

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY-MILFORD MEETING,
HELD ON 8 MARCH 2022 AT 2:00 P.M.**

MDL110/22 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh (Mayor), Cllr. Gerry McMonagle , Cllr. Liam Blaney, Cllr. Kevin Bradley, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, Cllr. Donal Coyle, Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly, Cllr. Michael McBride and Cllr. John O'Donnell

MDL111/22 MEMBERS APOLOGIES

Cllr. Ian McGarvey

MDL112/22 OFFICIALS PRESENT

Liam Ward, Director of Service, Eamonn Brown, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services; Bernadine McGee, Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services; David McIlwaine, S.E.E. / Area Manager, Roads & Transportation; Joe Ferry, A/Senior Executive Chemist, Francis Conaghan, Development Officer, Elaine McEntee, Executive Planner, Mary McBride, Economic Development, Paddy Mullen, Community & Planning

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh. Cllr. Kavanagh noted that it was International Women's Day.

MDL113/22 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Michael McBride the Minutes of Meeting of the MD Meeting on 8th February 2022 were adopted.

MDL114/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

MDL115/22 ADDITIONAL PARKING FOR BERNARD MCGLINCHEY TOWN PARK

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

“That the Council look at providing further parking at Bernard McGlinchey Town Park.”

Members were advised that:

“When the weather is suitable the grass area adjacent to the existing car park is opened to provide additional carparking spaces. The longer term plan when funding is available is to surface this area to allow for all year parking. We are currently attempting to identify sources of funding to carry out these works.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh asked that the grass area adjacent to the parking area be made a permanent parking area as the park has become very popular during Covid and because of recent investment upgrading the playground and the new adventure area. He commended the work of David Donnelly and his team.

Cllr. Kavanagh also asked that a stone be placed in the park to commemorate those who lost their lives and those working on the frontline during Covid. Cllr. Gerry McMonagle seconded this proposal.

David McIlwaine advised that an application for funding to surface the grass area will be made again this year. The area can be opened up when weather permits.

Liam Ward advised that a National Commemoration Event is planned to take place after the Public Holidays. Each Local Authority has been asked to host an event locally before the end of March. The placement of a commemoration stone in the Letterkenny Town Park is very much in keeping with this overall approach and can be progressed in this way.

MDL116/22 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES AT THE CORN & FLAX MILLS AT NEWMILLS

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

“That the Council liaise with the OPW on the future development of the facilities at the Corn & Flax Mills at Newmills.”

Members were advised that:

“There is ongoing engagement with the OPW regarding Newmills Corn and Flax Mills and OPW have acknowledged that to date the planning, roads and conservation divisions of Donegal County Council have been extremely helpful with assisting OPW in the plans for the Newmills site and they look forward to future positive engagement with the Council.

Further contact will be made to OPW on foot of this motion by Community Development to engage further and discuss areas where Donegal County Council can assist to promote the project.”

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh noted that Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly had raised a similar motion under Item No. 15. It was agreed to discuss both motions together.

On proposing his motion Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh advised that the Minister for the OPW had visited the Mills on 16th February and noted that it is a marvellous facility. The Minister had not been aware of the Mills. Funding will be needed to provide signage etc. and should be done if possible before the Guides return. The Mills should be included on bus tours to other locations such as Glenveagh and Glebe Gallery where there are a large number of visitors. A public meeting involving the Members and experts should be held. Unfortunately the Mills weren't open during the Ministers visit and this was a missed opportunity.

On proposing his motion Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly supported the call for a public meeting. It was disappointing that the Minister couldn't get a full tour when there. There is great potential for local businesses and school tours should be introduced again.

Liam Ward referred to request to Minister to meet in relation to flooding issues in this Municipal District. A request was sent to the Minister's office but he was not in a position to meet at that time but agreed to meet on a future date. Discussions were held in relation to flood risks throughout the County. A request has been sent to the Minister for a meeting.

Cllr. Brogan noted that he had been invited and that other Members should have been invited too. This was organised outside of the remit of the Municipal District. The Executive met with the Minister that day. He noted that it was a good day for the visit as flooding in the area was bad. The challenges faced by the Town were raised with him.

MDL117/22 RESURFACE OF HIGH ROAD FROM TRAFFIC LIGHTS TO HOSPITAL ROUNDABOUT

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

“That the Council resurface the High Road from the traffic lights at McGettigan's Hotel to the Hospital Roundabout.”

Members were advised that:

“A section of the High Road is programmed for 2023 as part of the 3 year Restoration Improvement programme.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh noted that the road is in an awful condition, is uneven and bad with potholes. He noted the response given asking that something be done before that.

Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly seconded the motion adding that he agreed with what Cllr. Kavanagh had said.

MDL118/22 APPROACH ROADS TO ROOSKEY BRIDGE AT KINCRAIGY, MANORCUNNINGHAM

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

“That our Roads section address the overgrowing Verges at the approach roads to Rooskey Bridge at Kinraigy, Manorcunningham, widen the road and erect Road signage warning of Dips in Road in the interest of Road Safety.”

Members were advised that:

“The Roads Area team have carried out an Assessment of the Area and have scheduled the necessary works in the Maintenance programme.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle noted that this is a dangerous stretch of road with overgrown verges on the humpback bridge. It is impossible to see traffic on the other side and there have been near misses on the bridge. There are drops on either side of the road. He welcomed the assessment that has been carried out and asked that the works be done sooner rather than later. Road signage is needed also. These works will be a worthwhile exercise that will improve safety.

David McIlwaine advised that he would talk to his team about doing the work as soon as possible.

MDL119/22 ELECTRONIC SPEED SIGNAGE ON APPROACH ROADS TO CARRIGART FROM MILFORD AND CREESLOUGH

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney Kelly, the following motion was adopted:

“That this MD Roads Section erect Electronic Speed Signage on the approach roads to Carrigart from Milford and Creeslough in the interest of Road Safety and that our Roads Section meets with the local committee advocating for further Safety measures and car parking in Carrigart to discuss the Road Safety issues they have identified.”

Members were advised that:

“The Roads Section are currently carrying out assessments of this location. As part of this process meetings have and will be held with locals to establish the concerns that are being raised. When we have completed our assessments we will review and consider the options and solutions that can

be provided and identify possible sources of funding to deliver these solutions.”

On proposing his motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle commended the swift action of the Council to date. He thanked David McIlwaine for meeting with the local committee in relation to issues. At the public meeting it was noted that electronic signage would be an effective way of slowing down traffic. He asked that Roads look at what can be done noting that locals were happy with the response so far. He noted that zebra crossings have been provided in towns and villages in other Counties and electronic signage has also been used.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Liam Blaney noted that he was not aware of the public meeting and would like to have been there. He commended the motion submitted noting that signs and ramp were in place by the end of the week. Businesses there should be consulted about this as there is no parking on one side of the street.

David McIlwaine thanked the Members for their comments adding that options would be looked at when the survey is complete. There are two areas of concern, firstly the School/Chapel area. He will look at funding for this area. The second area is the Main Street. Parking is needed there. If there is a speed issue there solutions must be appropriate to the location.

Cllr. McMonagle noted that businesses were present at the meeting and were told that parking would be reduced if a crossing was in place. Off street parking is needed there. There was also a request for a school warden made. He welcomed the response given and the work done.

MDL120/22 FOOTPATH ON R250 BETWEEN ST. COLMCILLE HOSTEL AND BALLYMACCOOL TERRACE

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

“That our Roads Section engages in discussions with the Landowner adjacent R250 between Colmcille Hostel and Ballymacool Terrace with a view to acquiring land to allow us widen the Footpath along this very busy road in the interests of Pedestrian and Road Safety.”

Members were advised that:

“As part of the NTA Active Travel investment Grant Allocation for 2022, a sum of €250,000 was allocated for the development of several Active travel schemes in Letterkenny Town. Consultants are currently being appointed to carry out the initial design works on this project. The section referred to between Ballymacool Roundabout and the Oldtown Road is one of the

locations that has been identified for the development of an Active Travel. When further details of the design are received from the designers will then be advanced to the next phase.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle noted that work would be done under the Active Travel programme. Further funding is needed as there are eleven schemes and funding of €250,000 will only cover consultancy costs. There is a stone wall and land adjacent that could be used to widen the path and make it safe.

David McIlwaine advised that the funding allocated is for the initial development and he hopes there will be more. He will look at options that could be pursued in the short term.

Cllr. McMonagle asked that this be kept as a priority.

Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly added his support to the motion.

MDL121/22 PURCHASE OF 25 HOUSES IN RADHARC AN CHUAIN, BRIDGEND, RAMELTON

The following motion was raised by Cllr. Ian McGarvey but was not discussed due to his absence from the meeting:

“That this Municipal District engage with the vendor to purchase the 25 Houses in the Estate known as Radharc An Chuain, Bridgend, Ramelton.”

Members were advised that:

“The new Housing for All strategy was launched by the Minister back in September 2021 and has a focus on new build social homes as the key approach to meeting our housing need. A limited number of social housing acquisitions will be permitted but for families with specific circumstances for example medical need. Therefore, Donegal County Council does not have a mechanism to progress acquisitions like Radharc An Chuain at present but this will be kept under review as Housing for All evolves as part of its delivery.”

MDL122/22 PROPOSED WORK ON LISTED PIERS AND HARBOURS

The following motion was raised by Cllr. Ian McGarvey but was not discussed due to his absence from the meeting:

“That the Engineers responsible progress the proposed work intended for the listed Piers & Harbours be delivered as soon as possible.”

Members were advised that:

“The BALAMI Application for funding to DAFM will be submitted by deadline of 8th March 2022 and if funding is approved the projects will be progressed. In the meantime, tendering for consultants for design or environmental assessments as required is progressing.”

MDL123/22 BAD EXITS TO MILFORD / LETTERKENNY ROAD

The following motion was raised by Cllr. Ian McGarvey but was not discussed due to his absence from the meeting:

“That the Road Section deal with the bad exits to the Milford / Letterkenny Road in preparation for the proposed upgrade.”

Members were advised that:

“As part of the Low Cost Accident funding, Donegal County Council apply for funding that has a high rate of collisions. Funding has been received at a number of locations on this road in the last 3 years. In 2020 funding was allocated to the R245 Junction with the L1352 at McAdoos and in 2022 as received funding for the Junction at Loughnagin. Any other works are within the limitations of the Maintenance budgets that are available.”

MDL124/22 SIGNAGE AND ROAD MARKINGS ON THE ROCKHILL ROAD APPROACHING JUNCTION TO THE RAHAN ROAD AT CRIEVESMITH

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

“That this Council provide signage and road markings on the Rockhill Road approaching the junction to the Rahan Road at Crievesmith.”

Members were advised that:

“Arrangements are being made for the road markings to be refreshed in this area with addition “SLOW” on approach from Newmills.”

It was noted that Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly had raised a similar motion under Item No. 14. It was agreed to discuss both motions together.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Donal Coyle noted that this road is well known to the Members. He has received a number of requests in relation to issues on this road. There is a need for good signage and road markings in this area to prevent a serious accident. Cars are cutting across the road without stopping.

On proposing his motion Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly noted that he had also received calls about this junction but from other people. There is a lot of local concern in relation to the safety of the junction with no STOP sign there.

David McIlwaine advised that signage is included in the programme for Active Travel. He will look at what works could be done and will update the Members.

MDL125/22 PICNIC TABLES AT MANORCUNNINGHAM PICNIC AREA ON N14

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

“That this Council provide extra Picnic Tables at the Manorcunningham Picnic Area on the N14.”

Members were advised that:

“There is currently no funding available for the provision of additional picnic tables at these locations. If funding opportunities become available this location will be considered for inclusion.”

On proposing this motion Cllr. Donal Coyle noted that Members are aware of the location on the Derry Road where families stop for picnics. There are four tables there but room for more. There is also a coffee dock there now. People have to sit in their cars or on the wall when eating. Cllr. Coyle asked if funding could be sourced for more tables.

David McIlwaine advised that there were opportunities for outdoor eating last year and similar funding available this year. He will look at the possibility of Community Development funding for this.

Cllr. Coyle asked that his be prioritised.

MDL126/22 PROPOSED NEW PILOT SCHEME FOR PROVISION OF SEWERAGE

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

“That this Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage seeking to have Bonagee, Drumnahoagh, Drummany, Dromore, and Woodlands areas included in the proposed new pilot scheme for the provision of sewerage infrastructure in villages and similar settlements.”

Members were advised that:

“Should this motion be passed the Council shall write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage requesting that areas on the periphery of Letterkenny such as Bonagee, Drumnahoagh, Drumany, Dromore and Woodlands are included in a pilot scheme for the provision of wastewater infrastructure.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Donal Coyle noted that the Department are examining requirements for villages etc. This was raised with the Minister on 19th January and he advised that the Department are at an advanced stage of preparing a report on this issue for consideration. After that a pilot project will be announced. Cllr. Coyle asked that the Minister be written to asking him to include these areas which have been deprived for years. There are a lot of businesses in the area and a lot of homes. The Woodlands area is the same. They are depending on septic tanks with the hotel in the area having to empty their tank every 4 to 6 weeks. Nothing has been done and Irish Water has no plans to do anything. With the current work ongoing on the four lane project there is an opportunity to put in place a sewer pipe. Otherwise the road from the Port Bridge to the Dry Arch Roundabout would have to be opened up again. He acknowledged the response given asked that the Minister be written to. A strong case should be made for basic sewerage for the greater Bonagee and Woodlands areas.

Cllr. Liam Blaney stated that he was happy to second this motion.

Liam Ward acknowledged the motion which was raised on numerous occasions noting that the Water/Environment Section have made a commitment to write to the Minister.

Cllr. Coyle noted that this has been raised numerous times and that it may be too late now to put a pipe in. Ducts were put in and there is major construction ongoing there at the moment.

MDL127/22 SAFETY MEASURES FOR CRIEVESMITH/BOMANY JUNCTION

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

“That this Council install safety measures at the Crievesmith/ Bomany junction which takes you over past the Old town football pitch as a matter of urgency please.”

Members were advised that:

“Arrangements are being made for the road markings to be refreshed in this area with addition “SLOW” on approach from Newmills.

A review of the signage in the area will be carried out.”

It was noted that this motion was already dealt with along with Motion from Cllr. Donal Coyle – Minute No. **MDL124/22**.

MDL128/22 ENGAGE WITH OPW TO ATTRACT TOURISTS TO NEWMILLS CORN AND FLAX MILL

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

“That this Council engage with the OPW to help highlight, Promote and attract more tourists to Newmills Corn and Flax Mill i.e. Erect better adequate visual signage and also through online advertisement please.”

Members were advised that:

“There is ongoing engagement with the OPW regarding Newmills Corn and Flax Mills and OPW have acknowledged that to date the planning, roads and conservation divisions of Donegal County Council have been extremely helpful with assisting OPW in the plans for the Newmills site and they look forward to future positive engagement with the Council.

Further contact will be made to OPW on foot of this motion by Community Development to engage further and discuss areas where Donegal County Council can assist to promote the project.”

It was noted that this motion was already dealt with along with Motion from Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh – Minute No. **MDL116/22**.

MDL129/22 WIDEN BUNLIN BRIDGE

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

“That this Council widen Bunlin Bridge as a matter of urgency.”

Members were advised that:

“There is currently no funding available for these works. Any widening of the bridge will have to include for a realignment of the approaches due to the Sharp bend on the Carrigart side of the bridge and the steep gradient on the approach from the Milford side of the bridge.”

On proposing this motion Cllr. John O'Donnell acknowledged the response given that there is currently no funding available. The parapets have tumbled and there are temporary barriers in place. It is located in a tourist area near Mulroy and on the Wild Atlantic Way. There has been no progress, a solution is needed and funding should be sought.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Liam Blaney stated that he understood Cllr. O'Donnell's frustration. A design for the bridge had been prepared 10 years ago with an estimate of €1 million which is probably €2.5 million now. An extra effort should be made to get funding.

Cllr. O'Donnell added that he was not happy with the response given.

David McIlwaine advised that funding is the issue. A proper design is needed for the bridge as there is a steep gradient and a sharp bend and speeding needs to be considered at the location.

MDL130/22 STEPS TO BEACH FROM THE HARBOUR BAR IN DOWNINGS

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

“That this Council reinstate the steps that access the beach from the Harbour Bar in Downings.”

Members were advised that:

“As part of Department of Transports Climate Adaption and Resilience funding allocation €75,000 has been allocated for repairs to seawall and erection of pathway in Downings. Design and consultation works are currently ongoing when these are completed we will progress to constructions.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. John O'Donnell welcomed the allocation of funding and asked that Roads now make sure the work is done.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Liam Blaney stated that the issue of coastal erosion had been looked at two and a half years ago. €70,000 was spent there last year. It would be good to have the steps back in place for this summer.

Cllr. O'Donnell asked that he be kept updated on when works would be done.

MDL131/22 CHARGING POINTS FOR CAMPERVANS AT BEACH CAR PARK IN RATHMULLAN

On the proposal of Cllr. John O'Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council install a few charging points for campervans at the beach carpark in Rathmullan.”

Members were advised that:

“In 2021, Donegal County Council commissioned KPMG Future Analytics to undertake a study of the Caravan, Camping and Campervan sector in County Donegal including recommendations for the future sustainable development of this sector. The study provided a detailed review of the sector as it exists within County Donegal providing an assessment of the opportunities and threats presenting as well as an assessment of good practices elsewhere that could be implemented within existing legislative requirements. It was determined that there was a need for a strategic approach to be taken to manage this growth in a sustainable and viable way as set out in the Study. This included the provision of overnight facilities for the sector. Donegal County Council are currently working with Internal and External stakeholders to further the recommendations of the study over the coming months.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. John O'Donnell stated that he is on the Tourism Board and a study has been done on the provision of these services. During Covid people were encouraged to take staycations. Rathmullan is a key place for this but there are no camp sites or caravan parks there which is a missed opportunity. A desludge facility is also needed for campervans. The Council need to take the lead on this through Community and Enterprise as there is currently no one doing it there on a private basis. There can be anything from ten to fifteen campervans there at night with no facility for charging or desludging. The toilet facilities there need regular cleaning with a deep clean every three months. This facility is an asset that is worth a lot of money. He recently toured Scotland and came across facilities that were community run with a donation box for people using the facilities. The Council are currently investing in a facility in Downings.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Liam Blaney noting that charging points would be a valuable facility. He had concerns about providing facilities free of charge as there is a cost for caravan site owners to keep them up to standard. Providing free facilities would be competing against private enterprises who should be encouraged to provide facilities and the Council should be less stringent on requirements. For site owners there is a difficulty with campervan owners using the facility for one night and then parking along the road after that. The site owners are rate payers and the Council cannot do something to affect their businesses. There is a company cleaning the toilet

facility a few times a year. Feedback from Rathmullan is not good. This needs to be looked at again and also in other areas.

Elaine McEntee advised that Planners discuss applications with applicants for use of land for mobile homes in relation to flexibility to provide for parking for caravans/motorhomes and try to negotiate a balance with them. There would be a risk in using public car parks as this can prejudice the use of a car park.

Cllr. O'Donnell thanked Elaine for the planning feedback. There is no one in Rathmullan providing this facility. A few charging points there would be an option.

MDL132/22 INCLUDE ROAD BETWEEN ROUNDABOUT AT MOUNTAIN TOP AND UNITS AT CURRAGHLEAS ON GRITTING PROGRAMME

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

“That Donegal County Council include the short stretch of road between the roundabout at the Mountain Top and the industrial units at Curraghleas on the gritting programme for Letterkenny.”

Members were advised that:

“A review of the Winter Maintenance Routes was carried out in 2021. As part of that review an additional 25km was added to the Winter Maintenance routes within the MD. The section referred to was not prioritized as part of this process but can be considered for prioritising as part of a future review.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Michael McBride welcomed the response given that the route can be considered as part of a future review. He added that he was delighted that a further 25kms have been added with the Municipal District.

MDL133/22 RELOCATION OF COUNCIL YARD AND SALE OF LAND TO ALLOW EXPANSION OF FÁS

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

“That Donegal County Council liaise with the ETB regarding the possibility of relocating and selling the site of the current council yard so as the planned expansion of FÁS could proceed while keeping all their buildings on the same campus.”

Members were advised that:

“Donegal County Council Yard at Ballyraine is critical to Roads Operation within the MD. The yard contains Salt Barn, Brine Tanks, Storage Sheds, Glasshouses and Chip depot that are essential for Roads, Winter & Park Maintenance within MD. Any relocation of these facilities would have huge cost implications for Donegal County Council and would cause disruption to the ability to deliver services.”

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Michael McBride noted the response given that the Council yard is critical but disagrees that it cannot be moved. The Council need to have discussions with the ETB in relation to their plans to expand. Letterkenny is the only place in Ireland where the ETB are working with the LYIT with the ETB delivering phases of courses for the LYIT. They currently do not have enough scope to expand and it would be important to keep their campus together.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Donal Coyle noted that Cllr. McBride had explained the matter well and said it would be preferable to keep the ETB campus there. Every avenue should be explored. The Council should look at possible sites for relocating the yard.

David McIlwaine advised that there would be cost implications with relocation of the yard. Planning permission would be required and a suitable site would have to be identified. The cost of providing a new salt barn is excessive. A lot of funding would be required to do this; it is not a simple task and would take time to arrange. He advised that he would look at the implications a move.

Cllr. McBride acknowledged that there are hurdles to be overcome but this land would be of high value to the ETB who could be asked to pay for the relocation. He asked that the Mayor and Executive arrange a meeting with the ETB. The ETB have raised the need for upgrade and for a second facility at one of their meetings.

Liam Ward advised that meetings are held between the ETB and Senior Team in relation to future needs and development and in relation to further education. Eunan Quinn was nominated to meet with them to discuss their future needs. These discussions are ongoing but the site has not been part of the discussions.

Cllr. McBride welcomed the fact that a process is in place to discuss the future needs of the ETB.

MDL134/22 LOCATION OF DRAINAGE PIPES AND GULLIES ON ROAD BETWEEN DRY ARCH AND LURGYBRACK

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

“That Donegal County Council liaise with the TII to ensure that drainage pipes and gullies are put on the left hand side of the Lurgybrack Road between the Dry Arch Roundabout and the Lurgybrack National School.”

Members were advised that:

“Drainage has been installed at this location. Some repairs works are required following the recent storm and arrangements are being made to have these carried out.”

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Michael McBride noted the response that drainage has been installed at this location and asked how long ago this was.

David McIlwaine advised that was two years ago.

Cllr. McBride added that there is a drop a foot deep on either side of the road and this may need to be topped up with gravel.

David McIlwaine advised that this will be done.

MDL135/22 VEGETATION GROWING WILD OBSTRUCTING SCENERY ALONG THE COAST

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

“That this Municipal District consider some means of supporting local communities in trying to keep vegetation from growing wild and obstructing the brilliant scenery along our coast but particularly along the Wild Atlantic Way.”

Members were advised that:

“Discussions can be held with Local Communities regarding this issue. In accordance with the 1993 Roads Act the relevant Landowners are responsible for maintaining their Hedgerows and vegetation on their property. Any works carried out on this vegetation must be carried out in accordance with legal requirements.”

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Liam Blaney asked that the Council support local groups to keep vegetation from growing wild. The area from the old Milford Bakery to Kerrykeel was cleared by a local group. This could be done in other areas helping groups to extend the work. The Knockalla Crossroads to Rathmullan is an area that needs to be done. Part of the route is a no man’s land which could be cut back and would open up the scenery.

On seconding the motion Cllr. John O'Donnell acknowledged the tremendous work done by local groups in that area. Work has been done between Rathmullan and Ramelton and it would be important to keep on top of this.

David McIlwaine advised that he would talk to community groups. The work that has been done has made a dramatic change. The Council can only do works where there are no landowners; otherwise agreements have to be made with them.

Cllr. Blaney noted that it would be difficult to get landowners to do this work as it is of no value to them. A budget is needed for this work for next year. If men were taken on a scheme and a van provided to them they could cover a lot of areas.

Cllr. O'Donnell advised that the Probation Officer organises community services and could be contacted in relation to this. They have done work in Kilmacrennan.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh noted that this also takes place in Letterkenny referring to areas in Letterkenny that are looked after by them.

Cllr. Michael McBride agreed that great work has been done by community groups. If a team were in place they could also look after the greenways.

MDL136/22 UPDATE ON GRAVEYARDS E.G. CONWAL & LECK

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

“That this Council provide an update on our graveyards as they are getting full to capacity and people are very concerned Conwall & Leck.”

Members were advised that:

“This matter was raised by the Elected Members at the recent Workshop regarding the Three Year Capital Budget 2022-2024.

It was agreed with the Elected Members that the matter will be considered at the Climate Action & Environment SPC after which an update will be provided to the Plenary Council.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kevin Bradley noted that he was happy with the response given.

MDL137/22 CORRESPONDENCE

137.1 Las an Tine / Light the Fire Festival

Eamonn Brown advised that correspondence had been received from Bairbre Cahill of Lónra Leitir Ceanainn seeking permission to erect a marquee in the Town Park for the Las an Tine / Light the Fire Festival on Saturday 30th April.

On the proposal of Cllr. John O'Donnell, seconded by Cllr. Donal Coyle this was agreed.

137.2 Visit to Irish Embassy in London

Eamonn advised that the Mayor, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and he had visited the Embassy of Ireland in London as part of Islington Council's Irish culture and heritage celebrations on 1st March.

On the proposal of Cllr. John O'Donnell, seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney this visit was approved.

137.3 World Refugee Day – Tree planting by Amnesty International

Eamonn advised that correspondence had been received from Fionnuala of Amnesty International seeking permission to plant a tree in the Letterkenny Area for World Refugee Day.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh this was agreed.

137.4 Request for meeting with OPW

Eamonn advised that an update had been provided. There is a commitment by the Minister to meet the Members and he agreed to keep the Members updated on this

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh noted that a meeting is needed urgently before finalising the Letterkenny Plan.

Liam Ward advised that the plan has been deferred and that correspondence has been sent to the OPW and that there has been no response to date. A meeting is a priority in order to move on with work on the plan.

MDL138/22 MAYORS BUSINESS

138.1 Donegal Half Marathon

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh advised that he had attended the launch of the Donegal Half Marathon on Friday 11th February.

138.2 Visit of Minister O'Donovan to Corn & Flax Mills at Newmills

On 16th February Cllr. Kavanagh was present for the visit of Minister O'Donovan to the Corn & Flax Mills at Newmills.

138.3 Rushe Fitness – launch of new premises

Cllr. Kavanagh attended the launch of Rushe Fitness new premises on 18th February and he wished them every success in their new location.

138.4 Letterkenny Cathedral Quarter

Cllr. Kavanagh attended the launch of the Letterkenny Cathedral Quarter Committee's "Letterkenny 2040" on Thursday 24th February.

138.5 Irish Embassy in London

Cllr. Kavanagh attended a reception in Islington on 1st March which had been organised by the Mayor, Troy Gallagher. An Irish month has been organised there by the Mayor.

138.6 North West 10K – 25th Anniversary

Cllr. Kavanagh attended the launch of the 2022 North West 10K. This is a great fundraiser and the charities this year are the Donegal Branch for Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus, the Donegal Diabetes Parents Support Group and the No Barriers Foundation. Registration is now open online. He sent best wishes to the Chairperson, Neil Martin on the 25th Anniversary of the run.

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan commended all the work done by the Mayor of Islington, Troy Gallagher. He knows him well and he is a great ambassador for Donegal. The IDA are hosting an event there on 18th March. Mayor Gallagher is the first Irish Mayor there and he is opening the doors for Irish people. He was proud to have been there to raise the Tricolour and to meet with others from the area. There are people now working from home who had been based in London.

Cllr. Kavanagh agreed that it had been a good event.

MDL139/22 ENVIRONMENT

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

139.1 Championing Leadership Webinar

Joe Ferry referred to item on page two of the report in relation to the Championing Leadership Webinar to be held on 1st April 2022 for those who had missed previous training on Climate Action.

139.2 Training by Water Safety Ireland

Joe referred to training being offered by Water Safety Ireland for Beach Lifeguards which is taking place early in April. Anyone interested should put their name forward.

139.3 Downings Flood Relief Scheme

Joe advised that there is an update on the Downings Flood Relief Scheme in the report.

Cllr. John O'Donnell raised concerns about the sewer line in Rathmullan that has been broken since last year. The pipe was patched but has broken further down. He is not happy with the response given to his question that he should contact the Irish Water helpline as this is a waste of time. A member of Staff should be appointed to deal with queries from the Members, forward them to Irish Water and follow up on them for the Members. The tourist season is approaching and the contents of the pipe are running onto the beach. This was previously mentioned before Christmas. The pipe needs to be replaced and nothing has been done. This is a health hazard and needs to be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

Liam Ward noted that in reality it was not a decision of Donegal County Council or the Executive to establish Irish Water and give them the responsibility for the Water service. He noted that Members are not getting responses but the Council can only do what is in the Service Level Agreement. The responsibility lies with Irish Water. The response given is how Irish Water say complaints should be raised. If this is a public health nuisance then steps need to be taken to address it and the Council will take steps to deal with this. He also noted that the relationship with Irish Water is due to end and it will then become a standalone utility.

Cllr. O'Donnell noted that the pipe has broken again and has not been repaired. Money had been allocated for a new line but is not there now.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh raised a query in relation to the burning of vegetation as he had received complaints from people. In other counties burning is not allowed at weekends or on Bank Holidays. Wind conditions need to be considered. Residents were afraid to go to bed at night. He was disappointed with the response from Gardaí. The fire brigade were also called.

Joe Ferry advised that there was a permit in place and would have been for a recommended time. The burning may have gone on longer than envisaged. The fire service was out. He will look into this and get back to the Members.

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

The Members raised the following items:-

- Cllr. Ciaran Brogan noted that the IDA units in Milford are not controlled by the Council. He asked that they be brought back into Council ownership as they would provide an opportunity for remote working for anyone wanting to avail of this.
- Cllr. Gerry McMonagle asked if someone from the Fire Service could attend Municipal District meetings. There is currently an issue with staffing in the Fire Service in Letterkenny with other areas having to be on standby for them.
- Cllr. Michael McBride raised a query on the current status of the Letterkenny to Burtonport greenway. He is concerned that no funding has been received for it and asked for a full report for the next Municipal District meeting.
- Cllr. Liam Blaney asked if the IDA units in Milford are now in private ownership.
- Cllr. John O'Donnell acknowledged the work of the Local Enterprise Office noting that Michael Tunney is very accommodating and working with people.
- Cllr. Donal Coyle asked if greenways are funded under TII.

Liam Ward responded to queries as follows:-

- In relation to Cllr. McMonagle's query on attendance at the M. D. Meetings a representation is sent from the Directorate to each of the M.D. meetings with a reporting mechanism in place back to Senior Staff. He advised that he would relay the concerns in relation to the Fire Service back to the Directorate.
- In relation to Cllr. McBride's question on the greenway, Liam advised that the Greenway unit has been asked to bring this forward. The work involved is similar to that for a new road project. There are various stages in the process. A report will be requested for the Members. This will be included under the Outdoor Recreation Strategy and will be one of the top priorities for the County.
- Liam confirmed that greenway funding falls under the Roads Directorate as part of TII allocations.

MDL141/22 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

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

141.1 Development Fund Initiative Workshop

Francis Conaghan asked for the Members approval to what was agreed at the Workshop held yesterday.

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle the allocation of funding was agreed.

141.2 Donegal Youth Council

Francis advised that the Youth Council have asked to meet with the Members in the coming months.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, seconded by Cllr. Donal Coyle it was agreed that the Youth Council should be invited to attend the M.D. meeting in April.

141.3 Rural Programme Workshop

It was agreed to hold a Workshop on the Rural Programme on Tuesday 29th March commencing at 2pm.

141.4 Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme

Francis advised that conditional letters of offer have issued to the Social Enterprise Groups with funding of over €1 million available.

The Members raised the following items:-

- Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh congratulated the Community Development Division on the recent work completed in the Town Park.
- Cllr. John O'Donnell acknowledged the work of the Community Development Division and noted cooperation with Members on allocation of funding.
- Cllr. O'Donnell noted that funding is now available for the boardwalk in Downings. He asked that Brendan O'Donnell be asked to follow up on securing funding for foreshore licence.
- Cllr. O'Donnell asked for an update in relation to the Digital hub for Carrigart. He noted that there is currently a stumbling block and asked that the Council engage with the Contractor to get it up and running as soon as possible.
- Cllr. O'Donnell said that he looks forward to working with the Council on the Town and Village renewal project and thanked Staff for taking time to meet with Residents in Kilmacrennan.
- Cllr. Michael McBride asked that the schedule of Receptions be looked at.
- Cllr. Liam Blaney noted the great work done on the trail at the Great Arch. He added his support to Cllr. O'Donnell in relation to the hub in Carrigart asking when it would open.
- Cllr. Gerry McMonagle thanked Francis for all the work done noting that the Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme is a positive development.
- Cllr. McMonagle asked for an update on the Swilly Walk.
- Cllr. McMonagle asked if any allotments are vacant in Letterkenny.

- Cllr. McMonagle noted the refurbishment carried out on the Ard na Rí play park.
- Cllr. Ciaran Brogan thanked Francis for the positive report noting that €200,000 is to be allocated to community groups.
- Cllr. Brogan acknowledged the leadership of Liam Ward and Francis Conaghan in relation to the Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme. He noted that the successful groups could now continue with their work.
- Cllr. Liam Blaney welcomed funding allocated under the Development Fund Initiative and expressed concern that this M.D. is only get one fifth of the funding given the number of Members in this area. He asked Liam Ward to speak to Senior Management about this.
- Cllr. John O'Donnell said that funding should be allocated per head of population as there are 90 applications in this M.D.
- Cllr. Liam Blaney noted that the Development Fund Initiative is divided per Member.
- Cllr. Ciaran Brogan noted that the Roads allocation for Letterkenny has been poor since the Town Council was abolished. This needs to be reviewed.
- Cllr. Blaney said it should be noted that rural areas are subsidising the town since 2014 as there is less funding now. A special allocation is needed for Towns.
- Cllr. Brogan noted that it may be necessary to borrow funding for road in the Town since the block grant was lost as there has been a lot of growth in the area and the main roads in the Town are used by everyone.

Francis Conaghan responded to the queries raised as follows and thanked the Members for the comments made:-

- Francis confirmed that contact will be made in relation to Downings.
- Francis advised that there is an update in the report on the Digital hub. It is almost completed with only furniture and management to be sorted. He will keep the Members updated in relation to this.
- In relation to the allotments he advised that he would check with Corporate Services. There is a problem with one of the allotments and a clean-up is to be done.
- A meeting has been held with the Outdoor Recreation Officer in relation to the Swilly Walk. There are different stages to go through. He hopes that a site visit can be arranged before Easter. There is an application for funding submitted through the Chamber of Commerce.

Liam Ward responded to queries re funding as follows:-

- Liam confirmed that allocation of Development Fund is on the basis of Elected Members. Other funding is evenly split five ways. He agreed to raise this at Senior Management but noted that the Members have a key role to play in this.

- Liam noted that Members have an opportunity to raise funding issues at Corporate Policy Group meetings.

MDL142/22 PLANNING SERVICE

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

Paddy Mullen advised the Members that he was seeking their approval to create a public right of way and to declare the estate roads as public roads for six estates in the Municipal District. He advised that an update on Building Control is included in the report noting that there has been a significant increase in the level of construction. In relation to the taking in charge of estates there are issues with securing wayleaves. Some landowners are refusing to sign and this blocks progress. Category B estates need new pumping stations and work is progressing on these.

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. John O'Donnell the creation of a public right of way and the taking in charge of estate at Greenmount, Forquar, Milford was adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. John O'Donnell the creation of a public right of way and the taking in charge of estate at Glenallen Heights, Forquar, Milford was adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Donal Coyle O'Donnell the creation of a public right of way and the taking in charge of estate at The Elms, Sallaghraine, Letterkenny was adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Donal Coyle the creation of a public right of way and the taking in charge of estate at Willowbrook Close, Sallaghraine, Letterkenny was adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Donal Coyle the creation of a public right of way and the taking in charge of estate at Killylastin Heights, Killylastin, Letterkenny was adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly the creation of a public right of way and the taking in charge of estate at Mullach Bán, Ballaghderg, Letterkenny was adopted.

The Members commented as follows:

- Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh thanked Paddy for the work done on takeover of estates. He noted that there is an issue with takeover of College Farm Road with people not signing up.
- Cllr. Ciaran Brogan acknowledged the work being done noting that there has been a significant improvement and that there are challenges with

wayleaves. Anyone blocking takeovers are doing a disservice to themselves and their estates.

- Cllr. Gerry McMonagle acknowledged the work done by Paddy and his team. He agreed with what Cllr. Brogan had said and asked that Paddy get back to the Members with an update on other estates.
- Cllr. Liam Blaney acknowledged the work done and noted the update on estates needing upgrade of pumping stations.
- Cllr. John O'Donnell commended the team on the work done noting that a new estate has been taken over after only 6 months. He asked that Members be updated every other month on progress with estates.
- Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly commended Paddy and the team on takeovers proceeding and welcomed the update on other estates.
- Cllr. Michael McBride acknowledged the work noting that it was good to see takeovers proceeding. There is still a lot of work to be done. He noted that there are legal issues in relation to The Pines in Churchill that need to be sorted.
- Cllr. Donal Coyle commended Paddy on work done. He noted that there are issues with developers not finishing work. Estates should be completed before anyone moves in so that they are ready for takeover. He noted that planning has been granted for a scheme in Windyhall and it is a condition of the permission that the estate is completed before anyone moves in.

Paddy Mullen thanked the Members for their comments and for highlighting the issues with wayleaves. When owners try to sell their properties it adds value to them when estates have been taken in charge. He welcomed the opportunity to have a workshop on this to update the Members. The tenders that have been prepared for the new pumping stations will be a useful template for further cases. He will update the Members at the workshop.

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan asked if there is much engagement on pre planning meetings. He has asked if the template for house design has changed. Building houses has become very expensive and design needs to be simplified for rural areas. He asked if a copy of the design guide could be provided to the Members and if guidance could be given to Architects.

Cllr. John O'Donnell noted the number of applications that have been granted in recent months noting that the Planning Section is very busy. There has also been a rise in the number of enforcements noting that there are small cases that are costing a lot of money. Enforcement fees are very high and this should be looked at.

Elaine McEntee advised that face to face clinic meetings can be arranged as and when considered necessary, but most conversations can be dealt with over the phone or via zoom/Go To Meetings. Elaine advised that the planner had observed that meetings are more effective time wise when carried out remotely or over the phone, therefore avoiding any necessary travel and avoiding unnecessary queues of people wanting to see the planner face to

face. Elaine also suggested that if we hold two clinics per month, we consider offering one clinic in a face to face format and one clinic via phone/virtual format, and that this has been suggested to the Senior Planner.

Liam Ward agreed to raise the issue of design with the Senior Planner.

Elaine advised that there has been no change to our design policies or standards and that the policy RH-P-9 remained the same – where a high standard of architectural quality was sought. This Policy was read out to Members. Elaine advised that the Planner try to simplify plans in the majority of cases and never impose expensive design suggestions on applicants. Design is a subjective matter but where substandard design is proposed or a suburban design proposed in a rural context, this has to be addressed to ensure compliance with Policy. Elaine advised that the design guide is attached to the County Development Plan but will send it out to the Members.

Cllr. O'Donnell raised a query in relation to modular homes.

Elaine advised that current local or national policy doesn't provide specially for this type of accommodation, and as with all rural or urban forms of development, the proposal needs to confirm with our design policies and design guide. In the case of MICA rebuilds, Planning so consider temporary accommodation and mobile homes.

Liam Ward stated that the MICA issue will bring more focus on this. Also there is talk of provision of modular homes to house refugees from Ukraine. Policy will be needed on this and Eunan Quinn has raised this with the Department. It is hoped that there will be advice on this in the coming weeks.

MDL143/22 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

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

143.1 2022 Climate Adaption Funding

David McIlwaine advised that funding was allocated under this programme on 15th February with four schemes being allocated funding in the Letterkenny-Milford M.D.

143.2 2022 Community Involvement Schemes

David referred to allocation of €235,071 under this scheme which was discussed at the workshop held on 22nd February. The draft programme is attached to the report for the approval of the Members.

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney, seconded by Cllr. Donal Coyle the 2022 Community Involvement Scheme Priority List approved.

143.3 2022 Roads Restoration Improvement and Maintenance Programmes

David referred to the allocation of €3,988,789 for the M.D. under these programmes. The programme previously agreed has been adjusted to include the additional funding received and the Members approval is sought for the agreed programmes.

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Coyle, seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan the 2022 Roads Restoration Improvement and Maintenance Programmes were approved.

143.4 Roads Area Distribution 2022

David advised that a more detailed report will be available for the next meeting of the Municipal District.

143.5 Disposal of land at Ballyboe, Glencar, Letterkenny

David advised that a plot of land at Ballyboe, Glencar, Letterkenny is to be disposed of and the Members approval to this is required.

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Coyle, seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan the disposal of the plot of land at Ballyboe, Glencar, Letterkenny was approved.

David advised the Members that he will be in contact with them in relation to Speed Limits review.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle asked when the road lining at the Casual Trading area at the old Dunnes Stores would be replaced.

David advised that there is an issue getting Contractors to do the work as demand outweighs supply at present.

Cllr. McMonagle added that the Council should have its own road lining team and asked that this work be done as soon as possible.

Cllr. McBride referred to the lack of white lines at the Polestar Roundabout with the white lines for the road crossing causing confusion. He also noted that yellow box is needed at the entrance to the Tourist Office. The Trentagh Road was tarred but this has worn away again. There are problems for two cars meeting on the road.

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, seconded by Cllr. John O'Donnell it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the remaining items on the Agenda to be dealt with.

The Members raised the following comments:-

- Cllr. Michael McBride noted that the roads around the town are not in good condition and rural roads are in a bad condition. With the increase in the cost of tar, more funding is required to get the work done.
- Cllr. Ciaran Brogan thanked the Roads team for the work being done. He asked how the Climate Adaption funding is measured. The applications for Trentagh should be looked at. This needs to be discussed with the Central Roads team in Lifford. Consultants employed for Active Travel projects is more red tape. Lining could be done much better.
- Cllr. Brogan asked if the money received for the disposal of the plot could be used for provision of a building for Community Development in the area. Co-funding could be sought.
- Cllr. John O'Donnell wanted to be associated with what Cllr. Brogan had said about work that has been done. The Council need its own crew for road lining with the current cost of tar. Resources are also needed for patching and general maintenance.
- Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly complimented David on the work that has been done.
- Cllr. Liam Blaney acknowledged the great work done by David as Area Manager. He is a loss to the Milford area. He had worked on applications under Active Travel and puts in a lot of time outside normal business hours.
- Cllr. Blaney noted that funding for Community Assistance is given out on basis of number of kilometres per M.D. There are not as many applications in other M.Ds. He asked that his thanks be passed on to Seamus Shovlin for work done by him and the team.
- Cllr. Gerry McMonagle asked for an update on light for Oliver Plunkett Road.

David McIlwaine responded as follows:-

- David acknowledged that he has a good team in the Roads Section and said he would pass on the compliments to them.
- The road lining at the Polestar is a phasing issue and current situation is confusing until the traffic signals are erected.
- The issue with Contractors is frustrating. Only two suppliers will price for work in the County.
- Applications for Climate Adaption funding have been made for Trentagh. The funding is allocated by the Department and there are no priorities on funding.
- The guidelines for Active Travel state that consultants are needed. The NTA requirements have to be met to get funding.

- Funding from the transfer of land at Ballyboe will be used for Ballyboe Park.
- There are additional costs now for surfacing and these huge increases will be a major problem.
- David advised that work is progressing on light for Oliver Plunkett Road.
- David advised that a permanent Engineer has now been appointed and he thanked Seamus Shovelin for his role in the interim.

MDL144/22 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

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

Eamonn Brown advised the Members that a member of Corporate Staff, Mary Elliott, is retiring on 16th March and that there will be a function for her on 15th March in the Public Services Centre.

The Members acknowledge the contribution made by her and asked that they be reminded of the function beforehand.

MDL145/22 FINANCE – SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS 2022

Eamonn Brown presented the SMDW 2022 budget. On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022 was adopted.

A discussion took place in relation to the attendance of Housing Construction staff at meetings and workshops. Members also queried why the recent apartments brought into Council stock were not let.

Additional resources are needed for Housing Construction. The new rule of no stage payments doesn't work for construction. There should be an Architect based in each M.D. so that they would be closer to the ground.

There is concern that voluntary Housing Bodies will pull out of housing provision as the current differential rent scheme is not enough to cover investment.

Concerns were expressed in relation to complaints about certain Staff members with workloads increasing because of MICA and no extra staff to deal with this.

The Mayor asked Eamonn Brown to revert to Members on the points raised by email in the coming days.

QUESTIONS

MDL146/22 LIGHTING FOR LANEWAY INTO AURA LEISURE CENTRE

In answer to his question asking if a light could be provided on the laneway into the Aura Leisure Centre, this is used by a running group and it is very dark and can be dangerous, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

“This issue will be explored in conjunction with the relevant stakeholders and Cllr Kavanagh will be advised accordingly.”

MDL147/22 BROKEN BARRIER ON RAMELTON ROAD AND NEW LIGHTS FOR FYCORRENAGH

In answer to his question asking if there updates on fixing the broken barrier on the Ramelton Road as per his previous motion, and on erecting the 2 new lights at Fycorrenagh, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

“The Contractor is currently in the process of completing the repair works to the Safety Barrier on the R245 Ramelton to Letterkenny Road.

The civil works have been completed in preparation for the erection of the lights. The Contractor is programmed to have these lights erected in the near future.”

MDL148/22 GUIDELINES/REGULATIONS FOR BURNING VEGETATION

In answer to his question asking if the Council could provide details of the guidelines/regulations for burning vegetation under permit that apply in Donegal, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

“The Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) Regulation 2009, as amended, provides an exemption which exists to allow farmers, as a last resort, to dispose of bushes and shrubbery generated by agricultural practices. This exemption expires at the end of 2022.

The Environment Section of Donegal County Council receive ‘Burn Notices’ from farmers who plan to carry out a controlled burn of this waste vegetation from their land. This notice is emailed to the West Region Fire Control Centre and farmers are advised to contact the Fire Service before and after the burn. The Waste Enforcement Officer for the area is notified to check that fire does not contain materials other than green waste.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine & the Forestry Service provide a ‘Prescribed Burning Code of Practice’ which is available on the Donegal County Council website at the following link:

<https://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/environment/backyardburning/> those undertaking controlled burns are advised to comply with that code of practice.”

MDL149/22 FOOTPATH AND LIGHTING AT BALLAGHERG, MOUNTAIN TOP, LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question if there has been any progress in relation to his motion for a footpath and lighting at Ballaghderg, Mountain Top, Letterkenny, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

“As of yet no funding has been identified to carry out these works. When clarification on the funding available for the footpath & public lighting programme or any alternative source of funding is received this scheme can be considered for prioritising.”

MDL150/22 ROAD DRAIN GULLY FOR THE PLUCK ROAD JUNCTION WITH OLD DERRY ROAD

In answer to his question as to when will the Road Drain Gully promised for the Pluck Road Junction with Old Derry Road be installed, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

“The Roads Area Team have carried out an assessment of this location and these works are being scheduled to be carried out as part of the Drainage programme.”

MDL151/22 FLOODING ISSUE AT ABBEY PARK LAY-BY BETWEEN HOUSES 1-5

In answer to his question requesting an update on works carried out to address the flooding issue at Abbey Park lay-by between houses 1 - 5, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

“The Roads Area Team are currently assessing this issue. When assessment is completed the necessary works will be included in the Drainage programme.”

MDL152/22 ADT ON MILFORD/LETTERKENNY ROAD AT MULROY WOODS AND AT LOUGHNAGIN, LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question requesting an ADT on the Milford / Letterkenny Road at Mulroy Woods and at Loughnagin, Letterkenny, Cllr. Ian McGarvey, was advised:

“Arrangements are being made to carry out Traffic Counts at these locations. The Members will be updated when the counts are completed.”

MDL153/22 SAFETY SIGNAGE AND LITTER ON BEACHES

In answer to his question asking if all our Beaches will be checked for signage of safety and importance to be kept free of litter etc., Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

“Donegal has 21 beaches which are Designated Bathing Areas (DBA)s, 12 of which hold Blue Flags and 4 hold Green Coast Awards. The criteria for these awards set out minimum standards of signage, maintenance and servicing which are put in place as required at each location. Some of these DBAs were affected by the recent spate of storm conditions. DCC is assessing the work required to repair locations that may have sustained damage and ringbuoys, damaged signage, etc will be repaired and replaced, as necessary, following this assessment.”

MDL154/22 DERELICT SITES IN RAMELTON AND MILFORD AND OTHER TOWNS IN M.D.

In answer to his question requesting an update on the action proposed to deal with the derelict Sites in Ramelton and Milford and other towns in our Municipal District, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

“The Government’s recent ‘Housing for All’ strategy has placed a new focus on this issue. This strategy will require a review of vacancy and dereliction across the county, accompanied by a list of where priority interventions, including potential CPO actions, may lie within the overarching aims of regeneration and provision of housing options. A high level examination of vacancy in the region has already been published by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly that will also inform the work of Council. A Vacant Homes Officer will be appointed to follow through with identified priorities.

Resources have also been applied to the preparation of focused baseline studies using the Town Centre Health Check approach, which is back by the Heritage Council.

This and other strategies have been included in work which has been done in a number of towns, including Letterkenny, Ballyshannon, Bundoran, Donegal Town, Bunrana, Moville, Ramelton, Ballybofey/Stranorlar, Dungloe, Rathmullan and Carndonagh with further assessments planned during 2022.”

MDL155/22 RESURFACING OF WHITE HILL ROAD AND MARLASK ROAD IN GLENSWILLY

In answer to his question requesting an update on when the White Hill Road and Marlask Road in Glenswilly will be resurfaced please, Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly was advised:

“These works are programmed to be carried out in the last week in April.”

MDL156/22 CATHEDRAL ONEWAY SYSTEM

In answer to his question requesting an update on what progress is being made on the Cathedral one-way system please, Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly was advised:

“An update on the current status of the Cathedral one way system project is included in the Roads Report.”

MDL157/22 SIGNS IN LETTERKENNY FOR GARTAN BIRTHPLACE OF ST. COLMCILLE

In answer to his question asking if there are any signs in Letterkenny indicating the way to Gartan Birthplace of St Colmcille? If not could signs be erected please, Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly was advised:

“The St. Colmcille Heritage Area and St. Colmcille Heritage Centre is signposted from Letterkenny. Signage for St. Colmcille Birthplace is located at the Junction with the R254 at Gartan Bridge and at the Junction with the LP1462 at the entrance to St. Colmcille’s Birthplace.”

MDL158/22 DEEP CLEAN OF TOILETS IN RATHMULLAN

In answer to his question asking what progress has been made to get a company to deep clean the toilets in Rathmullan on a monthly basis for summer months and quarterly out of season, Cllr. John O’Donnell was advised:

“A daily regime of cleaning and maintenance is in place for the public convenience at Rathmullan. This is often challenging during periods of heavy footfall. A check list is displayed on the notice board at the entry to the facility which records the tasks undertaken, each day, for public information. In addition to the daily regime deep cleaning is arranged periodically to ensure the highest standards are available within the facility to the public. These deep cleans are arranged generally before the summer season commences and before/after public holidays, etc.”

MDL159/22 REPLACEMENT OF SEWERAGE LINE ON BEACH IN RATHMULLAN

In answer to his question asking when the sewerage line will be replaced in Rathmullan on the beach across from the butcher shop, Cllr. John O’Donnell was advised:

“This is a matter for Irish Water who have advised that queries of this nature concerning Irish Water Plans and Operations should be directed through the Local Rep Support system provided by Irish Water.

There are a number of avenues available to the Elected Members to raise queries/ questions with Irish Water which include:

- Use of the dedicated Local Representative telephone number, 0818 178 178.
- IW has also provided a dedicated Local Representative Support Service email, localrepsupport@water.ie.

This query has been submitted to IW on behalf of Cllr O'Donnell for response back to him directly."

MDL160/22 FOOTPATH FROM CARRIGART TO DOWNINGS

In answer to his question asking what progress has been made on the footpath from Carrigart to Downings, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised:

"On the 19th of November 2021 Donegal County Council received notification from An Bord Pleanála that Planning Permission had been approved. The next stage of this is to seek funding to allow the project to progress to full design and construction."

MDL161/22 FUNDING FOR MAINTENANCE OF GREENWAYS FOR 2022 AND PROGRAMME FOR SAME

In answer to his question asking if a fund has been identified for the maintenance works on greenways for 2022 and has a programme been put in place, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised:

"As of yet no specific funding has been received for the maintenance of Greenways. This issue is being raised with the relevant bodies. For Greenways/pathways/ Cycleways that are adjacent to public roads the only funding available is through General Maintenance budgets and necessary maintenance works will be carried out within the limitations of the funding available."

MDL162/22 ROAD SURFACE IN HILLVIEW ESTATE, LISMONAGHAN

In answer to his question asking if works have been carried out recently or planned in the short term in Hillview Estate, Lismonaghan as the Road surface is in very poor condition and many of the manholes seem to be collapsing, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised:

"This housing estate is not in the charge of Donegal County Council."

MDL163/22 FOOTPATH FROM CHURCHILL VILLAGE TO THE WOOD GATE

In answer to his question asking if Donegal County Council can liaise with the Local Development Group in Churchill with a view to laying a footpath from the Village to the Wood Gate (Gartan side of the village) as positive discussions have taken place with Coillte regarding permission to access their lands for the purpose of walks and trails to compliment those trails already mapped from the Village, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised:

“A meeting can be arranged with the Local Development Group to discuss this. Currently there is no funding available for these works. This can be considered for inclusion in the next footpath & Public Lighting programme.”

MDL164/22 APPLICATION FOR ADDITIONAL CCTV CAMERAS IN LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question requesting an updated report on the application for additional CCTV cameras for Letterkenny, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

“Donegal County Council is currently assisting with two community-led applications to the Department of Justice and Equality for CCTV systems in Letterkenny and Ballybofey and Stranorlar.

The application for Letterkenny is for the extension of the existing system and is being led by Letterkenny Chamber under the Community based CCTV grant aid scheme. Following initial consultation with the Garda National Bureau a detailed design of the scheme is required. Donegal County Council met locally with An Garda Síochána to discuss both schemes on 16th February 2022 and are awaiting feed-back on the new scheme proposals from the Gardaí.

A meeting between the lead applicants, the Council and the Gardaí is now being arranged for final feed-back. The next step is to procure a design for the schemes to allow final applications to be submitted to the Department Justice and Equality for final funding approval.”

MDL165/22 ACTIVE TRAVEL AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROGRAMMES

In answer to his question requesting an updated report on recent funding allocations of active travel and climate adaption and a timeframe for the programmes of work to be carried out? For example, extension of Crievesmith footpath and lighting, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

“An update on the Active Travel Schemes is included in the attached Appendices and an update on the Climate Adaption funding is included in the Roads Report.”

MDL166/22 PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES IN LISNENNAN

In answer to his question requesting an updated report on the proposed traffic calming measures in Lisnennan as previously agreed by this Council, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

“Traffic Surveys are currently being carried out on the Lisnennan Road. When these surveys are completed we will carry out an assessment on what actions are required.”

MDL167/22 NEW FOOTPATHS FOR MILFORD

In answer to his question requesting that an update be provided regarding the progress on the three new footpaths that were allocated funding in Milford namely Top of the Town to Drumbern, Old Tech to Grey Rocks and out the Kilmacrennan Road from Milford, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

“Consultants are currently being appointed to complete design works and prepare tender documents for the construction of these footpaths.”

MDL168/22 TRAFFIC SURVEY IN CARRIGART

In answer to his question requesting an update on the Traffic Survey that was completed in Carrigart recently, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

“The Roads Section are currently carrying out assessments of this location. As part of this process meetings have and will be held with locals to establish the concerns that are being raised. When we have completed our assessments we will review and consider the options and solutions that can be provided and identify possible sources of funding to deliver these solutions.”

MDL169/22 TRAFFIC SPEEDING AT PORTLEEN SCHOOL

In answer to his question asking what progress has been made regarding solutions to traffic speeding at Portleen School and is it possible to carry out a traffic study there, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

“This location has been included in the list of locations for carrying out speed Assessment Surveys. These surveys are currently in progress. When surveys are completed, an assessment will be carried out to establish what actions are required.”

MDL170/22 REQUEST FOR GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE FOR DONEGAL RALLY LEGENDS

In answer to his question requesting an update on motion he previously raised concerning a garden of remembrance for those legends now as the Donegal Rally reaches its 50th anniversary, Cllr. Kevin Bradley was advised:

“Discussions and Consultations have been held regarding establishing a suitable location. As of yet there is no funding available for this project. Approaches will be made to potential sources of funding in the near future.”

MDL171/22 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 12th April, 2022 in a venue to be confirmed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor

Meetings Administrator