extent of the area it covers.

Cllr. Blaney thanked Cllr. McGarvey for seconding his motion and noted his experience with water pipes.

MDL253/21 LAND ADJACENT TO LOWER MOUNT MARIAN

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council transfers ownership of the lands adjacent to Lower Mt Marian houses to the Milford Community for use as a Community Facility.”

Members were advised that:

“The motion is noted and if adopted the Council is open to considering proposals from community groups in the Milford area to develop a community facility on the lands in question.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney noted that the land is owned by Donegal County Council. It is the area between lower Mount Marian and Church Road. It may have originally been intended for the construction of Council houses and there had been a proposal that a new National School would be built there but another site is being looked at now for the School. The local people are looking for a Community facility to be built there. He said that he was delighted with

the response and stated that the Council should take the lead on this. A meeting should be arranged in Milford with the local community with ideas prepared in advance. He noted that the ground conditions are not great on the site. He looks forward to having a meeting in relation to this.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey stated that he welcomed the opportunity to support this motion. The area has been enhanced with the provision of the playground. The development of this derelict site would further enhance the area. The Council should support this and take action and arrange a discussion on the best options.

Cllr. Blaney thanked Cllr. McGarvey for seconding the motion and noted that something should be done to enhance this area.

MDL254/21 ROAD MARKINGS FOR SECTION OF ROAD BETWEEN RATHDONNEL AND TREANTAGH CROSRoadS

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael McBride and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan the following motion was adopted:

“That road markings are erected at the section of road referred to as the flough which lies between Rathdonnel and the Trentagh crossroads as it floods several times every year and leaves it treacherous to drive through.”

Members were advised that:

“We will carry out an assessment and determine the appropriate location and arrange to have delineators erected.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride advised that Residents had raised this with him. It is an issue when the River Lennon floods and flows over the road. There are drop offs on both sides of the road which are dangerous should a car go off the road. Road markings are needed to mark the roads for example poles to show the edges of the road. This would be of benefit to road users as times of flooding.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan commended Cllr. McBride for raising the motion. Flooding at this area is happening too often and funding cannot be got to sort the problem. Signage is needed there as soon as possible.

Cllr. McBride thanked Cllr. Brogan for seconding his motion. This work could be done in the short term and would be low cost.

MDL255/21 SIGNPOSTS FOR KILMACRENNAN AT ARDEN ROW JUNCTION & JUNCTION WITH MOSS ROAD

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael McBride and seconded by Cllr. Donal Kelly, the following motion was adopted:

“That signpost for Kilmacrennan be erected at the Arden row junction and at the junction with the moss road on the Glenswilly to Kilmacrennan road.”

Members were advised that:

“We can arrange to have the signs erected at these locations. All signs erected will be erected in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride advised that the two fingerpost signs for Kilmacrennan are gone or have fallen off the poles. This is causing confusion for people looking for directions for Kilmacrennan who pass by the junctions due to lack of signage. This would be low cost to replace and would be beneficial to those using the roads not familiar with the area.

Cllr. Kelly advised that he was glad to second the motion which had been outlined well. There is a lot of confusion particularly beside Glenswilly Chapel. Signposts are needed and he welcomed the response given.

Cllr. McBride thanked Cllr. Kelly for seconding the motion.

MDL256/21 SERVICED SITES IN LETTERKENNY AND IN SMALLER VILLAGES AND TOWNS

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael McBride and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, the following motion was adopted:

“That Donegal County Council revisit the possibility of providing serviced sites in Letterkenny and in the smaller villages and towns of the Letterkenny/Milford local electoral area as a pilot project for the County.”

Members were advised that:

“A Serviced Sites Fund was introduced in 2019 to support the delivery of more affordable homes. The objective of the Fund was to support Local Authorities in the provision of key enabling infrastructure on Local Authority land, to get sites ready for the delivery of affordable housing. The priority for the Fund was in locations where the cost of housing in the market was significant, and where affordability challenges were identified after the completion of an economic and financial appraisal. In this regard, the Fund initially focussed on locations such as Dublin and Cork.

A new Affordable Housing Bill is due to be published in the coming weeks which will outline a range of new proposals to enable the delivery of affordable homes, and to assist middle income earners to own their own homes. The Council will implement the new provisions as required, when the new legislation is enacted.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Mc Bride noted that serviced sites are a good idea. He has raised this at Plenary Meetings in the past and noted that the former Chief Executive was supportive of this. Rental property is difficult to find and there is a great need and demand for housing. Examples of serviced

sites in Letterkenny are at Orchard Grove and Beechwood. These projects should be promoted as services are laid out with outline planning permission. This allows purchasers to design a house to meet their own needs for example families with persons who have disabilities will have specific requirements. The Council should look at their landbank to see what might be suitable for this. Alternatively the Council should look at the market and buy land to provide suitable sites. There is a lack of houses being built. He is only aware of one company who are building on a regular basis. This should be looked at in smaller towns and villages also as it would help support local schools and keep people in these areas. A pilot scheme should be pursued in this Municipal District.

Cllr. Kavanagh noted that he was happy to second this motion noting that these projects have been successful in areas such as Ashbrook and Beechwood in Letterkenny. This has led to good estates. It is an advantage to be able to walk onto a serviced site and build a home to suit the needs of the family. He noted that he is not sure if the Council has land that could be used for this purpose. He noted the reply given in relation to the Affordable Housing Bill and asked if there is any reference in the Bill to serviced sites. If not he asked that the Council proceed with a pilot project.

Liam Ward advised that a policy document has been published by the Department of Rural and Community Development called "Our Rural Future" which deals with development in rural areas. Policy measures have been identified in the document in relation to revitalisation of rural towns and villages which includes provision of capital to Local Authorities for serviced sites. He noted that this is a timely motion as Government policy is supportive of this. He has not seen the Affordable Housing Bill yet so is not certain if serviced sites are referred to in it.

Patricia McIntyre thanked the Members for their points which are valid. She advised that she is awaiting receipt of the Bill so is not aware if serviced sites are included. She advised that she would follow up with the Housing Capital section and revert to the Members.

Cllr. McBride thanked Cllr. Kavanagh for seconding the motion and thanked Liam and Patricia for their contributions. This could be cost neutral as the cost is divided among the number of sites. He noted that he looks forward to an announcement in the near future for a pilot project in the area.

MDL257/21 SEWER IN KILMACRENNAN

On the proposal of Cllr. John O'Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Michael McBride, the following motion was adopted:

"That this Council address the sewer in Kilmacrennan immediately."

Members were advised that:

“The Member's query was forwarded to Irish Water SLA Regional Lead and a response will be channelled through the local rep. Support desk.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. O'Donnell stated that he has been liaising with Staff in the Council over the last 5 years and with Irish Water and is getting nowhere. People living on Main Street and at Hillhead are overcome with fumes. The problem is coming from development in the town where the tank provided is not adequate. An answer is needed as to when this will be resolved and what will be done. Business premises in the town are also affected. He advised that he had received a response from Irish Water which stated that more specific information is needed. The response is broad in nature. Staff are familiar with the problem. From a health point of view something needs to be done. Residents are up in the middle of the night with the smell. The Staff in the Council are responding to calls but support is needed up the line.

Cllr. McBride noted that he was happy to second this motion. He has received numerous calls over a long period of time in relation to this. One Resident in the Hillhead area has had to tape off the upstairs bathroom due to the smell. Work was done to release some of the fumes and this worked for a short time. The smell is vile at the Post Office and Lower Main Street. Another example is a new business at Lower Main Street where the smell is at the front door. The street has been revamped recently and will now need to be dug up again to sort this problem. The sewage treatment plant is not adequate for the number of houses there. He said he wouldn't wish this problem on anyone.

Joe Ferry advised that he had spoken to a Resident at Hilltop this morning and noted that the problem is worse after heavy rain. A pipe had been installed which was effective. He has asked the Engineer to look for blockages. A warning letter has issued to the Developer of the estate but it is noted that the Developer may be out of the State and living in England. The warning letter gives him to the end of next week to increase the frequency of pumping at the treatment plant. If this does not happen enforcement will then proceed under the Public Health Act. The mechanism installed is too big and would need to be compartmentalised and that would be put in the notice. The Council are however relying on the cooperation of the Developer.

Cllr. O'Donnell stated that this is going on too long. New houses are still being bought there, paying development charges etc. People that are living there all their lives are being affected by this and it is not right. No more houses should be handed over until this problem is resolved. Health is more important, the smell is vile and can be smelt at anytime of the day.

MDL258/21 SPEED LIMIT LINE MARKING AT BOTH ENTRANCES TO KILMACRENNAN VILLAGE

On the proposal of Cllr. John O'Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Kevin Bradley, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council install speed limit line marking on the road on both entrances to Kilmacrennan village just like the TII have done in Termon.”

Members were advised that

“The TII have advised that the provision of Speed Limit Markings at entrances to villages does not comply with the latest Traffic Signs Manual. The TII will carry out a Safety review of the locations referred to and advise accordingly.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. O’Donnell noted the response but stated that the TII needs to revisit this. Line markers are needed on the road due to the speed of traffic. He asked David to go back to the TII with the specific circumstances.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Bradley commended Cllr. O’Donnell on raising the motion. The traffic through the village is awful.

David McIlwaine advised that the TII have been asked to review this and consider the options. He advised that he will report back to the Members.

Cllr. O’Donnell thanked David for his response and thanked Cllr. Bradley for supporting his motion.

MDL259/21 TERMON VILLAGE

On the proposal of Cllr. John O’Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Michael McBride, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council reinstate Termon village as a settlement which it was previously for years and it’s a disgrace that it ever was removed as a settlement.”

Members were advised that:

“The motion relating to Termon village is noted. Members are advised that a review of the distribution and makeup of settlements across the County will be undertaken as a key element of the review of the County Development Plan that must commence in 2022. This will involve a comprehensive review of settlements in the County in the context of the Core Strategy through which the potential for growth smaller rural villages will be an integral part.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. O’Donnell advised that the local community groups and Termon GAA had raised this with him. The village has been wiped off the map. He asked when this took place and why. The local Parishioners are annoyed about this. There is a massive development at Termon GAA and this may affect their funding applications. There is also an industrial park and An Craobhin. Projects cannot happen in the area if it is not recognised as a settlement. He has asked who de-zoned Termon as a settlement.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride stated that previously Kilmacrennan was a satellite of Letterkenny but this has now extended out to Termon. The village should meet the criteria to be a settlement.

Cllr. Blaney noted that a number of towns and villages have been taken out of the last Development Plan in 2018. Development in these areas is limited if not recognised as a settlement. Termon should be one of those.

Liam Ward noted that this motion would fit in with discussion on settlement frameworks and there is a working group set up to review the settlement boundaries so that these can be changed in the new Plan. He noted that he couldn't answer as to when Termon was removed but it may have been in the previous plan. He asked Elaine McEntee to follow up on this. A significant review is taking place and this can be considered in the review of the Plan for 2022.

Cllr. O'Donnell thanked Cllr. Blaney for his contribution. He added that he has received representations from the local community group and individuals. Termon has been hampered due to control limits and this happened a long number of years ago, maybe 10 years ago. This should be revisited and recognised within the control limits. The National road runs through the village with a reduced speed limit. He thanked Liam for feedback given.

MDL260/21 LAYBY WITH HISTORICAL INFORMATION AT PORTAMURRY, RATHMULLAN

On the proposal of Cllr. Ian McGarvey and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney, the following motion was adopted:

“Will our Council (Heritage Sector) create a layby with the Historical information on the Flight of the Earls in 1607 at Portamurry. Rathmullan.”

Members were advised that:

“The County Donegal Heritage Office will be pleased to provide advice and information on the Flight of the Earls to support local community efforts to erect interpretation at Portamurray, near Rathmullan but currently is not funded for this type of work. Interpretation in relation to the Flight of the Earls is already provided at the nearby R247 roadside layby in the car park beside ‘The Water’s Edge’ bar and restaurant site. The Roads & Transportation Directorate will be able to advise on the creation of a further roadside layby and the Tourism Unit may be able to advise as regards funding that may be available to provide further on-site interpretation.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey that this is an inherited area from 414 years ago and the history of the area is not being appreciated. The Maguires, O’Neills and O’Donnells left the area. Funding should be sought to acknowledge this history. This had an impact on the whole of Ireland and it should be acknowledged and benefited from. He acknowledged the response given. The Heritage Committee needs to be proactive not reactive.

Cllr. Blaney seconded the motion stating that he agreed with what had been said. He acknowledged that there is information provided in the car park beside “The Water’s Edge” bar and restaurant. However this information

needs to be provided on the spot where it happened and a car park provided where people can pull in. He stated that he is 100% in support of this.

Cllr. McGarvey thanked Cllr. Blaney for his support and agreed this needs to be at the actual point so that people can pull in and read the history. This would be a great advantage to Rathmullan and the Country as a whole.

MDL261/21 SURVEY OF COASTAL AREA

On the proposal of Cllr. Ian McGarvey and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney, the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council carry out a survey of our Coastal area within our M.D to assess the needs or want of them for visitors.”

Members were advised that:

“W&E are progressing the roll out of seasonal services ahead of the Bathing Season to address the needs of visitors to the County's beaches, including;

- *Bathing water sampling at our 21 Designated Bathing Waters with results posted on-site and online.***
- *All safety information boards to be updated at each of the 21 Designated Bathing Waters.***
- *Beach lifeguards to be deployed full time from June 1st at Rossnowlagh and Bundoran. Other beaches will have lifeguards for the first time at weekends in June before full time deployment in July, including Rathmullan and Magherawarden.***
- *Lifeguard stations are being delivered with Rathmullan and Magherawarden beaches having the stations placed on a frame off the beach for the first time. This avoids the previous arrangement where the station was located on the dunes which was putting pressure on the delicate dune system.***
- *Waste services are being rolled out with bins being deployed and litter picking arrangements in place.***
- *All the County's ringbuoys have been assessed and repairs/replacements currently being undertaken.***
- *Beach paths are being cleared of sand/debris to allow safe access. This was particularly challenging at the tunnel access at Portsalon beach this year with a digger required, such was the volume of sand blocking the access.***
- *An ecologist is currently assessing options for improving beach access at Magherawarden by way of installing a boardwalk path.***
- *Seasonal portaloos have been delivered and a servicing rota established.***
- *The permanent toilet block in Magherawarden has been fully redecorated with new hand driers organised.***
- *A project is to be initiated to address the degradation of the dune system at Ballyheirnan beach due to recreational pressures.***
- *Traffic controlling measures are being developed at Kinnegar beach.***

- ***Following treatment of the invasive sea buckthorn at Rathmullan beach, a new dune path is being installed.***
- ***Wifi has been installed at the Rathmullan public convenience building as is now freely available in the surrounding area, including the Blue Flag marina and car ferry waiting area."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey advised that he had spoken to one of the caterers on the beach in relation to this. He noted that toilet facilities have now been upgraded at Portsalon. In Rathmullan there are no facilities and people are in need of facilities there. He noted that funding is a big problem but the tourist season is short and these services need to be provided for example portaloos could be put in place.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney agreed that a lot of facilities are required at the beach areas. Portaloos would resolve this in the short term. He welcomed the work done by David Friel and his team and noted the improved access to the beach in Portsalon and the improved toilet facilities. The work could be done gradually and would help alleviate the problem. Further investment is needed in toilet blocks.

Cllr. McGarvey thanked Cllr. Blaney for his support. Provision of facilities would be of great benefit to people. He complimented the work done by the people who deal with this.

MDL262/21 PROTECTION TO CONSERVATION OF AREAS OF HIGH AMENITY

On the proposal of Cllr. Ian McGarvey and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney, the following motion was adopted:

"That our Council list & give protection to conservation of areas of High amenity, e.g. Drumonaghan Wood, Ramelton."

Members were advised that:

"The content of the motion is noted and Members are advised that the review of landscape designations within the County Development Plan will be a component of the review of the County Development Plan that is required to commence in 2022."

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey noted that there are many such areas around the Municipal District. He stated that the Development Plan has been violated as protection is included in the Plan. He noted that prescribed organisations had ignored the appeal to An Bord Pleanála. For 400 years people have been able to walk in Drummonaghan Wood. The proposed structure is undesirable. He advised that this has been brought before the Senate. He stated this has been ignored by the Planning Sector.

Cllr. McGarvey referred to the 3 girders in Ramelton which are preventing access to the river. The Gardaí were called on the day they were erected. The

Council have an obligation to protect rights of way. This is an inherited legacy and the Council must support the protection of them.

Cllr. Blaney seconded the motion stating that he understands the frustration of Cllr. McGarvey. A member of the public would have to jump through hoops to get permission. This is very annoying for the general public and the Council needs to support this.

Liam Ward advised that landscape designations are listed in the County Development Plan and will be considered again in the review of the Plan. He added that a letter has been sent to the Developer following the last MD Meeting. He acknowledged Cllr. McGarvey's frustration but added that it is not correct to say that Planners ignored the County Development Plan. The decision was taken and would have been overturned by An Bord Pleanála if it was not correct. He asked Patricia if a response has been received to the letter issued.

Patricia McIntyre confirmed that no response has been received to date.

Cllr. McGarvey requested that going forward everything should be looked at. He noted that the RMR scheme needs to be considered in this regard. He noted that he cannot but accept Liam Ward's opinion but that he won't apologise for what he has said. There is a need to stand together and look at the problems and support each other. In relation to Ramelton he noted that there was never an obstruction before in the town. If emergency vehicles needed to get down to this area they would not be able to.

Cllr. McGarvey thanked Liam Ward and Patricia McIntyre and noted that he was happy with the copy of the letter sent to the Company in relation to the mast.

MDL263/21 MAYORS BUSINESS

263.1 Piers and Harbours

Cllr. Donal Coyle welcomed the recent allocation of funding for the various Piers and Harbours especially for those in the Letterkenny-Milford MD.

263.2 Co Lab

Cllr. Coyle also welcomed announcement of an extra 20 jobs in Druva who are based in the Co Lab. He acknowledged the wonderful work being done there and complimented Patsy Donaghey and his team. Cllr. Coyle advised that he had been talking to Mr. Donaghey and that he had extended an invitation to the Members to go there for a tour of the facility when the time is right. Cllr. Coyle advised that he had thanked him for the invitation and noted that it would be a worthwhile visit for the Members.

MDL264/21 CORRESPONDENCE

Patricia McIntyre advised that there was no specific correspondence received since the last MD Meeting.

264.1 Date for AGM of the Letterkenny-Milford MD

Patricia McIntyre advised that a date needs to be agreed for the AGM.

Liam Ward advised that traditionally the AGM is held on the same day as the June monthly meeting usually at 5pm.

Cllr. Donal Coyle suggested that the AGM be held on Tuesday 22nd June at 2pm.

Cllr. O'Donnell agreed with this suggesting that a small face to face gathering be held at the meeting to mark the end of the current term and acknowledge the start of the next term.

The date for the AGM was agreed as Tuesday 22nd June at 2pm.

264.2 Deputation from Mulroy Drive Group

Cllr. Coyle referred to the request for a deputation from the Mulroy Drive Group. Patricia McIntyre confirmed that the Group would prefer a face to face meeting with the Members.

264.3 Workshop with the OPW

Patricia McIntyre asked the Members for a date for the proposed Workshop with the OPW which she could communicate to them. It was suggested that this would take place on the morning of the next MD Meeting. It was noted that a Workshop has been arranged with the Town Bus Operator for 10am that morning. It was agreed that the Workshop with the OPW should be scheduled for 11.30 that morning and that a full list of issues that need to be discussed should be included. Patricia agreed to arrange this. Cllr. Kavanagh asked that issues such as flooding, New Mills and the River walk be included and that a full agenda be set to cover all issues. Members were asked to contact Patricia with any issues that they want included.

264.4 Workshop with Approved Housing Bodies

Cllr. Coyle enquired about Workshop with Approved Housing Bodies which had been raised at a previous Workshop. This should also include Tenancy Sustainment. Patricia McIntyre agreed to arrange this and set a date at the next MD Meeting for a Housing Workshop on the same day as a Workshop with Approved Housing Bodies.

MDL265/21 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

The contents of the Roads report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

David stated that he wished to highlight that resurfacing works had started on 19th April in the Fanad RSS Area which involved 22 projects including the Community Involved Schemes. Work is due to commence in the Carrigart RSS Area next week.

Cllr. Blaney thanked David for the work that has been done on the roads so far. He also wished to commend the work of the men on the roads getting them prepared in advance for tarring and in particular the work done on the Moss Road.

Cllr. O'Donnell also wished to commend the works done by David and the Workers on the ground and also referred to work done on the Moss Road.

Cllr. Brogan acknowledged the work done recently on the ground and asked when the official opening of the Joe Bonner Road would take place. He advised that he had recently walked the road and that it is a fine road which would be a popular route for walking.

Cllr. McBride also added his compliments to the Roads staff on the quality of the work done which is to a high standard and is happy that work can now proceed on other roads.

Cllr. McGarvey stated that he is delighted with the work done over the period which is a great benefit to the road users. He also acknowledged the work done on the Moss Road and is thankful that an allocation had been agreed for it.

Cllr. Kelly stated that he wished to be associated with the previous statements in relation to the great work that is being done.

David McIlwaine thanked the Members for their acknowledgements and advised that he would pass their appreciation on to the men.

In relation to the Joe Bonner Road, David advised that the work is substantially complete. It is now at Stage 4 which is the Safety Audit and this will be carried out in the next 2 to 3 weeks. If everything is in order he hopes to then schedule the opening and will report back to the Members in relation to this.

MDL266/21 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

The contents of the Housing and Corporate Services report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

266.1 Notice for Disposal of Property

Patricia McIntyre advised that a Notice under Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 for the disposal of property at Orchard Grove, Letterkenny to Enda and Debbie McCarron, 39 Orchard Grove, Letterkenny is before the Members for approval to go forward to the next Plenary Meeting of the Council.

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Donal Coyle, the disposal of property at Orchard Grove, Letterkenny to Enda and Debbie McCarron, 39 Orchard Grove, Letterkenny was passed.

Cllr. Blaney raised a query in relation to the Housing Acquisition Programme and asked when the 41 houses purchased between 2018 and 2021 were purchased as there would appear to have been very little activity from 2020 to 2021. The Council should take advantage of all opportunities to acquire houses and this should be pushed ahead. He also asked how many of the houses acquired were outside Letterkenny. He understands that 1 of these houses was in Carrigart.

In relation to Mica update in Housing Report, Cllr. Blaney noted that another update had issued since and asked which update was the most up to date. A report had issued earlier today advising that sampling has been done. He noted that Mica has been highlighted recently with the protests in Carndonagh which took place at short notice. It was noted that there is a lot of anger out there some of which has been directed at the Council. He advised that an emergency meeting of the Mica Committee has been arranged for Thursday and agreed that this has to be looked at as it is taking 8 to 10 weeks to process applications. To date 321 applications have been received, 22 of which are received at Grant Approval stage and 9 decided/approved at Grant Approval stage. Cllr. Blaney asked if the fault is with the Engineers as something is wrong. He noted that 175 are awaiting further information or being assessed. What further information is being requested? The Engineers should be doing their job. Answers are needed and he hopes that they will be provided at the Mica meeting on Thursday morning. Someone is letting down those they are working for. If the Engineers are making mistakes they should be contacted about this. In one particular estate the Client has been told to test for Pyrite not just Mica. The problem would appear to be from one particular quarry and if this is the case the Council should not be using products from that quarry. Quarries are self regulated and should meet a certain standard but they are not standing up to scrutiny. People need to be told what can be done not what cannot be done. In relation to Turnkey projects a clause should be included that if materials are from the quarry where products are defective then the purchase cannot proceed. He demanded that this clause be included. The Council need to get back the support of homeowners and the Council needs to support them.

Cllr. McGarvey noted his support for what Cllr. Blaney had said. This is life threatening and the support given is not sufficient. It is about time the Government and Council deal with this and accept negligence. It should be a condition of purchase that if there is any defect it cannot proceed.

Cllr. McGarvey asked if long term leasing is offered to the generally public.

Cllr. Kavanagh noted that a lot of ground has been covered on this. It is similar to the problem with unfinished estates. He asked how many Council houses have been tested, if results are back and if the problem is Mica. People in these houses should be offered a transfer while work is being done. In some cases there is dampness around sockets. A couple of cases are very bad.

Cllr. McBride referred to unfinished houses that Donegal County Council are buying in Churchill (4 no.). This has been going on for 2 years and there would

appear to be no end game. This is unacceptable and a decision should be made whether to proceed with the purchase or not. There are locals waiting on these houses. He asked that this be resolved before the next MD meeting.

In relation to Mica, Cllr. McBride stated that the Scheme is unfit for purpose and has been the biggest scar on the landscape ever seen. There is a limit of €270,000 on the biggest houses only covering 90% of the costs. There are other costs including container for storage, removal of doors etc. In the case of second houses, they don't qualify for support. In the case of semi detached houses where the house next door doesn't qualify, that house will be closed up and will be derelict (as it is a second property) which will affect the value of the attached dwelling. Houses are currently out to be re-priced as the cost of building has increased maybe up to 30% increase since they were first priced. This could cost a further €100,000 to owners to rebuild. Some people are near retirement and won't be able to get loans to fix their homes. This scheme may work for those with finances but a massive amount of people won't be able to afford it. The Council need to look for 100% funding.

Cllr. McGarvey stated that a report is needed from Government stating where the Scheme is at. People need to know what they are facing as there has been no definite answer. A definite policy is needed.

Cllr. Coyle referred to one case where it has been recommended that the outer leaf of the dwelling must be done. The owner has been told that the roof will have to be supported and services will not be in use and that they need to seek alternative accommodation. The insurance won't cover the house while the work is ongoing. In another case a site was acquired in 2016 and the dwelling was built by direct labour costing €180,000 then. It is now costing over €300,000 to rebuild this dwelling. There is a slow pace from when samples are sent away until reports are submitted etc. Resources need to be thrown in to get as many houses repaired / works completed as quickly as possible. He welcomed the emergency meeting of the Mica Committee. A definite commitment is needed which is not there at the minute.

Cllr. Coyle asked if house owners have to go through the full planning process from start to finish in the case where houses have to be rebuilt. This could be held up if someone objects to the application.

In response to Cllr. Blaney's query on acquisition of dwellings, Patricia McIntyre advised that the majority are in Letterkenny as the greatest demand is there. She advised that she would get a breakdown for him.

In relation to Mica, Patricia confirmed that she had circulated an update before lunchtime. The samples have all been sent for testing. A number of test results have been received back and others awaited. She has no update yet on the results. The Building Condition Assessment Reports are almost complete for all these houses. The proposal in relation to the addition of a clause for turnkey projects will be forwarded to Housing Capital. In relation to the breakdown on the Private Scheme she cannot advise on the reasons for

request for further information but she will contact Housing Capital in relation to this.

In response to query from Cllr. Ian McGarvey on long term leasing, Patricia advised that the application form and information on the scheme is available on the Council's website – single houses are leased for a minimum of 10 years.

In relation to Cllr. Kavanagh's question, Patricia advised that the Council are dealing with tenants affected on a case by case basis and that tenants should contact the Housing office directly. The transfer process can be discussed with tenants.

Patricia noted the concerns of Cllr. McBride in relation to the redress scheme that 100% should be covered rather than 90%.

Cllr. McGarvey stated that the Government should be contacted in relation to the Social Housing Scheme as well as the Private Scheme.

In response to query from Cllr. McBride in relation to estate in Churchill Patricia advised that she would get an update from the Taking in Charge Section.

In relation to query regarding the need for planning permission for rebuilds, Elaine McEntee confirmed that the planning process will still be required. She advised that these applications would be dealt with as speedily as possible giving due diligence to all the Planning requirements. Given that services are connected on site and that planning permission had been granted in the past it should be a smooth process.

Liam Ward advised that he had spoken to Joe Peoples in relation to this. He noted that a meeting of the Mica Committee had been arranged for Thursday morning. He hopes that concerns will be addressed at that meeting. He concurred that planning permission will be required. He is not in a position to give an opinion on this.

MDL267/21 PLANNING SERVICES

The contents of the Planning report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

267.1 Casual Trading Bye-laws

Elaine McEntee referred to the report submitted in relation to the Casual Trading Bye-laws advising that the consultation process would take place over the next 24 months. Anna Bradley is taking the lead on this and can be contacted in this regard.

In relation to provision of coffee pods this could be a crossover with the requirement for Section 254 licences for casual trading. She advised that Anna Bradley be contacted in relation to this as the facility proposed in the park is a different facility.

267.2 Transboundary EIA Public Consultation

In relation to document submitted on Transboundary EIA Public Consultation, Elaine advised that Ireland has accepted an invite to participate in this. If anyone has any concerns or comments to make they should submit them to Planning. This commenced on 28th April 2021 and submissions should be made by 23rd June 2021. Planning will then feed these through to the Department. The proposal is to extend this for 10 years.

In response to query from Cllr. O'Donnell in relation to the removal of Termon as a settlement in the County Development Plan, Elaine advised that it has not been included since the 2012 Plan. A number of factors are looked at including the population and census figures. The boundaries are currently being looked at and she advised that she would mention this to her colleague, Aideen Quinn.

In relation to motion from Cllr. McBride in relation to serviced sites, Elaine advised that she would support what he had said. The Irish Water Steering Group had looked at the advantages of serviced sites as there is land that may never come forward for development due to lack of services. There is not enough development in the settled environment.

Cllr. McGarvey asked if it is possible to avoid the cost of archaeological reports to alleviate costs for applicants. Can advice be given on the spot?

In response to Cllr. McGarvey, Elaine advised that this can and cannot be done. If the Department request a desktop / on-site survey then this is needed. She acknowledged that this can add additional costs for applicants but cannot be overlooked. It is important to safeguard the archaeological or ecological needs of the area. She advised that they can make a level of judgement on a case if the Department hasn't commented in relation to the application.

MDL268/21 ENVIRONMENT

The contents of the Environment report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

268.1 Beach Preparatory Works

Joe Ferry advised that in advance of the bathing season preparations are underway for what is expected to be a busy season.

268.2 Water Safety Ireland

Joe referred to press release from Water Safety Ireland in relation to the risks of drowning. This is a key message which needs to be got out.

268.3 Waste Awareness

Joe referred to information submitted in the report from Suzanne Bogan in relation to waste awareness.

MDL269/21 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, I.S. & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Cllr. Donal Coyle welcomed Daragh McDonough to his first online Municipal District Meeting.

The contents of the Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

269.1 Minor Tourism Related Works Grant Scheme 2021

Daragh advised that a large number of applications have been received and assessments of these are due to start next week.

269.2 North West Tourism Product Development Programme

Daragh advised that over 90 applications have been received for this programme.

269.3 Economic Development – Donegal Place Brand

The new Donegal Place Brand has been launched. The logos and media are available on the website to download.

269.4 Outdoor Dining Grant Scheme

This scheme is open until the end of September.

269.5 Atlantic Economic Corridor

Information is available at www.westernjobs.ie in relation to jobs in the region. Local businesses can advertise on this site. It is national and international and it is hoped to bring jobs back to Ireland.

269.6 Digital Hubs Funding

Funding of €5 million has been provided for the upgrade of existing private digital hubs.

269.7 Information Systems

The IS Section will manage the application for the Broadband Connected Points and the EDU will facilitate the applications from the private digital hub network.

269.8 Local Enterprise Office

A new Technology Accelerator Programme called SCALE-X is to commence which will focus on more Tech Start Ups.

269.9 New Enterprise Plan

Journey Partners have been selected to work on the new Enterprise Plan for the County and will engage with Members in the coming weeks.

269.10 Grants

There is still a demand for grants.

269.11 Public Wi-Fi Network

Work on the public Wi-Fi Network should be complete this week in Letterkenny.

Cllr. Coyle congratulated the Economic Development Team on the recent launch of the Donegal Brand. It makes everyone proud to be from Donegal.

MDL270/21 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The contents of the Community Development Division report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

270.1 Workshop for Rural Programme Section

Francis Conaghan advised that Claire McCallan is looking for a date for a Workshop on the Rural Programme. The date proposed is Thursday 10th June at 10am.

Cllr. Blaney asked if there is a max of 4 applications allowed under the Town and Village Renewal Programme.

Francis advised that more details would be provided at the Workshop. An expression of interest will be published. The criteria have changed several times. He advised that he had spoken to Paddy Doherty in relation to the Schemes.

The date of the Workshop was agreed for Thursday 10th June at 10am.

270.2 Downings Promenade

Liam Ward referred to the document circulated in relation to Downings Promenade which had been signed off on by Brendan O'Donnell, Roads and Transportation and the Economic Development Section. The Members have been promoting this for a considerable period of time. He noted that the document had only been circulated this morning. To summarise he advised that there is no funding to progress the project; €20,000 would be required for the foreshore licence; €100,000 would be required for design and another €500,000 for construction. As no funding has been identified this project cannot proceed at this time. It is appropriate to bring this to the Members attention. There are other developments in the Downings area under the Fáilte Ireland Programme, the Outdoor Activity Centre, etc. There is also a call for Town and Village Renewal funding. The Council are still actively seeking projects that can be advanced.

Cllr. Blaney expressed his disappointment as funding had been received for other projects. This had been raised at the Roads SPC and a request for a report to the Municipal District was requested 2 months ago. On report submitted it states the work on this project commenced in 2007 but it commenced before that. This item has never been brought to an Electoral Area Meeting or Municipal District Meeting. He asked what has been spent to date on this project. He had asked this question at the Roads SPC. He is aware that it cost between €60,000 and €70,000 for a Wave report. He asked for confirmation of what has been spent. Applications for funding from available schemes should be made. If this was in another area it would continue. The Milford area is falling behind and projects are falling apart. He looks favourably to work being done to try to progress this project. There are steps

there with no rails and this is dangerous. He asked that this be looked at again and funding sought from somewhere. This would be a huge benefit to the area with thousands of tourists there in the Summer. This project should continue and be completed and it is not right to tell the people it will not proceed after 15 years. He is not happy with this.

Cllr. O'Donnell stated that he wished to be associated with what had been said by Cllr. Blaney and expressed his disappointment that there is no appetite to progress this project. The report requested was meant to be a detailed report as requested by the Chair of the SPC. A massive amount of money has been spent to date on this project, possibly €100,000. He advised that he had met with Staff and Committee members in relation to this. It angers him that the Committee have been hoodwinked. This has been sitting since 2017. The Director who had been dealing with this got a job in Údarás. Further information was sought in 2017 and was not provided until October 2019. The Council didn't get back with the further information in time. They didn't follow through on this, they didn't want to bother. The Committee have been waiting on this for 15 years and money has been spent on the project. The report provided in 2007 gave the costs of the project. No one has taken the lead on this. The Committee has put time and work into this project. Cllr. O'Donnell asked why the Members are waiting 2 ½ months on this report which is a soft answer. Funding needs to be found for this project. He called on the Executive to revisit this project as a matter of urgency and get it back on the table. He noted his disappointment that Brendan O'Donnell was not online for the meeting today to discuss this. A stand alone application is needed for this project. The tax payer and the Council are out of pocket on this. Staff time and resources have been used on this project. A separate meeting is required for the full story.

Cllr. McGarvey stated that this project should be resurrected and investigated. Tourists need to be attracted to the area and this would bring them to other areas. This should be reopened and looked at and a meeting should be held with those involved.

Liam Ward acknowledged the comments from the Members. He put his name to the report and he stands by it. He noted that questions had been raised about how much has been spent to date and he undertook to get that information for the Members. He understands the frustration of the Members and notes their request that it be revisited. The report was rushed and only signed off on yesterday but he decided it should be brought before the Members as he didn't want it to go past today. He noted that the Members are not accepting the report. He advised that he would revisit it and discuss it with Brendan O'Donnell. He referred to his referencing other projects in the area and noted that this is not a soft story. He was just confirming the Council's commitment to projects where funding is available. He confirmed that the Council are happy to engage with the Committee. He acknowledged that the report is disappointing but agreed to discuss it with Brendan O'Donnell and would revert to Members with answers to questions raised.

Cllr. Blaney thanked Liam Ward for his response and positive attitude. This needs to be moved forward and he hopes it can be resurrected so that the Committee can see that their hard work has paid off.

Cllr. O'Donnell thanked Liam Ward for his comments. He noted that his opinions may not be flattering and that the Committee would be happy to meet with the Council. This has been brought out of the closet, there has been negligence somewhere. He looks forward to positive feedback.

QUESTIONS

MDL271/21 PROVISION OF WATER STATIONS IN TOWNS AND VILLAGES

In answer to his question requesting an update on his previous motion asking the Council to provide strategically placed water stations at locations around the town and in out parks, and also at other suitable locations in the towns and villages in the Municipal area, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

"The provision of water stations on the Irish Water Network infrastructure would need to be approved by Irish Water. The evaluation of the suitable locations would need to take place prior to requesting Irish Water permission."

MDL272/21 WALKWAY BETWEEN ILLISTRIN AND KILMACRENNAN AND SIGNAGE AT ILLISTRIN SCHOOL

In answer to his question could the Council mark the new walkway between Illistrin and Kilmacrennan indicating that people should walk on the right, as it is now getting very popular and busy, and could more effective signage be provided at Illistrin school e.g. a "no left turn" sign for people coming from Letterkenny, as the "no entry" signs are being ignored, and this is causing danger at the exit, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

"This proposed motion has been referred to the TII who state that they will consider this motion in conjunction with best practice and standards such as are applicable."

MDL273/21 OVERFLOW CAR PARK AT BERNARD MCGLINCHEY TOWN PARK

In answer to his question requesting that the Council tar the overflow car park at Bernard McGlinchey Town Park, so that it can be used all year round to cater for the increase in usage that the park is now experiencing, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

"The Overflow carpark was designed a grassed area only to be used in the Summer Months. It has been observed that there is increased demand for carparking at the park. Dependant on weather the overflow carpark should be soon in a condition that it can be opened to the public for the summer. To construct a surfaced carpark this area would require a significant budget for

supply and lay of tar and additional storm drainage. There is currently no budget available for this work. We will carry out an assessment and prepare a design and seek funding opportunities to carry out works to allow this carpark to remain open to the public all year”.

MDL274/21 EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION USE IN THIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

In answer to his question asking how many people availed of emergency accommodation Hostels, Hotels, B&BS through this MD since 2019, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

“The following table sets out the number of persons who availed of emergency accommodation, inclusive of hostels and bed and breakfasts throughout this MD since 2019.

Table 1: Placements Emergency Accommodation 2019 to date: Letterkenny – Milford Municipal District

<i>2021 to 30th April 2021</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>
<i>13</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>40”</i>

MDL275/21 INFORMATION BOARDS AT BERNARD MCGLINCHEY TOWN PARK

In answer to his question asking has any work been done to date on his Motion Reference Information Boards at Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Park, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

“This motion was passed at the April meeting due to current staff resource levels workloads have to be prioritised. We have included this in our programme of works and will commence works on this project as soon as staff are available.”

MDL276/21 STREET LIGHTING AT MAGHERABUOY CROSSROADS

In answer to his question asking can our Roads Section look at the possibility of providing Street Lighting at Maherabuoy Crossroads above Trimeragh and come back with a report, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

“We will carry out an assessment of this location and consider it for inclusion for prioritising for future opportunities for funding.”

MDL277/21 WORKS ON MEENABALL ROAD

In answer to his question requesting a time frame on when the works are to commence on the Meenaball Road please, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

“These works are programmed to be carried out in June and July subject to weather conditions.”

MDL278/21 WORKS AT JUNCTION AT GLENSWILY GAA ROAD

In answer to his question asking when is the works to start at the junction at Glenswilly GAA Road markings and Signs etc please, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

“The completion of these works have been delayed due to Covid 19 restrictions. The relevant signage has been delivered and these signs will be erected and road marking completed as soon as it can be programmed.”

MDL279/21 BOYD KELLY’S OLD HOUSE ON BALLYMACCOOL LAWN

In answer to his question asking has this Council/ Forward Planners any plans in mind for Boyd Kelly's old House on Ballymacool Lawn please, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

“The property is identified as 'Established Development' in the current Plan for Letterkenny. The existing designation of the land as 'Established Development' allows for potential redevelopment of the site recognising the context of the adjacent residential land uses, the public park, and the listing of the property on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (site ref no. 40,905,303).”

MDL280/21 ENTRANCE AND CAR PARK AT TEMPLEDOUGLAS GRAVEYARD

In answer to his question asking will the Council commit to upgrading the entrance and carpark at Templedouglas Graveyard, Cllr. Donal Coyle was advised:

“This is private road and there is currently no funding available to carry out repairs. We will carry out an assessment and cost estimate and seek opportunities for funding.”

MDL281/21 SALE OF OLD MILFORD FLOUR MILLS

In answer to his question requesting an update on his request at meeting on 13th April that this Council would make enquiries about the sale of the "Old Milford Flour Mills" with a view to purchasing same, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

“An appraisal of this site is currently being under taken by the Regeneration & Development Team and an update will be provided in due course.”

MDL282/21 PROGRESS ON LETTERKENNY TO BURTONPORT GREENWAY

In answer to his question asking what progress has the newly formed greenway team of Donegal County Council made on the Letterkenny to Burtonport greenway, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised:

“The Greenway Capital Projects team has not yet been formed – Sanction has been approved and staff assignments are currently being closed out. It is anticipated that the team will be substantially in place by the end of May 2021

and that a joint GMD/LKMD workshop will held in June 2021 as a first stakeholder engagement with the Elected Members.”

MDL283/21 FOOTPATH FROM CARRIGART TO DOWNINGS

In answer to his question asking what stage is the footpath from Carrigart to Downings at now and when will it be going for planning stage, Cllr. John O’Donnell was advised:

“The additional surveys required have being completed and the report to be included in the NIS is being finalized. It is estimated that the application will be submitted in approximately 2 weeks time.”

MDL284/21 PONTOON AT MEVAGH IN DOWNINGS

In answer to his question asking when will work start on the new pontoon proposed at Mevagh in Downings, Cllr. John O’Donnell was advised:

“The design and procurement processes will progress now that funding has been awarded through the DAFM 2021 Grant. It is expected that installation of the pontoons and associated works will be completed by end of October 2021.”

MDL285/21 LIGHTS IN MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

In answer to his question asking when will the lights be erected in the Milford electoral area on the program since last year to be completed, Cllr. John O’Donnell was advised:

“The erection of these lights have been delayed due to the Covid 19 Restrictions. We are programming to have the Civil works completed in the next few months and the lights erected and functioning by October 2021.”

MDL286/21 OBSTRUCTION AT BRIDGEND AND THE RIVERSIDE, RAMELTON

In answer to his question asking what is causing the delay in removing the obstruction to our Property at Bridgend & the Riverside, Ramelton of 3 girders, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

“The obstruction referred to in the question is blocking vehicular access to Council property at Ballyboe, Ramelton. In late 2019 and early 2020, the Council had taken the necessary steps to have the matter addressed with a view to gaining access to its property at this location and carry out some maintenance works. As a result of the restrictive working arrangements last year however, the matter was not concluded as had been anticipated and it is now expected to be the autumn before this can be advanced.”

MDL287/21 ROAD LEADING TO THE MILFORD WATER TREATMENT PLANT

In answer to his question asking will Irish Water upgrade & repair the damage done to this Road leading to the Milford Water Treatment Plant as this was a

private Road and promises have been made to me that this would be done but never happened, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

“The members query was forwarded to Irish Water SLA Regional Lead and a response will be channelled through the local rep. Support desk.”

MDL288/21 DAMAGED RAILING AT MAIN STREET, MANORCUNNINGHAM

In answer to his question asking can this Council repair the railing that’s damaged at the Main Street, Manorcunningham, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

“These repair works are on the works programme for the RSS area. The roads team will endeavour to have these repairs carried out as soon as possible.”

MDL289/21 TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES FOR LISNENNAN

In answer to his question requesting an updated report on the proposed traffic calming measures for Lisneannan, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

“This location has been referred to Road Design to carry out a Safety Assessment. They are currently carrying out surveys and collecting data to allow the assessment to be carried out. When the report is completed we will update the members.”

MDL290/21 ONE-WAY AT CATHEDRAL / COLLEGE ROW

In answer to his question requesting an updated report on the new proposed one-way at the Cathedral/ College Row, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

“An Allocation of €1 million was received from the NTA for this scheme as part of the Active travel scheme. The current programme for the completion of these works is as follows:

Complete design and documentation in Q2 2021,

Tender for contractor in Q3 2021

Commence construction in Q4 2021

Complete in Q2 2022

MDL291/21 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Cllr. Coyle asked if replies to Motions and Questions could be circulated to the Members at least 24 hours before the Meeting in future.

Patricia McIntyre advised that we would endeavour to try to do that.

Liam Ward acknowledged that this can be a challenge depending on when answers are submitted and signed off on but that we would try to do this.

In relation to the Workshop with Irish Water on Thursday 13th May, Liam Ward advised that it had been agreed to deal with the Local Area Plan also. The meeting would last 2 hours with the Local Area Plan being dealt with in the first hour and Municipal District issues dealt with in the second hour. Irish Water would be sending out the invite to Members.

Cllr. Coyle noted that the Members had intended to meet after the clinic to discuss a strategy of the Letterkenny Plan.

Liam Ward advised that Irish Water had committed to meeting on 13th May and wants everything dealt with on the same day.

Cllr. O'Donnell asked that before the meeting, Staff would pull out all files for connections in the area. He had phoned Irish Water today for a Developer who has an application for 50 houses with the Local Authority since February. He cannot get an extension of time on the permission and needs to get the services on site. He was advised that the Council told Irish Water to hold off on this. This needs to be looked at.

Liam Ward advised that he would only be attending the first hour of the meeting in relation to discussion on the Local Area Plan. He said Members should liaise with Bryan Cannon and Michael McGarvey in relation to other issues. He asked Patricia to follow up on this and he would mention it to Michael McGarvey when he would see him.

Cllr. O'Donnell noted that he needs to know what to tell the Developer.

Cllr. McGarvey agreed about the treatment Members are receiving from Irish Water. The Council has no control.

It was noted that if Motions and Questions were in earlier this would give more time to Staff to respond.

Cllr. Kelly stated that he supported the request that replies to Motions and Questions would be forwarded to Members earlier.

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 8th June, 2021 in a venue to be confirmed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor

Meetings Administrator