

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY-MILFORD MEETING, HELD IN AURA LEISURE CENTRE LETTERKENNY, ON 15 SEPTEMBER, 2020 AT 2:00 P.M.**

**MDL194/20 MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MDL195/20 OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Liam Ward, Director of Service  
Patricia McIntyre, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services  
Linda McCann, Senior Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services  
Bernadine McGee, Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services  
David McIlwaine, S.E.E. / Area Manager, Roads & Transportation  
Francis Conaghan, Development Officer  
Brenda Hegarty, Economic Development  
Cathal Sweeney, Resident Engineer, Marine  
Joe Ferry, A/Senior Executive Scientist  
David Friel, Coastal Officer

**MDL196/20 OFFICIALS APOLOGIES**

Elaine McEntee, Executive Planner

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Donal Coyle.

**MDL197/20 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

It was proposed by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle that the meeting be adjourned to 2.30pm.

**MDL198/20 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 extended appreciation to former Councillor Donal Kelly for his service to the Municipal District and wished Donal and his family every best wish on his retirement. The Mayor also welcomed David McIlwaine to the meeting in his new role as Acting Senior Executive Engineer.

**MDL199/20    ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. John O'Donnell, the Minutes of meeting of 14 July 2020 were adopted.

**MDL200/20    TREE CUTTING / TRIMMING**

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

***“That this Council put in place a programme for tree cutting/trimming in the area, to deal with dangerous trees.”***

**Members were advised that:**

***“The Council cut hedges and trees on land that is under their ownership and responsibility, where it is required for Health and Safety Reasons on work sites and at locations where an immediate hazard as been identified e.g. poor visibility at a Junction. These works are programmed taking into account the hedge cutting season and the overall works programme. Cutting of Trees is only considered has a last resort and the trees will be cut or pruned in a safe and sustainable manner.***

***In accordance with Section 70 of the 1993 Roads Act Private land owners are responsible for ensuring that they “take all reasonable steps to ensure that a tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation on the land is not a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road and that it does not obstruct or interfere with the safe use of a public road or the maintenance of a public road”. Where a hazard or potential hazard has been identified the Council will if possible notify the land owner concerned”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh acknowledged the statutory response given and asked if consideration would be given to seeking funding under the Leader programme for inter-territorial applications. The application would be made jointly with another County Council. Cllr. Kavanagh had discussed this matter with a colleague in Mayo County Council who was interested in pursuing this funding.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan stated he wished to support what Cllr. Kavanagh was trying to achieve.

Liam Ward acknowledged that the response given was the statutory position and agreed that this avenue of funding could be explored and the Members updated on the outcome.

**MDL201/20    SPONSORSHIP OF PUBLIC SEATING**

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

**“That this Council consider a programme that would allow businesses or families to sponsor public seating in suitable locations around the town of Letterkenny and any other areas of the Municipal Council where there might be an interest in such a project.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The Council are willing to consider any such requests on an individual basis, taking into account suitability of request, suitability of location, number of requests, maintenance arrangements, etc.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh noted the success of roundabout sponsorship and believes the town would benefit from the addition of public seating as the town is hilly and a lot of people are out walking.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle noted that families could contribute to the provision of seating as a tribute to deceased family members.

**MDL202/20    DISABLED CAR PARKING BAY IN CARRIGART**

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

**“Calling on this Council to install a disabled car parking bay in Carrigart at the front of the chemist.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“This disabled parking bay is included in this year’s Road Marking Programme. These works should be completed before the end of October”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. O’Donnell said that he was delighted that this parking bay has been included in this year’s Road Marking Programme.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney said that he was glad that it had been included in this year’s programme.

**MDL203/20    TRAFFIC CALMING**

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

**“Calling on this Council to install traffic calming measure on the entrance to Ramelton on the Milford side at Coylin Court.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“This issue has been raised with us recently by members of the public. We have forwarded the issue to the Road Safety Department to survey the***

***location and to provide recommendations. When a proposal has been identified we will seek opportunities for funding. We are also liaising with an Gardaí Siochana regarding this issue and they have informed us that they will monitor the situation that this location.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. O’Donnell sought clarification if his previous motion on this matter had been referred to the Road Safety Department at that time.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey said that this matter had previously been raised by Cllr. Blaney. It is a dangerous junction with the speed of traffic causing concern for local residents. He asked the Council to consider carrying out a survey with a view to installing footpaths, yellow lines and a pedestrian crossing.

David McIlwaine said that he had forwarded the request to the Road Safety Department and was consulting with An Gardaí Siochana.

#### **MDL204/20    PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IN KILMACRENNAN**

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

***“Calling on this Council to install a pedestrian crossing at the square in Kilmacrennan before someone is killed trying to cross the road with the speed of traffic going through the town and young children trying to cross attend and coming from school.”***

**Members were advised that:**

***“The issue of the Kilmacrennan crossroads in the Main Street has been passed to the TII Safety division to access but at present there are no plans in place to carry out any safety works here. There are no accident statistics at the crossroads that will enable funding under any of the safety schemes.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. O’Donnell said that consideration should be given to putting in ducting for a crossing now when the pavement works are being carried out there so that the road does not have to be dug up again. He said that he could provide CCTV footage of accidents that had taken place there if required.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. McBride agreed that this is a dangerous junction and that if that location is not suitable then another location should be considered.

Cllr. McGarvey suggested that traffic be diverted via another route and that a bypass of Kilmacrennan has previously been suggested by Cllr. Blaney.

#### **MDL205/20    PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

**“That future planning applications coming before Council for decision have due regard to the protection that should be offered to communities and residents.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The Planning Process provides the opportunity for all members of the community to submit their observations for consideration. In determining any Planning Application, the Planning Authority deal with the issues raised in any submissions received.***

***In addition, where a Planning decision is made which is against the wishes of any party to the application, there is a right of appeal to An Bord Pleanala.***

***The Planning Authority will not be making any comment in relation to any specific planning application.”***

Cllr. Donal Coyle sought advice from Liam Ward in relation to this motion. Liam confirmed he had spoken to Cllr. McGarvey and advised that the motion as presented is in order and appropriate but that in discussing the motion reference could not be made to any current live application.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey referenced the planning permission granted for the erection of a mast at Drumonaghan Woods and his strong views that the permission should not have been granted as the mast will be harmful to the residents and the amenities.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney said the mast should be located elsewhere in the woods.

#### **MDL206/20    SOCIAL HOUSING IN RAMELTON**

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

**“That this Council progress and finalise the purchase of properties in Ramelton for social housing.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“As previously advised, NAMA approached the Council in 2018 to purchase 20 no. unfinished houses in Radharc an Chuan, Ramelton for social housing purposes. At that time, the Council expressed an interest in acquiring the units, subject to contract and in order to help meet the significant housing demand in the Municipal District. The purchase and completion of the units by the Council will leave the unfinished estate completed to the highest standard. Subsequently the number of houses offered for sale by NAMA***

***reduced to 18 and legal conveyancing issues arose which have prevented the acquisition proceeding.***

***In parallel the Council is considering various mechanisms for delivery of social housing in Ramelton including land acquisition, leasing and house acquisitions and we will keep the Members updated when further progress is made."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey noted the clarification on the proposed acquisition of the houses at Ramelton.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney expressed his disappointment that because of legal difficulties the Council would not now be proceeding with the acquisition of these houses, which has been ongoing for two years, despite the fact there is significant need for housing in Ramelton and a very limited supply of private rented houses.

#### **MDL207/20    PIERS AND HARBOURS**

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

***"That I have an update on the survey of piers and harbours in the MD."***

**Members were advised that:**

***"The most recent survey of all piers in the Municipal District was completed in September 2017. This was a safety review and also included structural defects. The Council has been working to deal with any issues that were identified in the Survey. All piers in the MD are surveyed twice a year depending on the level of usage and any defects are dealt. A copy of the survey can be made available to Members."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey sought an update on piers in the area and in particular the Shore Wall in Ramelton.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney stated that an update on the most recent survey carried out was needed.

Cathal Sweeney advised that the most recent survey was carried out in September 2017 and that it was a structural survey of all piers and harbours in Ramelton and Rathmullan. He advised that the pier in Rathmullan was built in the 1950s and had reached end of life years ago. Previous surveys were carried out in 1995 and 2009 and a further survey would be required. An allocation of €3 million has been received from the Department of the Marine for all piers in the County and this is the only funding available at present.

The pier in Ramelton is in reasonable condition and is being maintained in the interest of public safety. Tenders have been received to repair the Shore Road

wall and that consideration should be given to raising the level of the wall if funding can be secured.

Cllr. McGarvey complimented Cathal on his report which was very helpful.

**MDL208/20    JUNCTION AT GLENCAR/KILLYLASTIN**

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

**“I propose that this Council, as a matter of urgency, address the huge concerns at and around the junction at Glencar/Killylastin (Cill Na Oir complex).”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“Letterkenny Roads have secured funding under the Active Travel for additional public lighting at each side of the junction, additional signage and ramps are also included.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan said that this is a busy junction and that it had been intended to put a roundabout at this junction at one point.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kavanagh said that this matter had been raised many times, a roundabout was not feasible and he welcomed that funding has been secured for additional public lighting, signage and ramps.

**MDL209/20    BYE LAWS FOR TAXI RANKS IN LETTERKENNY**

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

**“I propose that this Council review the bye laws at taxi ranks around Letterkenny.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The Taxi Bye laws are currently being reviewed by the Letterkenny Town team. A presentation will be given at the upcoming workshop that is to be arranged for the Footpath and Street Lighting Programme.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan welcomed the response and noted that it had been 8 or 9 years since the Taxi Bye Laws were last reviewed.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Bradley welcomed the review as the current Bye laws are affecting businesses.

**MDL210/20    FOOTPATHS AT SLIEVE SNEACTH ROAD & SLIEVE SNEACTH CLOSE**

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

***“I propose that Slieve Sneacht Road and Slieve Sneacht Close are including in our next footpath improvement works.”***

**Members were advised that:**

***“It is agreed that the Footpaths within Slieve Sneacht road and Close are in poor condition and will be considered for inclusion in the 2021 Footpath and Street lighting programme to be discussed in the upcoming workshop.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan said that the footpath in Slieve Sneacht Road and Slieve Sneacht Close are in a bad state and need repair.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle said this had been raised before and repairs need to be done.

#### **MDL211/20    PUBLIC TOILETS AT LETTERKENNY RETAIL PARK**

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

***“That this Council provide public toilets at Letterkenny Retail Park on the Paddy Harte/Link Road, as a matter of urgency.”***

**Members were advised that:**

***“Letterkenny Retail Park is under private ownership and the matter is not within the control of the Council. However the Council will endeavour to liaise with the appropriate person in the retail park to see if there is a way of providing a public convenience.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle said that this matter had been raised before. He noted that the Retail Park is in private ownership and was in receivership but this does not resolve the problem of no public conveniences.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kavanagh said this issue was raised about 11 years ago and is now being raised again with the new Councillors.

Cllr. O’Donnell asked that in future a special condition be included on planning permissions for retail parks requiring them to provide public toilets. He also said that there is a new owner and that the Council should work with them to resolve this issue including a rates reduction.

#### **MDL212/20    OVERGROWN VEGETATION AT MANORCUNNINGHAM ROUNDABOUT**

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



**“That this Council ask TII to remove the overgrown vegetation at Manorcunningham Roundabout.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The vegetation on Manor Roundabout is there to prevent car lights blinding oncoming vehicles from the other side at night and also to make drivers yield at the junctions when they cannot see too far ahead. The vegetation was all tidied up a few years ago and it is not causing any issue. If the overgrowth becomes too close to the circulating lanes it will be trimmed back, but as it stands it is not an issue.***

***Under the Signs Maintenance Contract, the contractor ensures that all signs remain visible and free from obscuration by vegetation throughout each year, as per the Clear Visibility Distance for Signage Table in the Works Requirement, i.e. 120m for warning signage. This is achieved by carrying out a comprehensive vegetation removal on all fixed sign assets under three Task Orders - One Annual Vegetation Cut (Sept - Feb), Safety Cut 1 (April/May) and Safety Cut 2 (July/August). Due to Covid this year Safety Cut 2 completion date has been extended to the 18th September, with Donegal complete by the end of today.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle said that the vegetation is quite high and should be maintained and cut back.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney said he did not understand the reply that the vegetation was preventing lights from blinding oncoming vehicles and that the roundabout should be tidied up.

**MDL213/20 CCTV CAMERAS FOR ROS SUILIGHE & MCNEELY VILLAS**

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

**“That this Council seek funding for the provision of CCTV cameras at Ros Suilighe and at McNeely Villas.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The introduction of any CCTV system requires careful consideration particularly in high density residential location. Any such proposal will require consultation with the data protection officer and the Department of Communications. A data protection Assessment will be required before any such system could be introduced.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle said that the provision of CCTV would give elderly people and people living on their own a sense of security, particularly if there are incidents of anti-social behaviour.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle said that CCTV is widely used across the County for security reasons.

**MDL214/20 RESIGNATION OF CLLR. DONAL KELLY**

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Coyle and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, it was agreed to defer the two motions submitted by Cllr. Donal Kelly who has resigned his seat to the next meeting of the Municipal District in October.

**MDL215/20 FUNDING FOR FOOTPATHS IN MILFORD**

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

***“That this Municipal District prioritises the town of Milford for any future applications for funding for Footpaths.”***

**Members were advised that:**

***“As part of the 2020 Footpath and Street lighting programme €25,000 was allocated for Footpath works in Lower Mount Merrion and additional €80,000 was allocated as part of Active travel funding for Footpath works between the Milford National School and the Milford Community School.***

***Additional footpaths in the Milford Town will be considered for inclusion in the 2021 Footpath and Street Lighting programme to be discussed in the upcoming work shop.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney noted a number of areas within Milford which require footpaths to make it safer for road users.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey asked for a survey to be carried out to identify the footpaths required and the associated funding.

David McIlwaine said that footpaths will be considered in 2021 Footpath and Street Lighting Programme which would be discussed at the upcoming workshop. He will consider any other funding opportunities that arise.

**MDL216/20 GRITTING ON ROAD FROM KERRYKEEL TO GLENVAR**

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

***“That the road from Kerrykeel to Glenvar is put on the priority list for gritting this winter.”***

**Members were advised that:**

***“As the Winter Maintenance programme is administered and funded on a county basis, as a cross Municipal district programme. This motion should be***

***raised at Plenary Council. The current Winter Maintenance programme has been agreed at Plenary Council.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney said this was not the first time this was raised and that this road needs to be on the priority list for gritting. It is a steep hill and people have problems when there is snow getting to work and schools. He does not agree that the Gritting Programme should be agreed at Plenary Council, but rather be first agreed in the Municipal District. This road in question was previously on the programme and removed.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey said this road is highly dangerous and should be included on the programme for this year.

David McIlwaine said the programme is decided at Plenary Council. There are 3 priority lists, 1, 2 & 3. The priority 3 list can only be done when the other two lists are done and this can be after 8am in the morning. This road is on priority 3 list.

**MDL217/20 CRASH BARRIERS FOR KERRYKEEL TO MILFORD ROAD**

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

***“That this Municipal District makes a funding application for crash barriers on the Kerrykeel to Milford road.”***

**Members were advised that:**

***“The budget cost for replacement of this barrier is €75,000. There is currently no identified budget to replace this barrier. We will continue to seek any opportunities that become available for funding of these barriers.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney said this was previously raised by Cllr. Kavanagh. The Local Tidy Towns Committed applied to put a boardwalk in place but it was deemed to be unsafe with the barrier. Cllr. Blaney advocated the putting in place of a funded multi-annual Crash Barrier Programme under the Roads Directorate. On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey said it is important that a crash barrier be put in place.

David McIlwaine advised that there is no specific funding for barriers on non national roads and any funding required would have to come from the Council Maintenance fund at present. However, he will raise the issue to have funding set aside for a Crash Barrier Programme.

**MDL218/20 FOOTPATHS ON MCGOVERN ROAD, LETTERKENNY**

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

**“That this MD allocate monies for the completion of footpaths on Mc Govern Road, Letterkenny in the interest of pedestrian safety.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The completion of these footpaths will be considered for inclusion in the 2021 Footpath and Street Lighting programme to be discussed in the upcoming work shop.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle said that there is no footpath on this stretch of road and there is a school at the top of it and 4 housing estates with pedestrians walking along the road. He would welcome the inclusion of this in the programme.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Bradley said that he had been approached by residents and that traffic calming measures or a pedestrian crossing would be needed there.

**MDL219/20    TRAFFIC ISLANDS AND SIGNAGE ON N13 ROAD**

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

**“That this MD calls on the TII to install Traffic Islands and Signage on the Main N13 Road at the Junction with L5494 near Manorcunningham in the interest of Road Safety.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“We will refer this location to the Road Safety Engineer for Assessment. As part of the TII signage programme a commitment has been received to erect additional signage for this junction before the end of the year.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle said that traffic islands would be needed on this road given the volume of traffic from the housing estate and crèche on the road. There is no signage to show that there is a road at this location and drivers are having to make dangerous manoeuvres to exit onto the busy N13 road. Cars are also being parked on the lay-by blocking vision, drivers are overtaking on hatched area and there is no protection for residents. Signage would not be sufficient alone and traffic islands are needed.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kavanagh fully supported the motion and concurred with Cllr. McMonagle views.

**MDL220/20    RAY GRAVEYARD WALL**

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

**“That this MD work with Donegal County Councils Heritage and Roads Section to make a formal funding application to the relevant Bodies for the Restoration and Repair of Ray Graveyard Wall which is in serious disrepair and a Danger to road users and pedestrians. This Graveyard is of high Historical Interest in the area and funding should be sought by Council to reinstate the curtilage of the Graveyard.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“Letterkenny Roads will apply for Heritage funding when the appropriate programme becomes available, however there has been no suitable funded programme in recent years. In the meantime, arrangements have been made to make the adjacent road safe for pedestrians and cyclists alike.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle said that funding is required for the repair of the graveyard wall as it is starting to collapse. There is a protected building there and the Historical Society should be responsible. The Council should take a proactive role to explore all funding opportunities for the Abbey.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kavanagh said that old graveyards need to be preserved and that funding should be sought from the Department.

David McIlwaine agreed to discuss this with the Heritage Officer.

**MDL221/20 WALKWAY/CYCLEWAY ON LETTERKENNY TO BURTONPORT RAILWAY**

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

**“That a joint meeting of the Letterkenny and Glenties Municipal areas be called to discuss and plan the completion of the Letterkenny to Burtonport railway as a walkway/ cycle way as a matter of urgency.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“The Community Development Dept. of the Council, in conjunction with other relevant Council Directorates, will be happy to facilitate a meeting with the elected members of the Letterkenny and Glenties Municipal Districts to discuss and plan the creation of the walkway/cycleway between Burtonport to Letterkenny, giving consideration to the route of the old railway line, where same is possible and available.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride asked that a joint meeting of the Letterkenny and Glenties Municipal Districts be arranged. He noted that at certain points along the way users have to go off track and this needs to be completed. A visitor’s centre at the viaduct by the Log Cabin would attract tourists to the area and the greenway would be a boost to the local community.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kavanagh fully supported the motion and concurred with Cllr. McBride.

Liam Ward that this had been discussed at a Glenties Municipal District workshop. Funding had been sought for the greenway part but with limited success. The section in Creeslough had received funding in 2018. Part 8 Planning has been secured and this is going to construction. He asked Francis Conaghan to follow up with arranging a suitable date for the workshop.

Cllr. McBride acknowledged the work done to date.

#### **MDL222/20 QUARRIES IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

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

**“That a full presentation on all quarries in our Municipal area be given to the Councillors with a discussion on the future of these quarries to follow. I propose that this is done in a standalone meeting on a date to be agreed today.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“As Members are aware, the challenges facing the Quarry Sector in County Donegal was considered at a Planning Workshop on Monday 14th September, 2020. Arising from this, should the MD members wish to meet to consider the Sector in an MD context, arrangements can be made to facilitate such a meeting.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride said that the industry in general needs to be reviewed, properly regulated and the rights of the residents who live in proximity to the quarries need to be considered. He said that owners are being taken to Court and are not being heard. The Council should work with the owners to ensure the continuation of the industry as it is needed to ensure an adequate supply of materials and products are available. He welcomed that there was a workshop yesterday but felt that not much progress was made.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan acknowledged that there had been a workshop yesterday. Solutions need to be found and a further date should be set to discuss this.

Cllr. McBride said that a workshop should be held on a County Council level as it affects other areas too.

#### **MDL223/20 MAYORS BUSINESS**

Cllr. Donal Coyle reported on his attendance at the following:

Launch of the Chamber of Commerce Architectural Competition.  
Turning of the sod at Scoil Colmcille.

Opening of the Plastic Exhibition at the RCC – he encouraged everyone to attend the Exhibition if possible.

**MDL224/20   CORRESPONDENCE**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle the Members agreed to the use of the Town Park in October by St. Eunan's College for Maths Trial.

**MDL225/20   HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES**

The Members considered the contents of the Housing report as circulated with the Agenda.

**225.1 Section 183 Disposal of land at Tullagh, Carrigart**

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey the Members agreed to the disposal of a section of land at Tullagh, Carrigart to Mr. John Reilly as circulated in the report.

**225.2 Budget Workshop, Budget Meeting & Planning Regeneration Workshop**

Patricia McIntyre advised the Members that the proposed date for the Budget Workshop is on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October. The proposed date for the Budget Meeting is Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October. It was agreed that the Budget Workshop would take place at 2pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October and that the Planning Regeneration Workshop would take place at 2.30pm that day. It was agreed that the Budget Meeting would take place on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm.

**225.3 Workshop on Housing**

Cllr Gerry McMonagle proposed that a workshop on Housing be held on the morning of the next Municipal District meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October and that the relevant Personnel would attend. This was seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan.

**225.4 Car Park at Old Mart**

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh asked if correspondence had been received from a Brian Walsh in relation to the car park at the Old Mart. Patricia advised that she had not seen any but would check.

**225.5 Query on Relocation Programme for Syrians**

Cllr. Michael McBride said he had received a phone call in relation to the sale of apartments in Letterkenny to house 200 Syrians being located in the town. He is concerned that the Department of Justice may be planning this without any engagement with the Members or the wider community in terms of service provisions.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle said he had spoken to the Department of Justice and they advised that they have no plans at this time to relocate Syrians to the town but he would like it checked further.

Patricia McIntyre advised that the Council have no further plans to relocate families under the Resettlement Programme in Letterkenny. However, on receipt of the query from some Elected Members, a query was made to the Department of Justice and a reply is awaited.

#### **225.6 Mica Update & Acquisition of Housing**

Cllr. Liam Blaney asked for an update in relation to Mica and application for funding for Housing estates.

Patricia McIntyre advised that the Council were in engagement with the Department to secure funding for Council properties affected by defective blocks and this engagement is positive and ongoing. In relation to the Redress Scheme for private houses, it is hoped that Stage 1 approval will be issued in a number of cases in the coming weeks.

Cllr. Blaney also asked for an update in relation to the acquisition of houses. He noted that 36 houses have been acquired but wanted to know how many were outside Letterkenny.

Patricia advised that the majority of single houses acquired to date are in Letterkenny but that the Council do seek to acquire housing outside the town. However there can be issues with rights of way, septic tanks etc. which can lead to conveyancing issues and which have hindered sales in rural areas.

Cllr. Blaney said that there had been none acquired outside the town before, construction of specific instance cottages has more or less stopped and that demountable dwellings are a thing of the past. There is no housing in rural areas which is pushing people into larger towns. The Department says funding is available if houses are required. More houses should be bought in the Municipal District through turnkeys or acquisitions.

### **MDL226/20 PLANNING SERVICES**

The Members considered the contents of the Planning report as circulated with the Agenda.

#### **226.1 Apologies**

Liam Ward submitted apologies from Elaine McEntee, Executive Planner who could not attend.

The Members considered the report circulated with the Agenda.

#### **226.2 Public Consultation**

Liam Ward drew the Members attention to Appendix B seeking permission from the Members to allow the Public Consultation on the Additions to the Record of Protect Structures to commence in September as the decision is due in January. Cllr. Ian McGarvey proposed that this be deferred to the Meeting in October until further information has been provided to the Members and clarity is received in relation to the concerns of owners. This was seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle.



### **226.3 Planning Clinics**

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan referred to Item No. 3 on the report in relation to Planning Clinics. He asked that the Director to review this and for face to face pre planning meetings to recommence and for more than 2 days per month, as at present.

### **226.4 Pre Planning Meetings**

Cllr. Liam Blaney noted that 97 applications have been deferred and that almost 1 in 5 is invalid. He believes this is as a result of agents submitting applications without the opportunity for pre planning meetings which is adding to the costs being incurred by applicants.

### **226.5 Staffing**

Cllr. Michael McBride acknowledged that there had been a Planning Workshop yesterday and that the backlog of work in the Planning Section needs to be reviewed.

In response to these issues Liam Ward responded as follows:

Planning Clinics – this matter has been raised before and the concerns raised will be taken on board when reviewing the service. The HSE guidelines in relation to holding meetings safety will also be considered.

Meetings with Agents – Liam advised that there had previously been 2 meetings with Agents in relation to the submission of applications.

Staffing level – Liam advised that this is being reviewed. He also advised that Planning are confined to statutory timelines and these are being met but that the workload in the Enforcement Section needs to be reviewed.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey said that he would support the need for face to face meetings.

## **MDL227/20 ENVIRONMENT**

The Members considered the contents of the Environment report as circulated with the Agenda.

### **227.1 Waste Presentation Bye Laws**

Joe Ferry drew the attention of the Members to the draft Waste Presentation Bye Laws and advised that submissions have been sought from Elected Members by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

### **227.2 Bulky Goods Promotion**

Joe also drew Members attention to report on the Bulky Goods promotion.

### **227.3 Farm Plastics Recycling**

Joe drew Members attention to the Farm plastics recycling event on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September at Milford Mart between 9am and 5pm.

#### **227.4 Upcycling Competition**

Upcycling competition – the local mens sheds in Kilmacrennan and Letterkenny should be encouraged to take part in this.

#### **227.5 Online Community Workshops**

Online Community Workshops have taken place during July.

#### **227.6 Flood Relief Schemes**

Flood Relief Schemes – update from Shane McMonagle in relation to 3 schemes in the area.

#### **227.7 Coastal Management**

David Friel noted that the summer season is coming to an end; photos shown indicate the visitor numbers. The Beach Lifeguarding service finished on Sunday last and he also referred to the report on the recent stranding of whales.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle said the increased visitors meant there was a demand for bottle banks, cleaning of beaches, toilet facilities and the cleaning of facilities. He also noted a lack of facilities for camper vans. More investment is needed as there are not enough facilities. Cllr. McMonagle also mentioned the parking issues at beaches.

David Friel advised that a review is to be carried out which will identify where funding is needed. There were no major incidents during the season but that lessons to be learned from the review will help inform the programme for 2021.

### **MDL228/20 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, I.S. & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Members considered the contents of the report circulated with the Agenda.

#### **228.1 #LoveDonegal Day**

#LoveDonegal Day – Brenda Hegarty reminded the Members that #Love Donegal Day is tomorrow 16<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **228.2 Local Enterprise Office**

Local Enterprise Office – 3 million had been provided in additional resources and there has been unprecedented demand.

### **MDL229/20 COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES**

The Members considered the contents of the report circulated with the Agenda.

#### **229.1 Community & Development**

Francis Conaghan advised that €22,000 had been secured for Milford District Resource Centre under the first round of funding. Further funding will be released in round 2 with Carrigart and Glen due to receive €25,000 each.

Francis advised that further applications are in for funding under the Community Enhancement Scheme with €234,000 worth of applications and details are on the website.

## **MDL230/20 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

The Members considered the contents of the Roads report as circulated with the Agenda.

### **230.1 Climate Change Adaptation Allocations**

David McIlwaine advised that funding packages had been made available under the Jobs Stimulus Plan. Over €700,000 has been received for 17 projects in the Municipal District including works such as footpaths, speed limits, traffic calming, lights and ramp in Kilmacrennan.

### **230.2 Japanese Knotweed**

David asked that Members advise the Council of any other locations where Knotweed is present.

### **230.3 Roads Footpath and Public Lighting Programme Workshop**

David advised that a workshop is to be held for the 2021 Programme which would include a presentation in relation to the Taxi Rank Byelaws. He proposed that the workshop be held on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> October.

Liam Ward noted that it had already been agreed that Housing would hold a workshop that morning and that workshops would need to start early to accommodate both. It was agreed that workshops would commence at 10am.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey asked if there had been any progress on the TEN-T for Letterkenny to Lifford. He was advised that there had been a presentation at the workshop held in the morning.

## **Questions**

### **MDL231/20 PROJECTS AWARDED FUNDING FROM THE DFI**

In answer to his question requesting the Council to allow projects awarded funding from the DFI that could not be carried out or completed due to Covid-19 to carry their allocation forward to a suitable time in the future, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

*“The DFI unit in Donegal County Council are currently dealing with each of these queries for extension of time on a case by case basis. We discuss the options available to the group to try to get the grant drawn down in 2020. If following the discussion the group is unable to spend in 2020 then we are allowing their DFI grant allocation to be carried forward into 2021.”*

**MDL232/20 ENTRANCE AT HAWTHORN HEIGHTS**

In answer to his question requesting that the Council include the entrance at Hawthorn Heights on the next road lining programme and can the area also be considered for road signage to help prevent speeding, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

*“The Lining and Signing of the entrance into Hawthorn heights have been added to schedule for action, the programming of these works is subject to the availability of lining contractors.”*

**MDL233/20 NEWMILLS CORN AND FLAX MILLS**

In answer to his question requesting an update on any progress in relation to the future development of the Newmills Corn and Flax Mill, following my previous motion on same, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

*“Newmills Corn and Flax Mills are run by the Office of Public Works and some of the buildings are said to be over 400 years old. The complex offers exhibitions on industrial milling of corn and flax and hosts one of the largest fully functioning water wheels in Ireland*

*The complex has car parking, toilets and an exhibition centre and is staffed in summer months by OPW.*

*On foot of the motion last year Donegal County Council engaged with OPW to explore areas of co-operation. The OPW outlined that they had development plans for the site and would liaise with the Council on areas of mutual interest. No further contact had been received since.*

*Donegal County Council will contact OPW again to arrange a meeting to discuss where there are areas of mutual co-operation.”*

**MDL234/20 FOOTPATH FROM CARRIGART TO DOWNINGS**

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

*“Following an appropriate assessment screening process, it was determined that the Downings to Carrigart Footpath Proposal required An Natura Impact Statement (NIS) to be submitted to An Bord Pleanala (ABP) as the appropriate planning process due to the assessed level of environmental impact of the scheme. Unfortunately, planning consent was refused by ABP in 2020.*

*Woodrow, the Council's appointed ecological consultant, and the Road Design team reviewed the refusal and discussed possible additions/amendments to the NIS to address the concerns raised by ABP. The site has been revisited and the extents of the habitats and the proposed development have been set out and will be mapped on the drawings at an agreed scale. The Consultant Ecologist*

*will prepare a revised NIS which will incorporate these revised drawings and also include an invasive species survey and an invasive management plan.*

*Donegal County Council intends to resubmit this revised application to ABP in October 2020 and is confident that the Board will consider same favourably."*

**MDL235/20 LYME DISEASE AWARENESS**

In answer to his question will signs be erected in parks for Lyme disease awareness as agreed a year ago at an MD meeting following his motion, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised:

*"The matter was referred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service at the time the motion was adopted and the matter will be further followed up with the Service."*

**MDL236/20 SOCIAL HOUSING IN RAMELTON**

In answer to his question requesting an update on the social housing scheme in Ramelton, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised:

*"As previously advised, NAMA approached the Council in 2018 to purchase 20 no. unfinished houses in Radharc an Chuan, Ramelton for social housing purposes. At that time, the Council expressed an interest in acquiring the units, subject to contract and in order to help meet the significant housing demand in the Municipal District. The purchase and completion of the units by the Council will leave the unfinished estate completed to the highest standard. Subsequently the number of houses offered for sale by NAMA reduced to 18 and legal conveyancing issues arose which have prevented the acquisition proceeding.*

*In parallel the Council is considering various mechanisms for delivery of social housing in Ramelton including land acquisition, leasing and house acquisitions and we will keep the Members updated when further progress is made."*

**MDL237/20 UPGRADE OF MILFORD TO LETTERKENNY ROAD**

In answer to his question requesting an update on the upgrade of Milford to Letterkenny Road due to the high volume of traffic, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

*"There is currently no specific funding allocated for the upgrade of the Milford to Letterkenny Road. As part of the 2020 Safety Improvement works programme there is €25,000 allocated for improvement works at McAdoos corner and as part of the 2020 Restoration Improvement programme there has been €40,000 allocated for resurfacing on the Tank brae at Ramelton and €84,000 allocated for resurfacing at Moorefield. All these works will be carried out before the end of November."*

**MDL238/20 FISHING LICENCES ON THE SWILLY AND LENNON RIVERS**

In answer to his question has any progress been made on the granting of fishing licences to local people on the Swilly and Lennon rivers, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

*“This matter and related issues will be tabled for discussion with the Inland Fisheries Board at a future workshop with the Members of the Municipal District.”*

**MDL239/20 PLANNING GRANT 19/51352**

In answer to his question will the Council revoke the planning grant 19/51352 for the mast at Drummonaghan Wood owing to its proximity to Ramelton and has the Council overlooked their obligation to protect rights of amenities and citizens, Cllr. McGarvey was advised:

*“The decision in this case was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala on appeal. As a consequence, the Council is not in a position to re-consider the decision.”*

**MDL240/20 ACTIVE TRAVEL ALLOCATIONS**

In answer to his question requesting an updated report on the recent Active Travel allocations and a timeframe for same, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

*“As outlined in the roads report the Letterkenny/Milford MD received an allocation of nearly €700,000. The conditions of the allocations require that all these works are completed by mid November and we are programming our works to achieve this target. Measures successfully funded in the MDL/M include:*

- *Improved crossing facilities at Manorcunningham*
- *Improved lining at Pearse Road Letterkenny to better facilitate pedestrians/cyclists.*
- *Milford Road Kilmacrennan-Construction of footpath at Health Centre Kilmacrennan.*
- *Crossing Point between Wesleyan Street and Main Street and across the Ramelton Road in Rathmullan.*
- *Introduction of 30kph in 20 public housing estates in MDL.*
- *Footpath at Elm Court Ramelton and Crievesmith Letterkenny*
- *Construction of Footpath between Portsalon Car park and the entrance to the Golf Course and the construction of Cycle Parking Area.*
- *Footpath and cycle parking area along Main Street in Rosnakill.*
- *Improving Crossing Facilities in Ramelton.*
- *Footpath between Milford Community School and Milford National School.*
- *Traffic calming measures at Glencar*
- *Safe Walking Area between Portsalon Cross roads and Beach.*
- *Footpath between Pier and Kerrykeel town.*
- *Improvements at traffic lights Gortlee*
- *Other cycling related measures”*

**MDL241/20 PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT JUSTICE WALSH ROAD/PEARSE ROAD**

In answer to his question requesting an updated report on the new proposed pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Justice Walsh Road /Pearse Road, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

*“This signalized pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Justice Walsh Road has been funded under Letterkenny Dugs which is being tendered by Road Design, Works are anticipated to be complete before the end of the year when funding deadline terminates.”*

**MDL242/20 BUS SHELTER AT RAMELTON ROAD / OATFIELDS**

In answer to his question requesting an updated report from the NTA on the proposed improvement works at the bus shelter with additional seating and facilities for people with disabilities on Ramelton Road / Oatfields, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

*“To date there has been no formal response from the NTA regarding the provision of seating or light repairs at the existing bus shelter at the Ramelton Road. Roads Central are currently progressing the application for funding for disabled accessibility at this location.”*

**MDL243/20 BOUNDARY WALL AT RAY GRAVEYARD**

In answer to his question requesting an update on what progress has been made on repairing and restoring the boundary wall at Ray Graveyard Manorcunningham, Cllr. Donal Coyle was advised:

*“We have not received any direction or funding to carry out any works at this location in 2020. Letterkenny Roads will apply for Heritage funding when the appropriate programme becomes available, however there has been no suitable funded programme in recent years. In the meantime, arrangements have been made to make the adjacent road safe for pedestrians and cyclists alike.”*

**MDL244/20 JOE BONNER ROAD**

In answer to his question when is Irish Water expected to complete its work on Joe Bonner Road and how long will it take the Council thereafter to complete the necessary roadworks, Cllr. Donal Coyle was advised:

*“Irish waters Contractor is programmed to complete the sewer along the Joe Bonner Road by the end of October 2020. Letterkenny Roads anticipate restarting road construction within the next week, subject to agreement with Irish Water on handover of sections of the site which will be completed and tested. The funding for the Joe Bonner Road stops at the end of the year and the works are being programmed to be completed before the deadline.”*

**MDL245/20 FOUR LANE CARRIAGEWAY**

In answer to his question requesting an update on when work is expected to commence on the Four Lane Carriageway, Cllr. Donal Coyle was advised;

*“We are pleased to announce that following TII approved, the Four lane Road Safety Improvement Scheme has been posted up to E-Tenders at the start of September.*

*Tender return is currently set as 06th October. Current program is to seek Contract award in Q4 2020. This is a welcome investment to improve the current sole lifeline route into Letterkenny and key transport corridor for all travel modes. The scheme will provide significant safety improvement while also maintaining and improving function and capacity. The scheme will significantly improve active travel options with significant upgrade to cycle and pedestrian facilities. It is expected that these improvements will enable modal shift options to further expand and develop.”*

**MDL246/20 GLENSWILLY GAA PITCH**

In answer to his question requesting an update on his previous motion in relation to signage and road markings at Glenswilly GAA pitch, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

*“Signs have been ordered and the road markings will be put in place before the end of December 2020 at this location.”*

**MDL247/20 CRASH BARRIER ON R245 RAMELTON ROAD**

In answer to his question requesting an update on the timescale for replacing the Crash Barrier on R245 Ramelton Road, past the Silver Tassie, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

*“Tenders have been received for these works and we are currently in the process of seeking funding. Once the funding is in place we will arrange to have the works carried out.”*

**MDL248/20 BARRACK T-JUNCTION AND GLENSWILLY CHURCH**

In answer to his question requesting an update on the erecting of Lights at Barrack T-Junction, and at Glenswilly Church and signage and road markings at Glenswilly Church, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

*“The Public Lights at Barrack T Junction & Glenswilly Church will be erected before the end of November 2020.”*

**MDL249/20 FOOTPATH FROM LORETO COMMUNITY SCHOOL, MILFORD TO OLD CINEMA**

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



*“The footpath between Milford Community School and Milford National School is funded through the Active Travel Measures Allocations. The deadline for completion of these works is Mid November 2020 and the works that are being programmed to be completed by this date. Preparation work for commencement is currently being carried out.”*

**MDL250/20    DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 13 October, 2020 in a venue to be confirmed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator