

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY-MILFORD MEETING, HELD IN AURA LEISURE CENTRE LETTERKENNY, ON 10 NOVEMBER, 2020 AT 2:00 P.M.

MDL298/20 MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MDL299/20 OFFICIALS PRESENT

Liam Ward, Director of Service
Patricia McIntyre, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services
Bernadine McGee, Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services
David McIlwaine, S.E.E. / Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Elaine McEntee, Executive Planner
Francis Conaghan, Development Officer
Joe Ferry, A/Senior Executive Scientist
Barney McLaughlin, Economic Development

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Donal Coyle

MDL300/20 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

At the outset of the meeting, the Mayor welcomed Barney McLaughlin, Tourism Officer to the meeting.

MDL301/20 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, the Minutes of meeting of 13 October 2020 were adopted.

MDL302/20 KILLYGARVAN BRIDGE

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

“That the Municipal District recommend that Killygarvan Bridge and the Road Section to the North end be included with the Bridge proposals for upgrading in the Municipal District.”

Members were advised that:

“This section of road was not included in the Schemes to be prioritised for Specific Improvement funding. It can be considered for prioritising if future opportunities for funding become available.”

MDL303/20 ROAD SURFACING FROM LETTERKENNY / RAMELTON ROAD

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

“That Roads carry out road surfacing to the Road from the Letterkenny/ Ramelton Rd at the Dipper that runs between there & Borrough.”

Members were advised that:

“This section of road is to be considered for inclusion in the Draft 3 year Road Restoration programme.”

MDL304/20 VISION LINES FROM MAGHERADRUMMOND ROAD TO THE MILFORD / RAMELTON ROAD

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

“That the Road Section improve vision lines at the exit from Magheradrummond Road to the Milford/Ramelton Road.”

Members were advised that:

“This junction has been forwarded to Road Design for Assessment and to be considered for prioritising for low cost Accident funding.”

On proposing all 3 motions Cllr. McGarvey stated that all these issues should have been addressed and he should not have to be raising them.

In relation to Killygarvan Bridge he expressed concern that a planning application had not included for the realigning of the road as this road is heavily used as it is on the Wild Atlantic Way.

In relation to the Magheradrummond Road he stated that this is a dangerous road and is used by people travelling from Letterkenny instead of going through Ramelton.

In relation to road surfacing, Cllr. McGarvey noted that he had arranged repairs previously with help from the residents.

He stated that there is an obligation on the Council to progress these matters.

MDL305/20 LIGHTING AT 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 upgrade the lighting at Bernard McGlinchey Town Park.”

Members were advised that:

“The current lux levels for lighting within the Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Park is well within the Standard for pedestrian's as well as CCTV coverage.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh stated that this had been raised with him by several people. A lot of people are using the park in the evenings and they are complaining about how dim the lights are. People do not feel secure using the park. He accepts that the lights may be to the required standard but feels that the standard should be raised. The lights need to be upgraded or brighter bulbs used in them.

Cllr. Kavanagh also referred to the one way system in the park due to Covid-19. The lines have become faded and some people are now walking the wrong way in the park.

MDL306/20 SAFETY MEASURES AT LOUGHNAGIN HEIGHTS

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

"That the Council implement safety measures and erect warning signs at the entrance to Loughnagin Heights."

Members were advised that:

“We will assess this location and consider what safety measures are required. We have not received reports of any previous safety issues and would welcome the assistance of the members in establishing the nature of the issue.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh stated that he had raised a question about this before. The Residents are complaining about how dangerous it is. There is no place to pull in and traffic is travelling at speed there. It used to be a 60kmph zone but this was raised to 80kmph in the last review. He noted that it would be difficult to provide a pull in lane there but felt that warning signs should be erected or that safety measures be put in place.

MDL307/20 RAMPS IN MANORCUNNINGHAM VILLAGE

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

“That this Council include ramps as part of the road safety works to be carried out in Manorcunningham Village as requested by the residents.”

Members were advised that:

“Ramps are not included in the Pedestrian crossing being constructed in Manorcunningham Village. After the works have been completed we will carry out an assessment to establish if there is a requirement for ramps at this location.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle welcomed the announcement of €30,000 for road safety measures under Active Travel. He asked that the Council would commit to put in ramps. He noted the response but said that the Locals know what is needed. Speed is the number one issue approaching the village and ramps are a necessity.

Cllr. Brogan in seconding the motion noted that the Members had met with the Engineer on site and discussed the need for ramps.

David McIlwaine said he understood that a pedestrian crossing was what was required but agreed to review this.

Cllr. McGonagle agreed that all Members had been present at the onsite meeting and that it was agreed that ramps should be put in place. He welcomed the Active Travel allocation but the current works are not what was agreed and that ramps were the preferred solution.

Cllr. Brogan requested a record of the meeting that day and noted that Residents were also present.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey agreed that this would not be a big job and the sooner it was done the better.

MDL308/20 MEETING WITH COILLTE

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

“That this Council request a meeting with Coillte to explore and discuss the many possibilities to make the many forests in the Electoral Area more user friendly.”

Members were advised that:

“Donegal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) as the Local Action Group (LAG) are currently engaging consultants through the Rural

Development Programme /Leader to develop an outdoor recreation strategy for the county.

In this regard Coillte will be engaged with as a key stakeholder in such a process.

Notwithstanding this Coillte can be invited to a future meeting to discuss relevant sites within the Municipal District.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle noted that there are many forests within a short distance of Letterkenny and that over the past 8 months there was an increase in people using the forests. While there are health and social benefits to walking in the forests many of them are not user friendly unless users are able bodied. He requested the meeting with Coillte to see if forests could be made user friendly. Signage, car parking, accessible paths, seating and picnic areas would benefit users. He welcomed the response given.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey referred to Drummonaghan Wood which he felt has been violated following granting of planning permission for the erection of a mast. Coillte welcome community use of the forest and are disappointed that a mast has been approved.

MDL309/20 SIGNAGE ON LISMONAGHAN ROAD AND DROMORE ROAD

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

“That this Council erect dog fouling signage on the Lismonaghan Road and on the Dromore Road.”

Members were advised that:

“Martin Roarty (Litter Warden) has been very Active in doing this work in a number of areas. This issue has been referred to him and I have been informed that he will erect signage to address it.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle said he has received requests from Residents. This is an offence in public places and is being ignored or people may not be aware. He felt that the erection of signage and provision of collection points would help with this. He welcomed the response given.

MDL310/20 SURVEY OF NEWMILLS BRIDGE

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

“That this Council carry out a surface survey on Newmills Bridge due to vehicle's coming over the Bridge and unable to get stopped due to the slippery road surface.”

Members were advised that:

“I will arrange to have survey carried out on this section of road to check if the road texture is in compliance with the relevant standards.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kelly welcomed the response given. He stated that this is a busy junction and that vehicles have difficulty getting stopped. He noted that there has been no serious accidents to date at this location.

MDL311/20 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT LOWER MAIN STREET

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

“That this Council take action to input a pedestrian crossing at the bottom of the back road in Letterkenny in front of Kiernan's shop at Lower Main Street.”

Members were advised that:

“A signalised crossing at this junction would be problematic at peak traffic volumes, due to the close proximity of the Back Road and the Mini Roundabouts. The only viable solution highlighted within the 2009 iLuts report is for the serial control of junctions from Larkins Lane, Dunne's mini Roundabout, Lower Main Street Mini roundabout and bottom of Convent Road, all of which would include a pedestrian crossing phases.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kelly stated that he could not understand the response that a crossing would be problematic at this junction as this junction is a problem as it is. He noted that there is a stop and go during school hours. There are a lot of people crossing the junction and a high volume of traffic using it. A crossing with lights would help people cross the road safely.

MDL312/20 LIGHTS IN BALLYMACCOOL ESTATE

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

“That this Council takes action and erects lights in Ballymacool estate from the Independent unit on the left right up to Kelly's old house.”

Members were advised that:

“This estate is not taken in charge and is not be under the remit of Letterkenny Roads.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kelly noted that the estate is not in charge of the Council but requested the request be considered. . This is a highly populated area. Residents have approached him in relation to the problem and he urged the Council to see what can be done.

MDL313/20 GREENWAY FROM ILLISTRIN THROUGH COOLBOY / BLUEBANKS TO KILMACRENNAN

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

“That Donegal County Council cut the grass along the greenway from Illistrin through Coolboy / Bluebanks to Kilmacrennan as it has started to grow on to the tar and will eventually narrow the path so walkers and cyclers cannot be accommodated together.”

Members were advised that:

“There is limited funding available for the maintenance of verges on the National Roads. We will forward a request to the TII to provide funding to carry out the maintenance work proposed in the motion.”

Cllr. McBride noted that the greenway has been a great success with a high numbers of people using it. However the grass is growing onto the pathway and a programme for cutting the grass regularly should be put in place. .

MDL314/20 LANES AT MOUNTAINTOP ROUNDABOUT

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

“That Donegal County Council in conjunction with the TII look at reducing the 2 lane on to the Mountain Top roundabout to 1 lane about 150 yards on the Illistrin side re opening to 2 lane 50 yards before the roundabout with the right lane for traffic turning towards Curraghleees to help traffic flow at peak hours.”

Members were advised that:

“The safety concern at this location has been referred to the DCC Road safety engineer. They will report back on the need and scope of a potential HD 17 site at this location. If determined as a HD17 site then all options will be considered to deal with the specific safety issue or issues identified.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride stated that this was not the first time this had been raised at a Municipal District Meeting. He has received continuous phone calls about problems especially in the mornings when there is a large volume of traffic coming in from Kilmacrennan and Ballyare areas. There are 3 main problems, firstly the volume of traffic, secondly foliage is affecting vision lines and thirdly the 2 lanes of traffic is not working. The problem could be partly with the next roundabout. A third lane is needed there. If traffic was reduced to one lane at the Mountaintop this would help the flow of traffic.

MDL315/20 SPEED RAMPS ON CHURCH STREET, RAMELTON

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

“That this Council consider putting in speed ramps on Church Street, Ramelton.”

Members were advised that:

“As part of the Active travel works that are currently being carried out we are going to place continuous white line on this section of Road way. After the works have completed we will monitor the situation to see if this is effective or if additional measures are required.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney noted that the problem is the speed of traffic and cars overtaking where there are schools and a church. While welcoming the response he does not believe this will deal with the speed issue and he asked for this to be examined.

MDL316/20 TERMON NATIONAL SCHOOL TOWARDS GARTAN

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

“That this Council writes to Irish Water requesting that they honour agreements they reached with residents along the route from Termon National School towards Gartan when they were connecting the Water Mains from Lough Salt to the Churchill supply.”

Members were advised that:

“In the event that this motion is adopted by Letterkenny Milford Municipal District Committee, Donegal County Council will forward this submission to Irish Water (IW), and request that IW respond directly to Councillor Blaney with their response and copy it to the other Elected Members of Letterkenny Municipal District. Any response received by the Council will be passed on to Councillor Blaney.

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.***
- IW has also provided a dedicated Local Representative Support Service email.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney noted that the work was done 4 to 5 years ago but that Irish Water had not stood up to their agreement. He is now requesting that Irish Water do so and the Council convey this to Irish Water

MDL317/20 NEW LIGHTS IN MANORCUNNINGHAM

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

“That we erect two new lights alongside the road adjacent to the football Pitch in Manorcunningham in the interests of Pedestrian Safety.”

Members were advised that:

“The erections of these lights are not included in any current programme. This can included as proposal to be included in a future footpath and public lighting programme or be considered by the members for inclusion in the Minor Infrastructural scheme.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle said that Residents and the Lagan Harps football team had brought this to his attention. There are no lights on part of the road which is dangerous for children crossing the road and it would be safer for the lights to be continued further down the road. He asked that this be considered in the next programme.

MDL318/20 FOOTBALL PITCH AT OLDTOWN

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

“That this Municipal District makes a firm commitment to refurbish and get ready for use the Football Pitch at Oldtown without further delay.”

Members were advised that:

“As previously reported, under the current structures, the Council does not have a direct role or budget available in terms of developing playing facilities for any sport. The Council has and will continue to assist many sporting clubs to develop and improve their facilities through the Development Fund Initiative and other funding programs. The main source of funding for sporting clubs to develop their facilities is the Sports Capital Programme and the Council has in the past assisted clubs in making applications under this program.

Currently, the grass is cut in the field by the town garden team. Any future development of the field will require a technical analysis and the Council is willing to assist in this regard.

It is acknowledged that this matter has been raised on a number of previous occasions. There may be merit in arranging a meeting with relevant stakeholders to discuss the next steps. The Council is again willing to take the lead in this regard.”

On proposing the motion McMonagle stated that this has been raised on a number of occasions and is disappointed that nothing further has been done.

There are little or no facilities in the area and there are a lot of families living in the area and there are a lot of estates there and at present rubbish has been gathered on the site for a bonfire. He said that he would welcome the Council meeting with interested groups and residents to plan how to refurbish the pitch for use as a football pitch again.

MDL319/20 ROAD AND FOOTPATH AT WESTHILL

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

“That this Municipal District calls on our Roads Engineer to inspect the Road and Footpath at Westhill, Letterkenny and if warranted include any works necessary onto our Roads Programme.”

Members were advised that:

“The Westhill estate has been surveyed in accordance with the Pavement Surface condition Index criteria, Westhill has been included in the third year of the 3 year restoration programme for the consideration of the elected members.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle noted that Cllr. Kavanagh has also raised a question in relation to this. He noted that residents have raised this annually and the works had been included in a previous three year Programme but not carried out. He welcomed the response that the works are included in the current three year Programme and asked that they be prioritised.

MDL320/20 SIGN AT LISTILLION TO CONVOY

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

“That the Council erect a directional sig for Convoy at Listillion.”

Members were advised that:

“The erection of signage on National Roads is managed by the TII, I will refer this to the TII to be considered for inclusion their Road Signage Programme.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Bradley noted that there is no directional sign for Convoy on the Main Road out of Letterkenny with drivers having to stop and ask directions.

MDL321/20 GLENCAR ROAD TO KILLYLASTIN

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

“That we look to the Department of Transport for Specific improvement scheme funding for the main Glencar Road to Killylastin as a matter of urgency.”

Members were advised that:

It is proposed that the Glencar Road be funded in Years 1, 2 and 3 of the three year Restoration Improvement programme Extending from the Top of the Circular Road to the Top of Glencar. Killylastin Road which runs from the Ard Na Ri Cross Roads along the from of the Glenn Eadann Housing Estate has also been included in the three year Restoration programme. I will submit a request to Roads Central to submit an application for additional funding for this section of roads as referred to in the proposed motion.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan noted that specific funding is required for this road which is heavily used and the condition has deteriorated.

MDL322/20 KILMACRENNAN

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

“That this Council contact TII to investigate the possibility of installing a one way system in Kilmacrennan and while doing this installing speed reduction measures in the village and incorporating cycle lanes etc.”

Members were advised that:

“In respect to the raised safety concern at the junction this will be referred to the DCC Road safety engineer to review. They will report back on the need and scope of a potential HD 17 site at this location. If determined as a HD17 site then all options will be considered to deal with the specific safety issue or issues identified. It would be very appropriate to consider any potential action in conjunction with active travel facilities through and within the village.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. O’Donnell welcomed the works which have started and he noted that the Locals have adapted to the current one way system that is in operation. He asked that the Council explore the introduction of a permanent one way system which would help with speed reduction and he welcomed the positive reply.

MDL323/20 EMERGENCY MOTION

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Kelly and seconded by Cllr. John O’Donnell the following motion was adopted:

“That this Council call on the ETB to review their proposal to erect gates and fencing at the grounds at Gartan, Churchill. This is causing huge divisions in our local community which over the last number of years has had huge

success in strengthening our community with outdoor facilities and playgrounds.”

It was noted that the motion was signed by the required number of Members. On proposing the motion Cllr. Kelly called on the ETB to review their proposal which will affect members of the public and businesses in the village.

MDL324/20 MAYORS BUSINESS

324.1 Rudolstadt

Cllr. Donal Coyle advised that he and Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh had taken part in a video call with the Mayor of Rudolstadt on 16th October. A delegation was due from Rudolstadt in late September but had to be postponed due to Covid 19. However, they were looking forward to visiting again in the future.

324.2 Percentage for Art N56

Cllr. Coyle advised that he had represented the Municipal District on the panel and that the committee were unanimous on the winning entry. It will be a statue of St. Colmcille in robes with his hands outstretched with a flock of doves above his hands. Cllr. Coyle stated that he felt that was very appropriate for the area.

324.3 Re imagining of the Market Square

Cllr. Coyle advised that the panel has not met yet but would hopefully meet in the near future.

MDL325/20 CORRESPONDENCE

Patricia McIntyre advised that there was no correspondence for consideration.

MDL326/20 COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

326.1 CLAR Programme

Francis Conaghan advised that funding has been received for Ray Community Group of €35,930 and for Churchill Community Development Committee of €44,352.

326.2 Town Bus

Francis advised that there would be a meeting with the NTA and the Town Plan Staff on route selection. He asked the Members to submit proposed routes to either himself or Patricia. These would be useful for the meeting with the NTA. The Driver is on board with the plans and will pilot other routes when restrictions have been lifted. He suggested that a workshop with the operator would be held at a later date.

326.3 Pride of Place Awards

Francis advised that this would be held virtually on 21st November at 7pm. He advised that Rathmullan has been nominated for the award and that he would forward a link to the Members.

Cllr. Coyle raised a question about the Social Enterprise Building noting that there are 4 tenants he asked if any of them would be an anchor tenant.

Francis advised that all 4 groups would be of equal standing, some would use more space than others. They would be required to take out a lease of 4 years 11 months but can opt out at any stage.

Liam Ward further advised that there would not be an anchor tenant. The group that were to be have decided to go with another option. None of the tenants will have anchor status. They will sign up for an agreed period and may opt out. At that point replacements will be sought.

Cllr. Kavanagh thanked Francis for the report. He referred to his previous motion on the sponsorship of seating in the town. He advised that he has been contacted by 2 groups; the Centre for Independent Living wanted to sponsor a seat in memory of the Late Frank Larkin and the Credit Union wish to sponsor a seat in memory of the Late Colm Ferry. DLDC would like a seat sponsored to facilitate wheelchair users. He asked that someone contact the groups and he welcomed the offers made by them.

Cllr. McMonagle thanked Francis for the report. He noted that 4 tenants are to be accommodated in the Social Enterprise Building and asked if other groups could be considered or would there be an opening for other groups to apply.

Liam Ward advised that any interested Groups should get in touch with Francis in relation to their requirements. He advised that there would be rooms that could be used by other groups occasionally. If any required fulltime accommodation then the Council would need to know their requirements. It was noted that the deadline was yesterday for ETENDERS from Contractors.

Francis confirmed that the 9th November was the closing date for Contractors to submit their Suitability Assessment Questionnaires. He hopes to have the tender prices in the next few months.

Cllr. McMonagle requested a presentation on the Social Enterprise Building and this was agreed.

In relation to Cllr. Kavanagh's question on his motion for sponsorship of seating, Francis advised that he had not dealt with the reply to the motion but that he would follow up with the relevant Service.

Cllr. O'Donnell referred to Item No. 4 on the report and in particular to the issue of Murder Hole Beach. He believes that the landowners had engaged and stated that a solution is needed.

Francis advised that he would be happy to direct him to the relevant Staff. There is funding there and they are anxious to see this project proceed.

Cllr. McBride thanked Francis for his report. He referred to his request for a joint meeting with the Glenties Municipal District on Greenways. He noted that €60 million had been allocated nationally for Greenways and was

disappointed that there was no funding for Donegal. He said that we need to look at the Greenway Project. He said we need to be at top of the table when funding is next allocated and the Council's assistance is needed on this.

Liam Ward stated he was also disappointed that Donegal had not received a share of the Greenway funding. In relation to Greenways firstly he stated that there are 3 main routes in Donegal; Burtonport to Letterkenny, Ballybofey to Donegal Town through Barnesmore Gap and one in Inishowen. Part of the issue is that not everyone is signed up in relation to land ownership etc. He noted that an overall Strategy for Greenways and Walking Trails is needed and that he will revert to the Members early in the New Year further on this

Cllr. Brogan said he wished to support Cllr. Kavanagh's query in relation to sponsorship of seating in the town which is a good initiative. He asked that a report be brought to the Municipal Meeting in January.

In relation to the Greenways, the Members requested a presentation on all three routes. Cllr McGarvey requested a detailed update on the Great Arch Trail in Fanad. The Members also suggested a workshop on the Town Bus and the Swilly River Walk.

It was agreed that workshops would be held on the morning of the next Municipal District Meeting, Tuesday 12th January 2021 on the Town Bus, Swilly River Walk and Greenways. The date of the workshops was later changed to Tuesday 19th January 2021.

MDL327/20 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

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

327.1 Footpath & Public Lighting Programme

David referred to Programme discussed with the Members at a Workshop held on 20th October. He requested agreement of the Members on the Programme. The Programme was proposed by Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan.

327.2 Workshop for 2021 to 2023 Roads Restoration Programme and 2021 Restoration Maintenance Programme

David requested preferred dates for a Workshop within the next 2 weeks. It was agreed that a Workshop be held on the morning of Tuesday 24th November commencing at 10am.

Cllr. Kavanagh advised of an issue which has arisen with cars using area set aside for buses to pick up children from schools opposite the old mart site. A suitable place is needed for pick up.

David advised that he would investigate this and try to find a short term solution.

MDL328/20 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

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

Cllr. Blaney expressed concern in relation to the timetable for the Mica Redress Scheme issuing Stage 1 approvals.

Patricia advised that she would follow up with the Capital team.

MDL329/20 PLANNING SERVICES

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

The Members requested that consideration being given to holding face to face pre-planning meetings again.

Liam Ward noted that this had been raised previously but given the current advice under Level 5 restrictions, meetings should be held remotely or via ZOOM unless absolutely necessary.

MDL330/20 ENVIRONMENT

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

Cllr. McBride referred to an issue which has arisen in the area between the Town Park and Whitethorn where there is a smell of diesel. He asked that tanks in the area be checked for leakage.

Joe advised that the Council are aware of this and that staff are investigating. He appealed to local residents for their assistance in identifying the source.

Cllr. Brogan acknowledged the work of the Litter Wardens who have been very helpful and supportive to Community Groups. He also acknowledged the work of the Local Groups and Tidy Town Committees for all the voluntary work they do.

Cllr. McGarvey requested that Irish Water be contacted about the Milford Waterworks which is in need of repair and Joe agreed to follow up on this.

MDL331/20 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, I.S. & EMERGENCY SERVICES

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

Barney highlighted that this was the "Buy Donegal" campaign week. There are 200 businesses involved with over 13,000 hits on the site over 40 different countries.

The Members acknowledged the work being done by this Service and the LEO in providing supports for businesses and for the tourism sector.

Questions

MDL332/20 VOLUME OF TRAFFIC ON RAMELTON / LETTERKENNY TO MILFORD ROAD

In answer to his question on the result of the check on the volume of Traffic on the Ramelton/Letterkenny to Milford Road, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

“Traffic Counts carried out in 2018 shows that the AADT (Annual Average Daily Traffic) on the R245/8 at Moorfield was 8692 and the AADT on the R245 at Woodlands School was 9146. This data did not include a breakdown for the periods of the day.”

MDL333/20 ROAD SERVICING MILFORD WATERWORKS STATION

In answer to his question requesting if any response has been received on the need for Irish Water to deal with the serious condition to the Road servicing the Milford Waterworks Station, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

“The question was submitted by the Council Executive to Irish Water through the channels provided by them for Elected Members on behalf of Cllr. McGarvey. Irish Water were asked to respond to Cllr. McGarvey directly.”

MDL334/20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

In answer to his question will Donegal Planning Section have regard to all protection Sections in Health, Safety and duty of care in all sensitive Planning applications e.g under The Law of Precautionary Principle as adopted by the E.U and International Law, for example, Telecommunication Masts and Sewage Discharge to listed Habitats for Birds, Fish, Shellfish and Wildlife and cases like the residents in Drumany/Dromore area who have lived and invested money in their homes for a lifetime of happiness of a rural nature that will change dramatically for all times? I want to record that in sensitive planning applications it would be appreciated if members were informed, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

“Planning applications are assessed in the context of the prevailing local, regional and national policy context to reach a balanced outcome. Reflecting the sentiments expressed in the question posed by Cllr. McGarvey, taking a balanced approach is an essential premise of the Planning Acts where decisions are to be taken in the interests of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. Central to such decision making processes is the public participation opportunities provided under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) wherein written submissions can be made in relation to any planning application. Where an application attracts written submissions from the public or others the planning authority is also

required to take these into account in the decision making process and to make any such assessments and recommendations publically available.

Any representations received from Members are recorded on the file and recorded as part of the public record with any decisions taken are notified to the respective Member and to keep Members informed of the nature and location of applications received the Planning Service publishes the list of applications received and decisions taken on a weekly basis through the Council's website and directly via email."

MDL335/20 ROADS PROGRAMME - WESTHILL

In answer to his question can the Council include Westhill in the next roads programme for Letterkenny? The Westhill Residents Association have been consistently requesting this for several years, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

"The Westhill Estate has been surveyed in accordance with Pavement Surface Condition Index criteria, It is proposed that Westhill will be included in the 3rd Year of the Next three year Restoration Programme for consideration by the Elected Members."

MDL336/20 SIGNAGE AT BALLYMACOOL PARK AND BALLYBOE PARK

In answer to his question can the Council erect more signage at both Ballymacool Park and Ballyboe Park, to remind dog owners that their dogs should be kept on a lead, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

"The Town Gardener has been asked to source more signs and erect at each Park."

MDL337/20 GOLF COURSE ROAD

In answer to his question requesting an update on the cutting of overhanging branches and the removal of ivy covered trees on the Golf course Road as per his previous motion, Cllr. Donal Coyle was advised:

"In accordance with Section 70 of the 1993 Roads Act, landowners are responsible for ensuring that any trees are not a hazard to the public. I will arrange to have this section of road investigated and if hazardous trees are identified we will notify the landowners."

MDL338/20 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT OLDTOWN, LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question requesting an update on when the pedestrian crossing at Oldtown Letterkenny will be reinstated at the turn off at Ros Suilighe which has been in place for the last 40 years or so until now, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

“The reinstatement works being carried out on the Rockhill Road will include the reinstatement of the pedestrian tram lines outside the Ros Suilighe estate, this lining remains unfinished.”

MDL339/20 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IN MANORCUNNINGHAM

In answer to his question requesting an update on when the work is due to commence on the pedestrian crossing in Manorcunningham, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

“These works are due to commence this week and are due to be completed by the end of the month.”

MDL340/20 RAMPS ON DROMORE ROAD

In answer to his question requesting an update on when the ramps will be reinstated on the Dromore road please as the residents' in the area are worried for their safety and children's safety due to excessive speed on this road, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

“We plan to examine the proposed reinstatement of these ramps in early 2021. This will involve carrying out an assessment to identify if the location of the ramps and is in compliance with the relevant specifications.”

MDL341/20 COOLBOY JUNCTION / N56

In answer to his question has Donegal County Council carried out any works / plans on foot of a previous motion I brought before the Municipal Meeting concerning the Coolboy Junction on to the N56 and the problems encountered by motorists sliding on to the N56 on icy roads in the winter, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised:

“This issue has been referred to the TII to assess this issue and investigate what works can be carried out.”

MDL342/20 CLAREMANS JUNCTION

In answer to his question has Donegal County Council any plans to upgrade the Claremans Junction to improve the safety of road users, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised:

“Roads will assess the junction with a view to carrying out any lining works/ signage that may be required.”

MDL343/20 FOOTPATH FROM LORETO COMMUNITY SCHOOL TO OLD CINEMA IN MILFORD

In answer to his question when is it envisaged to have the footpath completed from Loreto Community School towards the Old Cinema in Milford, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

“All land Agreements have been completed and works on this project have commenced on site. These works are now programmed to be completed by the middle of February.”

MDL344/20 FOOTPATH FROM RADHARC NA MARA TO DOWNINGS

In answer to his question when is it hoped to have the footpath completed from Radharc na Mara towards the Village in Downings, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

“Our current plan is to carry out these works during the months of January and February 2021.”

MDL345/20 LIGHTS IN MILFORD AREA

In answer to his question when is it hoped to have the lights erected in the Milford Electoral Area as was agreed in the Public Lighting Programme 2020, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

“The Erection of these lights have been contracted to Airtricity Utilities Services and the Civil works are being carried out by Donegal County Council. It is planned to have lights operation by the middle of January 2021.”

MDL346/20 TREES AT GLENWOOD PARK

In answer to his question when will the Trees on the Green at the entrance to Glenwood Park be cut back, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised;

“Previous times when we have attempted to carry out this action we have been informed by the residents that they are not in agreement with these trees being cut back. We have assessed these trees and concluded that there is no Safety Issue.”

MDL347/20 FLOODING AT CHURCHLANDS, MANORCUNNINGHAM

In answer to his question has our Roads Section made any contact with the Landowners in relation to Shuck at Churchlands, Manorcunningham which overflowed causing some localised flooding as per my motion and their agreement to meet the landowner to identify a remedy to stop flooding, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

“We have been in contact with the relevant landowners regarding this Issue. We are currently following up with the landowners in an attempt to get this issue resolved.”

MDL344/20 OLDTOWN BRIDGE

In answer to his question requesting an update on the works done by the OPW in relation to his Motion dealing with the Oldtown Bridge in particular the cleaning of the Eyes of the Bridge and the Ivy growth on the Bridge, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

"We are in continuous contact with the OPW regarding the clearing of the 3rd eye on the Oldtown Bridge. We have been advised by the OPW that "The siltation identified through span 3 is a very fine alluvial silt which will extremely quickly re-accumulate if removed due to the Swilly's flow characteristics. Based on our site visit and comparison to previous surveys, it appears that the deposition/erosion rate is in an equilibrium state at the moment so that the volume of silt is not increasing. We also believe that the siltation is having a minimum impact on the natural conveyance of the channel". The OPW have also advised that "In the interim period, we will continue to monitor the rate of deposition and any relevant changes". I will continue communicating with the OPW regarding this issue. With regards to clearing the vegetation from the bridge we will remove the briars around the bridge and will assess where it is safe appropriate to remove the Ivy."

MDL348/20 ST. EUNAN'S TERRACE & PLUNKETT O'BOYLE TERRACE

In answer to his question requesting an updated report on the replacement of the railing at St Eunan's Terrace and the two yellow boxes at Plunkett O'Boyle Terrace, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

"The railing at the St Eunans tce was repaired a number of months ago. The yellow Boxes can be relined after the permanent road reinstatement has been completed by Irish Waters Contractor this week. The Remainder of the convent /Back Road will proposed to be included within year 1 of the proposed three year Restoration improvement Programme.

MDL349/20 OLD TOWN BRIDGE

In answer to his question requesting that we contact the OPW to see when they intend to clear the 3rd eye on the Old Town Bridge as promised over a year ago at a Meeting in Lifford, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

"We are in continuous contact with the OPW regarding the clearing of the 3rd eye on the Oldtown Bridge. We have been advised by the OPW that "The siltation identified through span 3 is a very fine alluvial silt which will extremely quickly re-accumulate if removed due to the Swilly's flow characteristics. Based on our site visit and comparison to previous surveys, it appears that the deposition/erosion rate is in an equilibrium state at the moment so that the volume of silt is not increasing. We also believe that the siltation is having a minimum impact on the natural conveyance of the channel". The OPW have also advised that "In the interim period, we will continue to monitor the rate of deposition and any relevant changes". I will continue communicating with the OPW regarding this issue."

MDL350/20 FOOTPATHS AND LIGHTING PROGRAMME FOR 2021

In answer to his question requesting the updated footpaths and lighting programme as agreed by members for the year, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

“At a Workshop on the 20th of October the members discussed a provisional Footpath and Lighting programme for 2021. Details of this programme are included in the Roads Report. It is proposed that the programme be formally adopted at today’s meeting.”

MDL351/20 PUBLIC TOILET FACILITY IN CARRIGART

In answer to his question what progress has being made on the installation of a public toilet facility at the new digital hub in Carrigart, Cllr. John ’Donnell was advised:

“The public toilet facility which forms part of the Carrigart Digital Hub building is currently under construction and on schedule for completion and handover in May 2021.

Works completed to date include;

- *The demolition of the old dispensary building*
- *Site clearance*
- *Foundations & Substructure*
- *Blockwork*
- *Structural Steelwork*

Works due for completion before the end of 2020 include;

- *Roofing*
- *Installation of windows & doors*
- *1st Fix joinery*
- *1st fix electrical – 50% complete*
- *1st fix mechanical – 50% complete*

MDL352/20 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Cllr. Blaney asked that the next MDL Meeting be put back a week to the 3rd Tuesday.

Cllr. Brogan requested that Technical Staff attend the Greenway Workshop

Cllr. Coyle reminded everyone to Shop Local.

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 19 January, 2021 in a venue to be confirmed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor

Meetings Administrator