MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY-MILFORD MEETING, HELD IN THE AURA LEISURE CENTRE, ON 9 NOVEMBER, 2021 AT 2:00 P.M.

MDL526/21 MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MDL527/21 MEMBERS APOLOGIES

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan

MDL528/21 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; Elaine McEntee, Executive Planner; Joe Ferry, A/Senior Executive Chemist, Francis Conaghan, Development Officer, Eve Anne McCarron, Local Enterprise Office

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh.

MDL529/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

MDL530/21 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 12^{th} October 2021 were adopted.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey asked to address the Members. He expressed his disappointment that one of his Motions had been withdrawn. He stated that he had an obligation to the people he represents referring to petition signed and sent to An Bord Pleanála opposing the erection of a mast in Drummonaghan Woods. He advised that he had booked a bus to go to the Woods at 2.30pm to see what is happening there and asked the Members to go there with him. He asked that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the Members to visit the site to see the destruction to the woods and wildlife that is taking place.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh advised that the Motion had been disallowed as the matter had been discussed several times previously and is now being discussed again today. He added that the Meeting would have to be over by 5pm and it is the last MD Meeting of the year.

Eamonn Brown advised that the process is the same for all the Members and that he had reviewed the Motion in line with Standing Orders. He had reviewed previous Motions and Minutes of previous Meetings and listed the Meetings at which this matter was raised.

The Members commended Cllr. McGarvey on his passion for the matter and his coverage of the issue which he also raised at Plenary Council Meetings.

Cllr. McGarvey thanked the Members for their comments and expressed his concerns at what authority they as Members have.

MDL531/21 FLOODING AT BOTTOM OF TOWN / CHARLIE DALY TERRACE & SWILLY VIEW

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

"That the Council provide an update on the issue of regular flooding at the bottom of the town/Charlie Daly Terrace and Swilly View."

Members were advised that:

"In the short term the Roads Team are programming to carry out an investigation to identify and resolve the possible causes of this flooding. In addition to this an application has been submitted to the Department of Transport for Climate adaption funding to carry out assessments of areas of Letterkenny Town where there is repeated issues with flooding."

Cllr. Kavanagh noted that Cllr. McMonagle had raised a similar motion under Item No. 10. It was agreed to discuss both motions together.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh noted that this is a regular problem for the Residents in this area. The area is flooded every time there is heavy rain and the fire brigade have had to attend to pump water away at times. There is concern that the flooding may be coming down from Glencar. Sand bags have been provided but there is concern that they may not always work. The flooding is also causing problems for traffic using the road. He welcomed the response given.

On proposing his motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle asked that the cause be investigated and remedial works carried out. Home owners and businesses in the area are being affected by this in wet weather and this will only get worse now in the winter. He welcomed the response given asking when this would be done. Remedial works need to be carried out as soon as possible.

David McIlwaine advised that a localised investigation is taking place. Carrying out of works will depend on what is causing the flooding. If it is a local problem the works may be carried out under the maintenance budget. If it is a more serious problem then funding will be needed. He has submitted an application to the Department for Climate Adaptation funding.

MDL532/21 WORKSHOPS ON DERELICT SITES, ABANDONED HOMES, DANGEROUS BUILDINGS & DERELICT BUILDINGS

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

"That the Council convene a workshop or a series of workshops to discuss derelict sites, abandoned homes, dangerous buildings and derelict buildings with input from Council officials from Housing, Planning, Environment etc., with a view to dealing with the current issues in this MD and formulating a comprehensive policy for dealing with future issues."

Members were advised that:

"Members were previously advised of concerns around the limitations of derelict sites legislation, potential liabilities for the Council, and of responsibility for these properties ultimately resting with owners. That said, it is agreed that the issue of derelict sites presents a significant challenge for the organisation. The Four-Year Review of the County Development Plan presents an opportunity to consider this issue in a strategic manner including assessing the scale of the issue, potential liabilities for the Council and resource implications."

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh noted that this has been raised at a lot of meetings. He gave an example of a housing estate in the old part of the town where there is a house which has been abandoned for 15 years. A fire was started in the shed recently and over the Halloween weekend the house was broken into and a fire lit inside with drinking and partying going on inside. The Gardaí are watching the house but this is a concern for a widow who lives next door who is living in fear for her health and safety. He understands that in many instances there are difficulties determining ownership of the properties. In this particular case he had spoken to the owner who advised that the house is being sold. He has been unable to get in contact with the owner again. The Council should be using its power considering the numbers that are on the waiting list for social housing. There is a scheme available for owners to bring properties up to standard and lease them to the Council and properties can be acquired through the CPO process. A database needs to be drawn up of abandoned houses. He noted that CPOs don't work very well but the Council has a responsibility to the local residents. If a change in legislation is needed then the Government needs to be pushed on this. There is also additional housing need now for homeowners and tenants where the property is affected by MICA. There needs to be a forum to bring these matters to and a strategy drawn up. He asked the Executive to take this matter seriously and to set targets for the next number of years.

Liam Ward acknowledged what had been said stating that the case had been presented fairly and accurately. This has been raised before and the challenges have been pointed out in the response. This is a widespread issue and he noted the work done previously by Patricia McIntyre. Housing options need to be looked at with the current review of the County Development Plan. He is happy to work with Housing to provide a workshop to discuss the scale and significance of the problem. A programme could be put in place to tackle the matter. Determination of ownership can be a challenge and is resource intensive. A number of people would need to be working on this full time. He is happy to facilitate the commencement of this process.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle referred to Louth County Council who are working on clearing up derelict sites and taking on the owners with legislation. Donegal County Council should contact them to see how they are dealing with this. This is a blight across the Municipal District and resources need to be found to deal with this. He added that Patricia McIntyre had done a good job in the Meadowbank estate and that some houses have been returned to use.

Cllr. Kavanagh acknowledged that there are problems in dealing with this but that progress needs to be made and resources put to this work.

<u>MDL533/21</u> <u>DISABILITY PARTICIPATION & AWARENESS FUND – APPLICATION FOR</u> FACILITY IN LETTERKENNY

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

"That the Council make an application for funding under the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund for a "changing places" facility in Letterkenny as a pilot for the rest of the County."

Members were advised that:

"I confirm that Donegal County Council has made an application for funding under the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund for a "changing places" facility in Letterkenny as a pilot for the rest of the County."

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh advised that this has been raised with him by Catherine Chan, a wheelchair user, who is an advocate for wheelchair users. There is now a grant available for "changing places" facilities. There are 15 locations in Ireland with 40 in Northern Ireland. There is currently none in Letterkenny and 1 in progress in Ardara. These facilities have extra equipment such as hoists etc. Wheelchair users could be confined to home without these being made available. He welcomed the response given that an application has been made for a facility in Letterkenny. He thanked Cllr. Bradley for seconding his motion.

MDL534/21 ISSUES ON ISLANDS

Motion raised by Cllr. Ian McGarvey.

"That we who have Members on The Islands Committee that an urgent survey be carried out to address the many outstanding issues that has existed for years for example Roads, Piers, Access, Lighting (out in Owey for 1 Yr.) we need to acknowledge Island Roy is included within our Municipal District."

Members were advised that:

"This motion will be forwarded to Roads Central and the Marine Section for Consideration. The MD annually applies for funding from An Roinn na Gaeltachta for Maintenance and Repair works on Island Roy. In the last

number of years funding has been received to carry out repairs to the causeway, slipway and road surface. In 2021 an allocation of €27,000 has been received the surface the road on the Island and as recently announced a further €99,000 has been allocated to surface the Access road to the Island. These works are to be completed by the end of November."

Cllr. McGarvey declined to speak on this motion.

MDL535/21 CYCLE LANE FROM LETTERKENNY TO MILFORD

Motion raised by Cllr. Ian McGarvey.

"That this Municipal District recommend to Roads a cycle lane from Letterkenny to Milford for Cyclists, Runners and Walkers."

Members were advised that:

"This project can be considered for inclusion in a priority list of schemes to be considered for possible funding schemes such as Greenways funding, Outdoor recreational funding or other possible sources of funding for cycleways.

It is proposed that the members forward proposed schemes that they would like included in such a priority and that a workshop be held with the Members to agree a Priority List."

Cllr. McGarvey declined to speak on this motion.

MDL536/21 FOOTPATHS AT ARD NA RÍ / WINDY HALL JUNCTION

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

"That this Council carry out maintenance works on the footpaths at Ard Na Rí/ Windy Hall junction please as the over growth on these footpaths is terrible."

Members were advised that:

"We will arrange to have maintenance works carried out on this footpath."

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kelly noted that he was happy with the response given. Members of the public had been in touch with him as the path is badly overgrown and impossible to walk on. He noted that Cllr. Bradley has also raised a motion in relation to a footpath. He asked that the Council look at all footpaths and keep an eye on them.

MDL537/21 BARRACK CROSSROADS, GLENSWILLY

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

"That our Area Manager and Road Engineer's meet with myself and Local concerned residents at Barrack Cross Roads Glenswilly on the R250 next to Glenswilly outdoor play School to access the major safety concerns of both myself and the Locals as a matter of urgency please."

Members were advised that:

"Arrangements can be made with the Roads Team to meet to discuss this issue."

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kelly noted that there are several serious issues at this location which is the main junction to Glenswilly Chapel. It is a very busy junction with a dip in the road and a height above it causing concern to local Residents. There is an outdoor playschool nearby. Drivers cannot see cars when they are in the dip of the road. This is a built up area with children playing in gardens as well as at the playschool. There have been accidents there before with cars landing in gardens. Drivers are speeding in this area and overtaking ignoring the no pass signs. It is only a matter of time before there is a fatal accident. He thanked David for the response and hoped to get a date sorted soon to meet with the Roads team and the local Residents.

MDL538/21 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FOR GAMBLE SQUARE IN RAMELTON

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

"That this Council look into installing a Pedestrian Crossing at Gamble Square in Ramelton please."

Members were advised that:

"The area around Gamble Square is part of the Ramelton RDF project that is currently being progressed by the Planning Section. Any consideration for a pedestrian crossing in this location will be considered as part of this process."

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kelly noted that there had been a workshop on the Ramelton RDF since he submitted this motion and that future plans for the Square were discussed there. He noted that he is happy with this and noted that a number of crossings are needed in Ramelton. He thanked Cllr. Blaney for seconding his motion.

MDL539/21 FLOODING ON THE OLDTOWN ROAD AT THE STATION HOUSE HOTEL AND CHARLIE DALY TERRACE

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

"That our Roads and Environment Sections investigate the causes of the recent flooding on the Oldtown Road at The Station House Hotel and Charlie

Daly Terrace and to put in place remedial works to preserve and protect these buildings and homes from flooding."

Members were advised that:

"In the short term the Roads Team are programming to carry out an investigation to identify and resolve the possible causes of this flooding. In addition to this an application has been submitted to the Department of Transport for Climate adaption funding to carry out assessments of areas of Letterkenny Town where there is repeated issues with flooding."

It was noted that this motion was already dealt with along with Motion from Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh – Minute No. MDL527/21.

MDL540/21 MINI ROUNDABOUTS AT ROS SUILIGHE OLDTOWN, OLD DUNNES AND CIRCULAR ROAD AND ZEBRA CROSSING AT DEVLINS HOUSE

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

"That our Road Section as a matter of urgency and in the interest of road safety have the Mini Roundabout's at Ros Suilighe Oldtown, Old Dunnes and Circular Road relined and that we Line a Zebra Crossing at the pedestrian crossing in front of Devlin's House Oldtown."

Members were advised that:

"The renewal of lines will be included in the Road Lining programme. Any Road markings at pedestrian crossing must be in accordance with National Guidelines and specification. We will assess the location and arrange to have for road markings to be applied that are in accordance with the specifications."

On proposing this motion Cllr. McMonagle stated that lining needs to be redone in the Oldtown area and that the roundabouts are particularly in bad need. This is leading to near collisions and is a concern for pedestrian safety. Motions have been raised previously in relation to the roads which are in need of attention and traffic calming has been refused there. Zebra crossings are needed. He asked what is the difference in towns here and in other Counties where they are provided. The Oldtown Road needs a Road Safety Plan and he asked that the Engineers look at the road. Traffic in the area is increasing and there are limited footpaths for pedestrians. There is an elderly community living in the Oldtown area.

David McIlwaine accepted that there have been delays in the lining programme due to the availability of contractors. He added that there are different types of crossings which require different types of lining and different levels of funding.

Cllr. McMonagle noted that funding is an issue but feels that a raised ramp with a zebra crossing is needed to slow down traffic and protect pedestrians in this area.

Cllr. Kavanagh referred to a letter which he had received in relation to the crossing at the Aura Leisure Centre. Drivers are not slowing down when approaching it. This needs to be looked at. He noted that Cllr. McMonagle had previously raised this issue.

MDL541/21 WINDYHALL ROAD – REALIGN AND WIDEN

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

"In the interest of Road Safety and with the increasing use of the Windyhall Road by vehicles and Pedestrians I am calling on our Roads Section to make it a priority to realign some of the bends and widen the road to make it safer for the Road users."

Members were advised that:

"The Windy hall Road is included in Year 1 of the 5 year priority list that has been agreed by the Members in July 2020. This Priority list as been submitted to the Department of Transport, as of yet we have received no update on the provision of funding for this scheme. In addition to this Donegal County Council are also seeking opportunities of funding through other possible funding streams."

On proposing this motion Cllr. McMonagle stated that the Windyhall Road needs to be made a priority for realignment and widening. There has been an increase in traffic on the road and an increase in the number of walkers using it. Motions were raised in relation to this road 5 years ago and some work was done cutting back hedges and fencing some areas. The traffic has increased on the road and it is a ring road for the town. There are planning applications in along this road also. At the T junction at the top of the Long Lane it is impossible to see to the left if traffic is approaching. This road needs to be looked at again. Water is getting in at the sides of the road with cars pulling in to pass each other and this will lead to damage to the road. He noted the response given and added that this road needs to be made safer for users. People are using it to walk to work and students walking to Errigal College are using it also. Work similar to that carried out on the Leck Road is needed on this road.

MDL542/21 PRESENTATION FROM HISCO

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

"That the Letterkenny/Milford Municipal Members ask for a presentation from HISCo so we can see what investment is available to us and what effect it will have on the development of Letterkenny going forward."

Members were advised that:

"HISCo provide a 'design build finance' service for onsite housing estate infrastructure, on fully commercial terms, to developers and landowners. The type of infrastructure that HISCo can assist in delivering includes estate roads, footpaths, cycle lanes, water and wastewater facilities, amenity areas, utilities, public lighting, etc. HISCo have been in contact with a number of sections within Donegal County Council to advise of their function and business model. If this motion is passed by Members the Executive will contact HISCo with a view to requesting a presentation."

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride advised that HISCo is the Housing Infrastructure Services Co. The joint shareholders are Cork County Council and the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund, managed and controlled by the National Treasury Management Agency. They provide a Design-Build Finance service for housing estate infrastructure which includes the provision of services and off site works. The money is repaid by means of a development charge when the properties are sold. This should be considered during preparations for the new Town Development Plan. A presentation from HISCo should be sought before finalising the plan to see what they can offer. Accommodation availability in Letterkenny has dwindled. Houses are also needed now for owners of houses affected by MICA. The LYIT has recently been given University status and there is a lack of accommodation for students.

Cllr. Kavanagh asked that a presentation be arranged before the Development Plan workshop if possible.

Liam Ward referred to the recent meeting on the Town Plan last Friday. He agreed that a request would be made for a meeting with HISCo as soon as possible. A meeting had been agreed for 13th December but an earlier date would be requested if possible.

MDL543/21 MEETING WITH IRISH WATER RE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF LETTERKENNY TOWN

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

"That the Letterkenny/Milford Municipal Councillors ask for a meeting with Irish Water so we can get clarity on the water capacity available for the future development of Letterkenny town and its immediate hinterland."

Members were advised that:

"A request for a meeting between Irish Water and the Letterkenny /Milford MD Councillors has been submitted through Irish Water Operations Regional

Lead. In addition the next 6 monthly clinic between IW and Elected Members in the Letterkenny-Milford MD is planned for 23rd November. This item can be added to the agenda.

Councillors could submit separately a request through their dedicated communications portal with Irish Water."

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride referred to the new water treatment plant at Lough Salt which takes water from 3 lakes to service the area. From discussions in relation to the new Town Development Plan there would appear to be a problem and that surplus water from the plant is marginal. If there is no surplus and the plant is at capacity how will future development get what is needed. He noted that the Councillors cannot get meetings with Irish Water. There are infrastructural issues and issues with sewerage in other towns also. There is a need for direct discussion with Irish Water as houses are needed and water is needed for them.

MDL544/21 BREAST CHECK UNIT LOCATION

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

"That the Breast Check Unit be moved to the new car park adjacent to the Public Service Centre in Letterkenny as it now sits beside a construction site."

Members were advised that:

"The construction works adjacent to the BreastCheck Unit will be complete next month. It was not viable to move the BreastCheck Unit on a short term period as the Unit requires power, water and waste. The regional unit manager for the BreastCheck Western Unit was notified of the works and timeframes involved by DCC's Facilities department prior to construction works commencing."

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride noted that this is a great facility to have but the current location is not suitable. These checks can be a private/emotional thing for the people attending. The location is not suitable and consideration should be given to moving it to the new car park. He noted that power is needed and there would be a cost incurred to do so. He is also noted that there may be another option. If the current entrance to the Public Services Centre from the Neil T. Blaney Road was closed and the entrance to the Joe Bonner Road opened, then perhaps a screen could be put up in front of the unit. The unit is located in the wrong place given where the current entrance is.

MDL545/21 UPGRADE OF CAR TESTING FACILITY AT DROMORE, DRY ARCH BUSINESS PARK

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

"That this Council contact the Department of Transport and The National Car Testing Service requesting an upgrade to the Car Testing Facility at Dromore, Dry Arch Business Park."

Members were advised that:

"If the Members support this motion the Executive will write to the Department of Transport as requested seeking the upgrade of the Car Testing Facility at Dromore."

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle complimented the staff working in the facility and noted that they are doing a fine job. The building is as it was from the beginning. Pre Covid the reception area was small with no privacy. Since Covid, customers are expected to wait outside in all kinds of weather where a small canopy has been provided at the front of the building. He acknowledged the response given that a letter would be sent to the Department of Transport seeking an upgrade of the facility.

MDL546/21 TRAFFIC AT MAGHERABEG NATIONAL SCHOOL

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

"That this Council contact Transport Infrastructure Ireland, as a matter of urgency regarding the serious situation pertaining to traffic at Magherabeg National School."

Members were advised that:

"The Road Design Section and the Area Engineer have been in consultation with the School Architect regarding a preplanning enquiry concerning the proposed option of providing a safe car park and set down area adjacent to the school. The TII are aware of the Safety concerns and the progression of the proposed planning application."

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle noted that this had been raised before at Inishowen Municipal District level. Nothing has been done for traffic calming at the school with drivers having to turn in the middle of the road. Traffic is travelling at speed at this location and drivers are taking their lives in their hands. This needs to be looked at urgently. He noted that there is a proposal for provision of a car park there. This is a safety concern and something needs to be done about it.

MDL547/21 CRASH BARRIER ON THE MANORCUNNINGHAM / LETTERKENNY DUAL CARRIAGEWAY AT TRIMRAGH

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

"That this Council request Transport Infrastructure Ireland to erect a crash barrier on the Manorcunningham/ Letterkenny Dual Carriageway (N13) at Trimragh."

Members were advised that:

"This has been forwarded to the TII Consultants that have been appointed to assess the Safety Barriers. They will carry out a review of this location and the Members will be updated when this review has been received."

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle noted that this is only required for a short distance. There are two barriers there but there is one section where there is no barrier. A car went off the road there and landed on the old Derry Road below. That road is used by walkers. Local Residents have raised this issue with him.

MDL548/21 ROAD FROM DOON WELL ROAD TO THE LAGOON, TERMON

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

"That this Council include the Road from the end of the Doon Well Road to The Lagoon, Termon in their list of roads to be presented to the TII."

Members were advised that:

"This motion will be referred to Senior Management and the TII. The TII have advised that this is a live project and that they currently working at the Route Selection stage of the design process."

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney requested that the Council meet with TII in relation to this. Part of the road was upgraded 16/17 years ago over to The Lagoon in Termon. The second stage to Kilmacrennan has not been done since. He welcomed the reply but noted that road users have been waiting 16/17 years for the continuation of the work. It was noted that the road was cracking in places a year ago. The cracks have now gotten bigger and wider. If work is not proceeding then the surface of the road needs to be improved.

David McIlwaine advised that regular maintenance is carried out on the road. This matter is raised with TII regularly. He noted that there is a real problem with the cracking on the road.

Cllr. Blaney noted that the maintenance is not preventing the problem recurring.

MDL549/21 FOOTPATH FROM DRY ARCH ROUNDABOUT TO POLESTAR ROUNDABOUT

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

"That this Council clear the footpath from Dry Arch Roundabout to Polestar Roundabout."

Members were advised that:

"This Issue has been referred to the Contact for the 4 Lane N56 Contractor and the contractor has been asked to review and adequately maintain the footpaths within the lands provided for the Works (LPEW) for the duration of the contract."

On proposing the motion Cllr. Bradley noted that the grass is growing out over the verge. Traffic using the road is not adhering to the speed limits so it is important that footpaths are clear for pedestrians. He welcomed the response given as footpath users cannot currently pass on the path and it needs attention right away.

MDL550/21 CYCLE & WALK WAY FROM ILLISTRIN SCHOOL TO RACE END OR ACROSS COOLBOY

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

"That we consider adding a cycle & walk way from Illistrin school to Race End or even across Coolboy as a large volume of kids walk every day."

Members were advised that:

"This project can be considered for inclusion in a priority list of schemes to be considered for possible funding schemes such as Greenways funding, Outdoor recreational funding or other possible sources of funding for cycleways."

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Bradley noted that it vital that this is put in place for pedestrians using the road. He welcomed the response given.

MDL551/21 BRIDGE AT CORKEY

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

"The something be done with the bridge at Corkey before it falls as it has been cracked for some time."

Members were advised that:

"This has been referred to the Bridge Engineer for Assessment. From Initial assessments the bridge appears to be structurally sound requiring some

localised repairs. A more detailed survey will be carried out to establish if any additional works are required."

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Bradley stated that the bridge had been hit and damaged but has never been replaced. He noted from the response given that the Bridge Engineer has been asked to assess it.

MDL552/21 SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME

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

"That we have a special meeting with our roads senior management, road design with our own team to discuss our roads infrastructure programme."

Members were advised that:

"A meeting will be arranged with the Members for January 2022. It is proposed to update the Members with the status, the next steps, the funding source identified, the funding allocated for schemes in 2022."

MDL553/21 MAYORS BUSINESS

553.1 Launch of Letterkenny Music Festival

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh advised that he had attended the launch of the Letterkenny Music Festival on 19th October. The event took place over the Halloween Weekend and was organised by the Comhaltas Group.

553.2 Letterkenny Halloween Event

Cllr. Kavanagh advised that the Halloween Event organised by the CDP and the Letterkenny Chamber took place on 29th October and had been a successful event with great crowds turning out for it.

553.3 Rathmullan Heritage Project

Cllr. Kavanagh advised that the event on the 2nd November had been a positive one.

553.4 Letterkenny One Act Drama Festival

Cllr. Kavanagh attended the Letterkenny One Act Drama Festival on Sunday 7th November in An Grianan Theatre and had presented awards. He congratulated the Committee on organising the festival with participants from nine different counties and all four provinces represented.

553.5 Homecoming for St. Eunan's Senior Team and Senior Reserve Team Cllr. Kavanagh attended the homecoming of the St. Eunan's Senior and Senior Reserve Teams on Sunday evening, 7th November.

MDL554/21 CORRESPONDENCE

554.1 Request for meeting with OPW

Eamonn Brown updated the Members in relation to request for meeting with the OPW. Following the retirement of John Kelly from the OPW he contacted Lorraine Cunningham, his replacement, and she had submitted a response advising that the situation remained the same. He read the response to the Members.

Cllr. O'Donnell asked that further correspondence be sent to the OPW stating that the Members want a meeting with the OPW.

554.2 Termon National School – Milford Catchment Area

Eamonn Brown advised that following motion from Cllr. O'Donnell a letter had been sent to the Minister of Education and a response had been received acknowledging receipt of the letter and advising that a response would be sent as soon as possible. He advised that he would circulate any correspondence received to the Members.

Cllr. O'Donnell advised that he was delighted that this had been followed up on.

554.3 Letter to Members

Cllr. Kavanagh referred to a letter he and the other Members had received from a young girl called Aoife Keys, aged 9, who lives in Rowan Park expressing her concern that there is no footpath for her and her family to walk safely on in the Oldtown area.

MDL555/21 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

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

555.1 Progress Report on 2021 Roads Programme

David McIlwaine advised that there is an update in the report on the Roads Programme which is coming to an end.

555.2 2021 Local Improvement Scheme Update

David advised that work under this scheme should be completed this week.

555.3 Roinn na Gaeltachta Funding

David advised that funding of €99,000 has been allocated towards surfacing of the access road to Isle of Roy.

555.4 George Boal Roundabout

David referred to motion in February 2021 in relation to the renaming of the Mountaintop Roundabout to the George Boal Roundabout. The name signs have been erected and are currently covered. A date needs to be set for the unveiling. He suggested Tuesday 16th November but this date did not suit the Members. It was agreed that a date should be discussed with Cllr. Ciaran Brogan who had submitted the motion and Cllr. Kavanagh agreed to revert to David with a date that suited the Members.

555.5 Active Travel Update

David advised that an update has been included in the report on the Active Travel Projects.

555.6 Clar Measure 1 2020 – Termon National School

David advised that details of allocation for this project are included in the report.

The Members raised the following items:-

- Cllr. John O'Donnell commended David and the Roads team on the work done and asked that all street lighting which had been provided be lit up before the end of the year.
- Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh also commended the Roads team on the work which has been completed.
- Cllr. Donal Kelly added his support to Cllr. O'Donnell's request in relation to street lights referring to his own question in relation to lights. He asked that branches and hedges also be cut back and that all this work be done as soon as possible.
- Cllr. Kelly also referred to the crossing on the road outside the Aura Leisure Centre, previously raised by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and asked David to look at this again. He advised that he had engaged with local Residents who were willing to give up part of their gardens for the provision of a footpath on the other side of the road.
- Cllr. Kelly thanked David on work done to make access at the Mountain Top more visual. He noted that the hedge has been cut back and there is a better view now on the right hand side at Calhame. There is a mound of clay there which would need to be levelled and he asked if the Council owned this land and if not that they would liaise with the landowner to have it levelled.
- Cllr. Michael McBride referred to flooding in Trentagh and advised that he had spoken to a man who had recently towed a car out of the flood advising that the engine had been destroyed as water had got into it. He noted that a lot of money would be needed to resolve the problem as three roads are affected and 30 houses in the area have problems with access when there is flooding. He asked if the Council would do something with at least one of the roads to allow access. If the road could be raised / widened with piping underneath on the Trentagh side this would help sort some of the problem.
- Cllr. Gerry McMonagle referred to the Oldtown area of Letterkenny stating that a road safety plan is needed for the area due to the amount of traffic using the road. If necessary CPO procedure should be used. The Council should engage with the landowner to extend the footpath. There are a number of things that need to be addressed in this area.

David McIlwaine responded as follows:-

- David advised that he would pass the Members compliments on work done to the Roads team / staff.
- In relation to street lights he advised that there are issues with the supply chain for Airtricity. He added that 80% of the 2019/2020

- programme should be completed by the end of this year. He hopes to have the 2021 programme completed next year.
- He will talk to Residents in relation to requests for pedestrian crossings. Funding can be applied for under Active Travel.
- In relation to the mound of clay at the Mountaintop he advised that the Council owns part of the land but he is not sure how far back but he will follow up on this.
- An application can be made under the Climate Adaptation Fund for flooding at Trentagh. A segment of the road can be selected as it may be easier to attain funding for a smaller area.
- In relation to the Oldtown area he will check to see if funding could be obtained under the Active Travel programme.

MDL556/21 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

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

Eamonn Brown referred to the Housing Workshop which is to be held tomorrow afternoon. John Gallagher and the Housing Engineer will be in attendance. A detailed discussion can be held. There will be an update on MICA.

556.1 Disposal of plot of land at Carn Low, Ramelton

David McIlwaine referred to the plot proposed for disposal advising on why it was now to be disposed of.

Cllr. Liam Blaney stated that he was aware of the location of the plot of land.

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney, seconded by Cllr. John O'Donnell, the disposal of the plot of land at Carn Low, Ramelton to Daniel and Martha McGavigan was passed.

Cllr. Michael McBride asked what was happening with the takeover of the Bracken Lea estate.

Eamonn Brown advised that he would get back to Cllr. McBride in relation to this noting that he may have a response at the Housing Workshop.

MDL557/21 ENVIRONMENT

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

Cllr. O'Donnell referred to the new public toilet facility in Downings and noted that the caretakers are local people. The Council need to take some responsibility for these facilities and arrange for an external cleaning company to do a deep clean on at least a quarterly basis. He noted that the toilet facility at Rathmullan beach is very busy but needs to be cleaned regularly.

Joe Ferry advised that he would forward the query to David Friel who looks after these facilities.

MDL558/21 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, I.S. & EMERGENCY SERVICES

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

558.1 Local Enterprise Office – Donegal Enterprise Awards

Eve Anne McCarron advised that these awards are open for application with a closing date of 14th November and a prize fund of €12,000. There is a strong response to this.

558.2 Grant Aid for Small Businesses

The next meeting of the Grant Aid Evaluation Committee is scheduled for 23rd November.

558.3 Buy Donegal

The 2021 campaign began on 5th November and will run until after Christmas. Everyone is asked to support this campaign.

558.4 Golden Bridges Event

This event will take place online on 19th November and is being run between Donegal County Council and Derry City & Strabane District Council.

558.5 Tourism

It has been noted that while there is a drop off on the US market there has been an increase in numbers.

558.6 Halloween Event – Swan Park

This was a new initiative this year with over 3,500 people visiting over the two days.

MDL559/21 PLANNING SERVICE

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

Elaine referred to earlier discussion in relation to derelict sites referring to an initiative by Limerick City & County Council who have acquired 25 properties through the CPO process. It may be worthwhile looking at what other Councils are doing. She added that when the Planners are looking at sites for planning applications they do ask applicants to look at what might be done with existing buildings.

The Members raised the following items:-

 Cllr. John O'Donnell welcomed the Planning report. He stated that the Planning Section need more support and help. The Staff are stretched to limits, more resources are needed. There is a lot more work to do now. There is also a problem for Staff working from home as they

- cannot access systems. Architects are also frustrated with length of time it is taking.
- Cllr. Liam Blaney noted that there is a problem with submissions from Architects and this is not getting any better. The problems are with the same Architects all the time. At pre planning stage they are advised if there is a problem. Architects should know better but instead are telling applicants to submit applications knowing that they won't succeed. Meetings should be held with Architects and those not adhering should be blacklisted. They are charging a fortune to applicants knowing they won't get permission.

Liam Ward acknowledged the contribution by Elaine McEntee and noted that this would be looked at and responded to issues raised as follows:-

- In relation to Cllr. O'Donnell's comments, Liam Ward noted that the current Staff are carrying a huge workload and that there has been a lift in the number of applications this year, possibly 25% increase on the previous year by year end. This adds to the workload. In relation to additional resources the Budget will be discussed at Meeting on 25th November and it would be challenging to get additional resources. The Council will be under a lot of pressure to deliver a balanced budget this year.
- In relation to access to systems there is a new ePlanning system in the Local Government Sector which is currently being piloted and should be implemented in Donegal in 2022. There is currently some remote access but it is not what is needed. This is challenging but the new system will be more accessible.
- In relation to workshops with Architects, following the implementation of the 2018-2024 County Development Plan there were to be workshops with Architects. Two of these were held on invalid applications. Further workshops were planned but everyone needs to be in the same room. With current restrictions this has been impossible but will pick up again when restrictions change.

Cllr. McGarvey added his support to comments raised by Cllrs. O'Donnell and Blaney. These issues have been raised regularly. It is important to discuss applications with the applicant(s) and let them know what needs to be done. In relation to derelict sites, they are in every town and the Council has authority under Section 90 to go in and deal with these buildings. He noted that the Planning Service is under pressure.

MDL560/21 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

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

560.1 Social Enterprise Centre

Francis Conaghan advised the Members that following on from the workshop, expressions of interest have been sought. Details are being finalised and information will be available on the web later this week. He will send an update to Members on the scheme in early December.

Cllr. John O'Donnell welcomed the report. He called on the Council to recommence work on obtaining a foreshore licence for Downings. He added that he was disgusted that there is no funding for the application. There is an onus on the Council to bring back the funding for this project that has been lost due to a lack of correspondence from the Council. The local people in Downings cannot understand why this is not proceeding. This is a great project. The costings and plan were in place and funding had been secured. The people on the committee have been working on this for 20 years and have fundraised locally for the project. Funding needs to be found to apply for the licence.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey supported Cllr. O'Donnell stating that only a small amount of money is required and the project is important for the area.

Liam Ward stated that he is aware of the project and that a report was submitted at a previous Municipal District Meeting. The Council cannot identify any funding and have no access to funding to progress the project. If there is any possibility of funding being found during the Budget process then this can be looked at again.

Cllr. O'Donnell stated that he respected the response given and asked if funding avenues had been explored since the last meeting. He cannot accept that this project is not going ahead. It was left in the hands of the Council who now need to honour the work of the committee. There is an active Tidy Towns committee in the area and there has been work done through Town and Village renewal. A boardwalk has been proposed for the area.

Liam Ward advised that he had nothing more to add. He is aware of the challenges faced in the Budget for next year and no commitment can be made to this project. Currently there is no funding available where this project would fit. The Marine Section would also be involved in this.

Cllr. O'Donnell stated that the money was given to the Council to progress this application. The report from the Department stated that the application would not proceed due to lack of correspondence from the Council. Funding had also been secured from Údarás na Gaeltachta and this funding has now been lost.

Liam Ward agreed to bring the points raised to the Head of Finance.

Cllr. O'Donnell noted that he had contacted the Marine Section and had got no response from them.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh noted that Cllr. O'Donnell had explained the matter well.

Liam Ward advised that Members would see the scale of the challenge for the Organisation to have a balanced Budget for the coming year.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey stated that the Department should be asked for increased funding.

Liam Ward advised that the Meeting with Oireachtas Members would take place next Monday and additional funding can be sought.

Cllr. Kavanagh noted that no commitment could be made on the project for Downings.

Liam Ward advised that following on from the workshop on the Letterkenny Town Plan, Roisin would arrange one to one meetings with the Members. Further to the Wind Energy workshop, Paul Christie will be emailing the Members to arrange online one to one meetings before the end of business today. This will be on the Agenda for the November Meeting.

Cllr. O'Donnell asked if Meetings could be moved back to the Chamber.

Cllr. Kavanagh noted that the Chamber could not be used because of limitation of numbers who can be accommodated due to social distancing restrictions.

Eamonn Brown confirmed that the Chamber can hold approximately 13 people with current restrictions and is ok for the purpose of a workshop but not suitable for meetings where Members of the Press and Members of the Public can attend. This will be kept under consideration in line with guidelines issued.

QUESTIONS

MDL561/21 PUBLIC LIGHTS AT FYCORRENAGH

In answer to his question requesting a further update on when the two new public lights at Fycorrenagh will be installed; I was previously told they would be installed and operational by October, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

"Airtricity Utility Solutions have been contracted to erect these lights we are being currently indicated that the lights will be erected by the end of the year. The erections of these lights have been delayed with the Contractors having issues with the supply chain of the required materials."

MDL562/21 ADVENTURE AREA IN BERNARD MCGLINCHEY PARK

In answer to his question when will work on the new "adventure area" of Bernard McGlinchey Park commence, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

"The Contractor has advised that works shall commence on site week beginning Monday 15th November 2021 and continue for a period of 3-4 weeks.

The proposed works (see below) at this initial stage are minor in nature and reflect the scale of funding available - €31,950 incl. VAT.

- Preliminaries
- Site Clearance, including the clearance & disposal of trees, vegetation, root systems, wood bark etc

- Removal of a 5m section of the stone wall and making good
- 150mm dia stormwater drainage, connections & gullies
- 50mm Public Lighting duct
- 50mm CCTV service duct
- Excavation, stockpiling and re-grading of topsoil/Grass seeding
- Small area of bituminous footway with edging to match existing
- Lay 22m of watermain, connection (future proof)

A meeting is being arranged to discuss phase two options for the project."

MDL563/21 FACILITIES AND SAFETY OF GREEN AREA IN CASHEL PARK

In answer to his question has any further progress been made with the residents of Cashel Park on providing facilities and improving the safety of the green area in the estate, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

"The Area Manager for Housing met with the Residents Association in relation to understanding the needs and preferences of the community in Cashel Park.

The Housing Section has followed up on this with colleagues in Community Development and it has been agreed that a joint meeting should be held to identify opportunities and/or programmes to assist in the delivery of a scheme."

MDL564/21 VOLUME OF TRAFFIC ON ROAD FROM LETTERKENNY TO MILFORD

In answer to his question will Roads establish the volume of traffic on the road from Letterkenny to Milford, Av. at 2 points Mulroy Woods & Moorfield? (on a daily basis), Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

"We will arrange in conjunction with the Roads Design section to traffic counts carried out at these locations."

MDL565/21 ROAD TO MILFORD WATER TREATMENT PLANT

In answer to his question will Roads deal with the delay by Irish Water in upgrading the road to the Milford Water treatment Plant as I was assured by a Rep. for them was to be done for so long I want to forget, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

"Irish Water have made funding available for these works and contractors are expected to be on site at the start of 2022."

MDL566/21 DERELICT SITES IN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

In answer to his question is Donegal County Council capable of dealing with Derelict Sites in our Municipal District, Ian McGarvey was advised:

"Members were previously advised of concerns around the limitations of derelict sites legislation, potential liabilities for the Council, and of responsibility

for these properties ultimately resting with owners. That said, it is agreed that the issue of derelict sites presents a significant challenge for the organisation. The Four-Year Review of the County Development Plan presents an opportunity to consider this issue in a strategic manner including assessing the scale of the issue, potential liabilities for the Council and resource implications."

MDL567/21 LIGHTS NOT WORKING AND CUT BACK OF BRANCHES IN LETTERKENNY TOWN PARK

In answer to his question requesting an update on when the lights will be fixed and the branches cut back in the Letterkenny Town Park please thanks, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

"Airtricity Utilities Solutions have been contracted to carry out these repairs. The completion of these repairs have been delayed to supply chain issues. These works are currently programmed to be completed by the end of December."

MDL568/21 ROAD SAFETY AT THE ROCK BAR / BYRNE'S JUNCTION

In answer to his question requesting an update of the road safety report at the Rock bar / Byrne's junction on when the safety signs etc. will be implemented please thanks, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

"This assessment is not yet completed. When completed an update will be provided to the Members."

MDL569/21 COUNCIL HOUSE TRANSFER REQUESTS

In answer to his question how many Tenants in this MD are awaiting a house Transfer from their current home, what are the length of times they have been waiting and reasons for the transfer request, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

"There are currently 106 tenants on the transfer list in this Municipal District.

The nature of the approval is as detailed below;

Disability requirement - mental health	4
Disability requirement - physical	13
Disability requirement - sensory	1
Exceptional Medical or Compassionate Grounds	6
Overcrowded	14
Unsuitable - Particular Household Circumstances	68

The detail below reflects the numbers approved per year:

2020 24	1
2019 26	6
2018 9	
2017 6	

2016	5
2015	7
2012	1"

MDL570/21 LIGHTS AND TOP COAT TARMACADAM ON THE ROAD AT RAYMOGHEY HEIGHTS, MANORCUNNINGHAM

In answer to his question when will the Lights be powered on and the Top Coat Tarmacadam finish be put on the Road at Ramochey Heights, Manorcunningham, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

"This has been referred to the Housing Estate Takeover Section to investigate. The Members will be updated when the information is available."

MDL571/21 OLD ABBEY IN KILMACRENNAN AND GRAVEYARD IN GARTAN

In answer to his question when will the work be completed at the old Abbey in Kilmacrennan and at the Graveyard in Gartan, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised:

"Conservation works to the Old Abbey wall at Kilmacrennan are substantially complete with snag items remaining. Conservation of the Church Tower and Crypt in the adjacent Kilmacrennan graveyard are due for completion by end of the third week in November, and the conservation works to St Colmcille's Chapel at Gartan are due to commence next week, for completion within 6 weeks."

MDL572/21 ROAD MARKINGS ON CURRAGHLEAS ROAD

In answer to his question when will the new road markings be laid on the Curraghleas Road, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised:

"This is included in the Road Lining programme. Unfortunately due to resource issues and availability of contractors this programme has been delayed. We will continue to Liaise with the contractors to ensure that this work is done as soon as possible."

MDL573/21 BRIDGE AT CARRYGAWLEY

In answer to his question has the Bridge Engineer carried out an inspection of the bridge at Carrygawley and if so has a report being produced, Cllr. Donal Coyle was advised:

"An assessment has been carried out on this bridge and the Area team have been in consultation with Roads Central regarding possible sources of funding to carry out improvement works at this location. Currently no funding has been identified to carry out these improvements but we will continue to seek opportunities for funding."

MDL574/21 PATHWAY TO THE GREAT ARCH AT POLLAID

In answer to his question when is the pathway to the Great Arch at Pollaid going to be completed, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

"It is hoped that construction on the Great Arch project in Pollaid, Fanad can commence before the end of November 2021. This being the case, it is anticipated that works on the project would be complete by mid April 2022 to coincide with the Easter period."

MDL575/21 MILFORD ROAD OUTSIDE KILMACRENNAN

In answer to his question when is the Milford Road outside Kilmacrennan Town going to be raised and widened with the €110k that was allocated to it by the Department, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

"The drainage works are currently being carried out at this location. The road surfacing element of these works are due commence and be completed within the next week."

MDL576/21 PUBLIC LIGHTING PROGRAMME

In answer to his question when is the Public Lighting Programme going to be completed, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

"All Public Lights that were part of the 2019 & 2020 programme have been ordered with Airtricity Utility Solutions. Civil works are completed for 80% of these projects with the poles erected on approximately 50% of these projects. The Contractor has currently programming to have these lights erected by the end of the year. The erection of these lights have been delayed due to the supply chain issues that the Contractors are having and the delays caused by the Covid 19 Lockdown.

Works on the 2021 programme are due to commence in January."

MDL577/21 SIGNAGE AND UNVEILING OF NAME FOR GEORGE BOAL ROUNDABOUT

In answer to his question when will the new signage be in place and the unveiling of the George Boal roundabout take place, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

"As stated within the Roads report the signs have been erected and I seek agreement at today's meeting with Members on a date to hold the unveiling."

MDL578/21 REPORT ON ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME

In answer to his question requesting an updated report on the active travel programme with our Letterkenny/Milford Municipal District, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

"The Active Travel update is included in Section 5 of the Roads report that has been submitted for this meeting."

MDL579/21 REPORT ON NEW WALKING / CYCLING ROUTE FROM ILLISTRN TO THE MOUNTAINTOP

In answer to his question requesting an updated report on the new walking/cycling route from Illistrin to the Mountaintop, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

"The works on the Cycleway / Walkway are nearing completion.

The surfacing is complete and work is ongoing on soiling, delineation and signs.

The main Temporary Traffic Management has been removed and the remaining works can be completed with local traffic management."

MDL580/21 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 11 th January, 20	022
in a venue to be confirmed.	

This concluded the business of the n	neeting.
——————————————————————————————————————	Meetings Administrator