

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY-MILFORD MEETING, HELD ONLINE, ON 19 JANUARY, 2021 AT 2:00 P.M.

MDL01/21 MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MDL02/21 OFFICIALS PRESENT

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

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Donal Coyle

MDL03/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

MDL04/21 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. Kevin Bradley and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the Minutes of meeting of 10 November 2020 were adopted.

MDL05/01 AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

Liam Ward advised that the Standing Orders needed to be reviewed to allow Members pass resolutions at online Meetings. The amendment to the Standing Orders provides the legal basis to make decisions that will be valid within law when passed at a remotely held Meeting.

Cllr. Donal Coyle stated that he hopes things improve and that it will be possible to revert to face to face meetings.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh stated that he would prefer to get back to regular meetings but would like the option for Members to attend meetings online if they have vulnerable people at home.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle agreed that he would prefer face to face meetings but would like the option for virtual access to remain.

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan stated that he would like to get back to face to face meetings but noted that the Council were providing good leadership in providing online meetings and thanked those involved in facilitating online meetings.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan the amendments to the Standing Orders were adopted.

MDL06/21 **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 proceed with the upgrade of the sweet factory play area in Bernard McGlinchey Town Park as soon as possible, and also consider upgrading the lighting in the park and refreshing the one way system signs and keeping the one way system on a permanent basis.”

Members were advised that:

“Sweet Factory Playground: We have just published tender documents to seek quotations to replace the damaged playground equipment in the Sweet Factory playground, submissions are due at the end of January. (€16,000)

Upgrading the lighting in the park: Letterkenny Roads have met with Airtricity on site and have sought a quotation for the replacement of lights within the Town Park.

The one way system is currently a temporary measure until the covid lockdown period, this office has received numerous requests from the public to revert to two way after lockdown.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh noted that the play area has become very run down and dangerous and has been closed for safety reasons. There is currently no play facility in the park. He noted that the tender process is now being followed but asked that the work be prioritised when the process is finished. It is important that the park is suitable for families. He noted that the urban adventure area will enhance the park when completed.

Cllr. Kavanagh noted that the lighting in the park is not up to standard even though he was previously advised that it was. He suggested that the lights

could be replaced on a staggered basis if there are financial difficulties with lights being replaced in the darkest areas such as the gym area first.

Cllr. Kavanagh stated that the one way system should continue as it suits walkers and runners.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle noted that the play area is a popular area of the park. He asked if there is a problem with the lights and could the bulbs not be replaced. Why is it necessary to seek a quotation for replacement of the lights?

Cllr. Kavanagh thanked Cllr. McMonagle for his support and noted the responses given and welcomed that tenders are out for replacement of damaged equipment in the play park and for replacement of lights. He noted that he has received the opposite response in relation to the one way system and hopes that the play area will be repaired as soon as possible.

David McIlwaine advised that the lights in the park have been reviewed and it was found that there is a problem outside the normal maintenance routine. This will be progressed as soon as possible. In relation to the one way system he advised that a review will be carried out to find out which is the best way to proceed.

MDL07/01 **GOLF COURSE ROAD**

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

“That the Council reduce the speed limit on Letterkenny's Golf Course road to 60kph in the interests of safety.”

Members were advised that:

“The DTTAS guidelines recommend a review of Speed limits is undertaken every 5 years. The current bylaws came into effect in April 2017 and so the next review of same should be completed by April 2022. I will request that the Speed Limit on the Golf Course Road be reviewed as part of this process.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh advised that this has been raised by residents concerned about speeding on the road which is used by walkers, runners and people with pushchairs. There have been two incidents where people were hit by cars, one of whom was a woman with a buggy.

He welcomed the answer that there will be a review of speed limits in 2022.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride said that he is familiar with this road which is used by a lot of people.

Cllr. Kavanagh thanked Cllr. McBride for his support and David for his response.

MDL08/21 **JUSTICE WALSH ROAD**

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

“That the Council adjust the timing of the traffic lights at Justice Walsh Road.”

Members were advised that:

“The area Roads office will review the timing at the Traffic lights at Justice Walsh Road.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh said that this has been mentioned to him several times. The light changes in seconds which is frustrating for drivers as only a few cars at a time can get through.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle stated that they are the most frustrating lights in town and are supposed to be “smart” lights.

Cllr. Kavanagh thanked Cllr. McMonagle for his support and David for the response.

MDL09/21 **SAFETY BARRIER ON R251 CHURCHILL**

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

“That this Council take immediate action and erect a new safety barrier on the R251 Churchill directly across the road for Churchill Quarries where there is an existing safety barrier but due to ongoing works over the years the Barrier is now below road level.”

Members were advised that:

“We have made an application for funding from Central Roads to have 125 metres of Safety barrier erected at this location on the R251.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kelly advised that he was delighted with the response. This stretch of road is outside a busy quarry and on a blind corner with a drop from the road to the houses below. The existing barrier is below road level.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan noted that Cllr. Kelly had outlined the problem well and welcomed the positive response.

MDL10/21 **NEWMILLS CORN AND FLAX MILLS**

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

“That this County Council consider installing a pedestrian walking and cycling facility from Conwal Graveyard to the Newmills Corn and Flax Mill please.”

Members were advised that:

“This can be considered as part of any future Active Travel application or funding under the Footpath and public lighting programme.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kelly stated that he is delighted with the response. The road is used by a lot of walkers, runners and cyclists. In the interests of safety it is vital that the footpath is continued out to Newmills. It is one of the busiest roads. If something similar to what is provided on the N56 out of Letterkenny was provided this would be a safe facility for users. He felt that there should be limited land issues.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan commended Cllr. Kelly on raising this issue and noting the various avenues of funding available with the development of the Swilly. The timing of the motion is good given that permission has been given for works at the Mill.

Cllr. Kelly thanked Cllr. Brogan for supporting him on this exciting project and hoped that it would be seriously considered.

MDL11/21 **CONTACT DETAILS FOR COUNCIL EMPLOYEES**

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

“That this Council furnish all Councillors with contacts and phone numbers of Council Employees as I am still struggling who is in charge of what.”

Members were advised that:

“The motion is noted and arrangements will be made to furnish the information requested.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Bradley noted that he spends time phoning around trying to find out who does what and that not enough information has been provided.

On seconding the motion Cllr. O’Donnell noted that it is important that new Members have this information. He noted the response and looked forward to receiving the information. He also noted that Staff Members can be moved and an update should be provided every 12 months.

Cllr. Bradley thanked Cllr. O'Donnell for his support and welcomed the response.

MDL12/21 **ARD O'DONNELL**

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

“That the Council ensure that proper planning is in place in relation to on street parking at Ard O'Donnell as the Residents are very concerned about investors buying property and changing them into apartments in that area.”

Members were advised that:

“The concerns expressed in the motion are noted. In general and by way of information on the matter, the parking requirements associated with any change of use applications will be considered as part of potential planning applications in the area.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Bradley noted that there are a lot of elderly residents in the area who are concerned that investors are buying houses and splitting them into apartments. Family members needing to visit are having to park in the Cathedral car park.

On seconding the motion Cllr. O'Donnell noted the response. He noted that this is one of the oldest estates and being close to the town centre, properties are sought after. He welcomed the motion and hoped that this would be followed up on as there are a lot of elderly residents who are concerned about access to their dwellings being blocked.

Cllr. Bradley thanked Cllr. O'Donnell for supporting his motion.

MDL13/01 **CASHELGAY AND COOLBOY JUNCTIONS**

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

“That Donegal County Council write to the TII as a matter of urgency asking them to install safety measures at Cashelgay and Coolboy to stop vehicles sliding into oncoming traffic on the N56.”

Members were advised that:

“I have forwarded this issue to the Road Safety Engineer to assess the issues that are occurring at this location. We will also assess if there any actions that can be taken as part of the Winter maintenance programme that could remedy this issue.

On proposing this motion Cllr. McBride noted that Cllr. O'Donnell had raised a similar motion under Item No. 19. It was agreed to discuss both motions

together. Cllr. McBride stated that he had raised the issues at the Coolboy junction a number of times, twice last year. Cars have slid out onto the N56. The Cashelgay junction is similar only steeper and is very dangerous. He noted that TII have allocated money for the year for completion of works on the road. He asked that a letter be sent to TII to address the issues at the two junctions as a matter of urgency. A permanent surface solution is required similar to the Gortlee junction in Letterkenny.

On seconding the motion Cllr. O'Donnell noted that he has raised a motion of a similar nature at the same location. He noted that they had met with Staff from the National Road Design office and the Engineer over 2 years ago before work was done. Local residents had taken time off work and they had looked at a number of safety issues. He was annoyed that one of those residents had recently contacted him about a near escape he had at one of the junctions despite this having been discussed previously. The Council needs to be more proactive when work is being done. He noted that the Road Safety Engineer is aware of the issues and that he noted that he would be happy to meet up with David McIlwaine to discuss the problems.

Cllr. McBride also noted that residents had taken time off work to be there for previous meeting and were told everything would be ok and now these same residents are back complaining about the problems.

Cllr. Blaney referred to a similar issue with the junction at Ballyarr and requested that this be added to the motion.

Cllr. McBride stated that all junctions on to the new stretch of the N56 should be looked at. He felt that this would not be a big budget issue.

MDL14/01 **ARDEN ROW TO GLENKEERAGH**

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

“That Donegal County Council resurface the road from the Arden Row to Glenkeeragh as the (approx 1km) road has seriously subsided causing multiple holes of stagnant water in an area that is renowned for freezing conditions. This continues to happen despite drainage works carried out recently by Donegal County Council.”

Members were advised that:

“This section of road was not included on the 2021 Roads Restoration Programme. It can be reconsidered for inclusion in the programme in 2022. In the meantime we will arrange to have Routine Maintenance works carried out on it.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride noted that the junction has been a problem for a long time and is very dangerous in winter time. The ground is soft under the surface causing subsidence. The Engineer and Overseer had

been out and the drains had been cleared which cleared some surface water. However, there are still holes of water which freezes quickly in frosty weather. There have been accidents on the stretch of road. The road needs to be resurfaced and a camber is needed to run off the water.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kelly agreed that this road needs to be considered right away. It is mossy ground and the road is sinking. There is water lying on the middle of the road and there have been a lot of accidents. It is too late to wait until 2022.

Cllr McBride thanked Cllr. Kelly for supporting the motion.

MDL15/01 **GORTLEE JUNCTION**

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

“That Donegal County Council replace the high grip surface at the Gortlee junction opposite ALDI which is now worn out.”

Members were advised that:

“We will arrange to have the skid resistance at this location reviewed.”

On proposing this motion Cllr. McBride noted that there had previously been constant accidents at this junction at the traffic island. The high grit tar there has been a tremendous success. This has worn away over time and needs to be resurfaced.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kavanagh noted that this is an important safety issue.

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

MDL16/01 **N14 AT MONDOOEY LOWER, MANORCUNNINGHAM**

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

“That this Council request Transport Infrastructure Ireland to carry out urgent road strengthening on the N14 at Mondooy Lower, Manorcunningham.”

Members were advised that:

“This location has been assessed and an application for funding is in the process of being submitted to The TII. As soon as confirmation for funding is received we will arrange to have the works carried out.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle noted that the road is cracked and subsiding and there is a drop off the verge. It is a busy road from Letterkenny

to Lifford. He stated that he was glad it was being assessed for funding and hoped it would be done as soon as possible for safety reasons.

Cllr. Blaney stated that he was happy to second the motion.

MDL17/01 **WINTER MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME**

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

“That this Council hold a Workshop to review and update the Winter Maintenance Programme in this Municipal District.”

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. Roads Central have been informed of the motion being raised at the MD meetings.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle noted that new lorries had been acquired with a larger capacity. He asked if this had added to the mileage being gritted, if so where were they added and why. He stated that neither he, nor Cllr. Bradley nor Cllr. Kelly had been able to have any input to the programme. The Members had been promised that there would be a workshop on the programme. He feels that the Members should have a workshop in the Municipal District to review roads covered in the area and decide what roads to add on before there would be a Plenary workshop. He referred in particular to the Carrygawley to Listillion road which is a link to Lurgybrack. Buses travelling to the secondary schools in town, St. Bernadette’s School, Little Angels School and to Lurgybrack School use this road. He also referred to the Rockhill Road where a lorry had gone out during the day but not in the morning when required.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney stated that it was wrong that the new Members have had no input and it is now the second winter since they were elected. He agreed that this should be discussed at Municipal District level first. He hoped for a positive feedback from Lifford and an answer to questions raised. It is important to know what areas new lorries would be covering when acquired.

Cllr. Coyle thanked Cllr. Blaney for supporting his motion.

MDL18/01 **NOISE BARRIER ON N13 AT MAGHERABOY**

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

“That this Council request Transport Infrastructure Ireland to erect a noise barrier on the N13 at Magheraboy.”

Members were advised that:

“I will forward this request to the TII for their consideration.”

On proposing this motion Cllr. Coyle stated that this would not be a big job as it only affects the garden of one resident where there is only a wire fence between the house and the dual carriageway. The resident has been looking for this for a long time. At meetings between TII and Roads Service with residents along the Ten T Project it has been agreed that noise barriers will be erected where required. He hopes that will be done at this house also.

Cllr. Blaney seconded the motion.

MDL19/01 ENTRANCE AT LIDL IN MILFORD

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

“That Roads Section of this Council undertake an assessment of the entrance at Lidl in Milford as the Residents residing opposite are encountering difficulties exiting their premises.”

Members were advised that:

“I will forward a request to the Roads Safety Engineer to carry out an assessment of the issues at this location.”

On proposing this motion Cllr. Blaney stated that residents are having difficulty accessing their properties with the volume of traffic on the road. There are 2 right turning lanes, one for LIDL and one for Kerrykeel. Some drivers are entering the first turning lane instead of the second one for Kerrykeel which is causing problems. There are new retail units there now that will be using the same entrance and this will multiply the problem when they are open. He welcomed the response given.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Coyle asked if there is a speed sign at the location which might alleviate the problem.

Cllr. Blaney noted that there is a speed limit but it is further down the road.

David McIlwaine referred to the speed limit review which is to take place next year. Members will be able to contribute their views during the year.

MDL20/01 THE TOP OF THE TOWN IN MILFORD

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

“That this Council construct a footpath from The Top of The Town in Milford out the Drumbern Road.”

Members were advised that:

“This will be considered for inclusion as an Active Travel application or for future footpath and public lighting funding.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney noted that the road is known as Coopers Road. There are 2 estates and other houses on the road and no footpath to the town. He welcomed the response given. Walkers are doing a loop of the town and could use this route if the footpath was continued out there.

Cllr. Coyle seconded the motion.

Cllr. McGarvey noted that there are places like this in all towns particularly in the Milford Municipal District. Lighting is also necessary.

MDL21/21 RATES

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

“That this Council write to the Department to seek another year’s waiver on rates to help a lot of struggling businesses for the year ahead.”

Members were advised that:

“The Commercial Rates Waiver and Business Restart Grant Schemes administered by Donegal County Council in 2020, together with other valuable business supports provided by the Council’s Local Enterprise Office and Economic Development Division, were key elements of the national response to supporting businesses throughout the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

In total, Donegal County Council paid out €24.2m in Business Restart Grants to Donegal businesses in 2020. 1,922 businesses received a payment under phase 1 of the Restart Grant Scheme, with 2,172 businesses receiving a payment under phase 2 of the Scheme.

3,487 businesses in Donegal were granted a waiver of Commercial Rates in 2020. The total value of the Commercial Rates Waiver in Donegal in 2020 was €15m. Donegal County Council has been compensated by central government for the cost of applying the waiver in 2020.

Earlier this month, the Government confirmed that the waiver of Commercial Rates would be extended to cover the first quarter of 2021. The waiver will be applied in the first quarter of 2021 to businesses most seriously affected by COVID-19 restrictions. The categories of businesses eligible for the waiver will

be determined in line with Government decisions on level five restrictions. When finalised, details will be issued to local authorities to enable administration of the waiver.

The Council will write to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage when the motion has been adopted.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. O’Donnell noted that this is a Government decision but he is asking that Donegal County Council write to the Department in relation to this. A waiver on rates would be oxygen for small businesses to keep going and give them an incentive to reopen. He noted that there is a waiver in place for the first 3 months but most of these businesses have been closed for 9 months already. Every Local Authority should write to the Department as it is hard for businesses to survive. He noted that the Council will write to the Department.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan stated that Cllr. O’Donnell had outlined the situation well and he acknowledged the work done. This is a National decision and the Council need to write to the Department.

Cllr. O’Donnell thanked Cllr. Brogan for his support and said he looked forward to the response to the letter to the Department.

MDL22/21 **BLUE BANKS IN KILMACRENNAN**

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

“That this Council address the serious icy conditions coming into the N56 from the slip road at the blue banks in Kilmacrennan.”

Members were advised that:

“I have forwarded this issue to the Road Safety Engineer to assess the issues that are occurring at this location. We will also assess if there any actions that can taken as part of the Winter Maintenance programme that could remedy this issue.”

It was noted that this motion was already dealt with along with Motion from Cllr. Michael McBride – Minute No. MDL13/01.

MDL23/21 **LEITIR ROAD IN KILMACRENNAN**

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

“That this Council address the serious slippy conditions coming onto the N56 from the Leitir Road in Kilmacrennan.”

Members were advised that:

“I have forwarded this issue to the Road Safety Engineer to assess the issues that are occurring at this location. We will also assess if there any actions that can be taken as part of the winter maintenance programme that could remedy this issue.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. John O’Donnell noted that this is a separate junction on the Blue Banks to Kilmacrennan road. He stated that it is like a skating rink for local residents and noted that the incline is not as dangerous as at the Cashelgay junction. He asked that grit boxes be left at the junction and local residents would spread the grit.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride stated that he was happy to second the motion. He noted that lights are also needed at this junction. When the work was being done he had asked that a connection be put in place. He asked that this be included in the motion.

Cllr. O’Donnell noted that funding had been approved and that lights were to be installed.

David McIlwaine advised that he had been in touch with Airtricity to get the light erected, funding has been allocated. He advised that he could meet with the Members to discuss these junctions and he would then follow up with TII. He would also check if solutions could be found through the Winter Maintenance Programme with provision of grit boxes.

Cllr. O’Donnell thanked him for the response and asked that he notify both himself and Cllr. McBride of a suitable date and time to meet and discuss the issues.

MDL24/21 MANORCUNNINGHAM VILLAGE

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

“That we make an application through the Active Travel Scheme to create a Safe Walking Loop around Manorcunningham Village.”

Members were advised that:

“We will consider this for inclusion as an application for the 2021 Active Travel funding.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle stated that local residents have a loop they use for walking which takes them on to the N13 road. He noted that there is space off the hard shoulder to create a footpath from the junction at the village to the old Derry Road of approx. 120m. Rural areas haven’t sufficient lit up safe walkways. This route is being used and a footpath and lighting is required and also adjacent to the new developments and at the “Knowes”. Residents in town areas have the benefit of walkways. The

opportunity to draw down funding under the Active Travel Scheme should be used for this area.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan stated that he is familiar with the area and would benefit from some improvements. He noted that there are some issues with land. There is a great community spirit in the area which needs to be supported and this should be a priority.

Cllr. McMonagle welcomed the application under Active Travel and noted that the Council should engage with local residents for expansion of services in the area.

MDL25/21 **AURA LEISURE CENTRE**

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

“That we use this Lockdown period at the Aura Leisure Centre to resurface the Road into the Centre.”

Members were advised that:

“With regard to Maintenance, only Critical Maintenance and repair such as Winter Mtce and / or Road Safety Issues can be carried out at this time and with regard to Surface Restoration only Repair, maintenance and construction of critical transport infrastructure can take place.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle noted that the entrance roadway has deteriorated and needs to be resurfaced. This is an excellent facility and the roadway needs to be resurfaced or repaired. He noted the response and feels that this is urgent critical maintenance. The car park could be repaired by outdoor staff safely and done soon so that it won't hamper the centre when it reopens. Landscaping could be upgraded when circumstances change.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan noted that since the abolition of the Town Council the Aura Leisure Centre has become the poor relation. He had previously raised the issue of repairs needed to kerbs. He noted that the roadway has been removed from the gritting programme. This is a Council property and a sports complex.

Cllr. McMonagle thanked Cllr. Brogan for his support and noted that the Centre has not received the same attention since the Town Council was abolished. The property is showing its age with work needed on the road and on landscaping.

MDL26/21 **FOOTBRIDGE FROM RETAIL PARK TO LECK GRAVEYARD**

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

“That we look once again at providing a Footbridge from the Letterkenny Retail Park to Leck Graveyard.”

Members were advised that

“The proposal to create a pedestrian link between Leck lane over the River Swilly to Leck Graveyard and Leck Road, was been incorporated into the Southern Relief Road Scheme. The Southern Relief Road is currently being assessed by DTTaS. We will consider submitting an application for a design of this footbridge as part of the 2021 Active Travel Scheme.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle noted the response given and that this would take a long number of years to complete. The Active Travel Scheme should be considered for the provision of a footbridge as it would open up access to the river and reduce traffic in the area.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kavanagh stated that this would be an ideal project for Active Travel and would alleviate traffic problems.

Cllr. McMonagle thanked Cllr. Kavanagh for his support and stated that current proposal will take too long. He previously raised a motion a number of years ago.

MDL27/21

S. I. HOUSES

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

“That this Municipal District seek applications from anyone who wants an S.I. House built by Council.”

Members were advised that:

“The provision of Specific Instance (SI) dwellings is considered in the context of the policy which was approved by the Council in 2016. The policy was developed and agreed to reflect previous experience of providing, maintaining and re-letting such dwellings. In the first instance, an applicant must be approved for social housing support. Once the applicant is approved, the most suitable option for meeting their housing need is examined. This includes the provision of an SI house where a applicant has indicated that they have a suitable site. This is then considered in the context of the policy, as referred to above. Other relevant considerations include whether the Council is planning to construct a scheme locally or whether there are options to acquire suitable dwellings in the locally to meet the housing need of the applicants. The Council is currently seeking expression of interest for land or property in the County which may present opportunities to develop a small social housing scheme in our smaller settlements, subject to planning permission, which would help to sustain the smaller settlements in the County.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey stated that this motion is on the go a long time. People living in rural areas need to be supported. He knows of at least 4 applicants looking for S.I.s. Social and affordable housing is in high demand. The Department should be contacted in relation to this.

On seconding the motion Cllr. O'Donnell noted that some of his Constituents had lodged applications and were refused as they didn't satisfy the need because there were houses available. This is not the case as the social housing is occupied. These applicants should be facilitated. He welcomed the fact that Members are now meeting with Oireachtas Members on a quarterly basis. Funding should be secured for provision of S.I.s as Local Authority houses are occupied and there are a lot of people on list.

Cllr. McGarvey thanked Cllr. O'Donnell for supporting the motion and stated that not everyone wants to live in a town area.

MDL28/21 REVOKE PLANNING APPLICATION

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

“That this Municipal District ask Plenary Council to Revoke Planning application by Council No 19/51352 which is totally against our Development Plan on many aspects.”

Members were advised that

“Planning case 19/51352 related to the development of a telecommunications support structure at Drummonaghan Wood, Ramelton. A decision to grant permission was notified in late October 2019 by the Council following assessment and consideration under the terms and provisions of the legislation, ministerial guidance and prevailing County Development Plan policy. This decision was ratified on appeal to An Bord Pleanála when the decision of the Council to grant permission was upheld on the 26/05/2020.

In upholding the decision to grant permission An Bord Pleanála cited that the development would not seriously injure the areas amenities, would support the sustainable development of the telecommunications network in the County and would be in accordance with the proper planning and development of the area.

The Planning Act provides a mechanism through which revocation or modification of a permission may be considered by Members (Section 44). However this provision is predicated on the requirement that "A planning authority shall neither revoke nor modify a permission under this section unless the development to which the permission relates no longer conforms with the provisions of the development plan." (S.44(2))

It is not considered, having regard to the detailed consideration of the application by the planning authority under the provisions of the County Development Plan 2018-2025 and the subsequent consideration and approval of the application on appeal, that this application can be subjected to the provisions of S.44 of the Act or that it is expedient to do so. There is no scope to revoke the permission under the terms and provisions of Part III of the Act as it relates to this development and is not a course of action open to the planning authority in this case."

On proposing the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey stated that he had contacted Cignal in relation to permission for a mast. This is an insult to the community as people have been free to walk in the wood prior to this. He was disappointed that no one had objected to it when appealed to An Bord Pleanala. He asked that they reconsider the location as there are 2 other possible sites. This is a high amenity area and an unfair decision and a violation of the County Development Plan and human rights. He has acquired a lot of information which anyone can look at. This matter has been raised in the Senate.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney stated that he agrees with what Cllr. McGarvey is trying to achieve. There have been public meetings and there is a lot of support for this project not to go ahead. He noted the response and that there is nothing the Council can do. He is aware that Cignal are in discussion with Coillte in relation to a more suitable site and he hopes that they will reconsider and not proceed at the current location.

Cllr. McGarvey thanked Cllr. Blaney and Cllr. O'Donnell for their support and attendance at meetings held. He feels that the Planning Authority should re negotiate the permission as it violates every rule. He thanked the Members for their support.

Liam Ward acknowledged the strong views held by Cllr. McGarvey and noted his persistence. The answer given is the legal position. The application when received was granted and did not contravene the current County Development Plan. It was appealed and it was considered that it did not contravene the Plan and the permission stands. There may be room for manoeuvre with the Company but this is a matter for themselves.

Cllr. McGarvey thanked Liam for his response and noted the response from An Bord Pleanala. He feels that the application should be reconsidered and was disappointed that no organisation had objected.

MDL29/21

FIVE YEARS CAPITAL ROADS PROGRAMME

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

"That a full discussion be held on the proposed Five Years Capital Roads Programme for which approval is being sought over five years for mainly this Municipal District."

Members were advised that

“The Priority list for the 5 year specific improvement schemes was agreed by the members at Municipal District Level at a Roads Workshop on the 14th of July 2020. At a subsequent Plenary workshop a County wide priority list was agreed. In September applications were submitted to the Department for Schemes that had been prioritized for year 1. As of yet there has been no confirmation of an allocation of any funding.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey noted that two things need to be considered firstly the timescale and secondly how the works are done. An application for €4 million is made each year. Already one and a half years have gone. A total of €20 million is required for the 5 years. Given the borrowing rate for Local Authorities €16 million should be borrowed and the work could be done within a couple of years. The Members deserve better.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney stated that the money cannot be spent until it is received from the Department.

Cllr. McGarvey thanked Cllr. Blaney for his support and asked that all Members support this.

MDL30/21 CHURCHILL TO GARTAN LAKE

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

“That this Council engage with the Churchill Community Group CLG with a view to create a looped walk from the village of Churchill to Gartan Lake, part of which will restore former pathways previously open to the public.”

Members were advised that

“Donegal County Council have worked with the Churchill Community Group in recent years to develop three looped walks in the vicinity of Churchill and Gartan. The Council is happy to engage further with the local committee to work on extensions to these existing trails or develop new ones on the same basis that the previous trails were developed where the local committee engage with the relevant land-owners and secure the agreements locally and the funding source is identified and applied for through the relevant funding scheme.”

On proposing this motion Cllr. Brogan noted that the Community Group has done huge work in the area. Their proposals are exciting and would link the village to Gartan. This year is the 1500 anniversary of St. Colmcille, there is a lot of history in the area and the Glebe Gallery. There is huge potential in the area and would benefit the wider community. He welcomed the response given.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kelly said he agrees 100% and notes that the Group are passionate about their proposals. This would be a great facility if it goes ahead.

Cllr. Brogan thanked Cllr. Kelly for seconding the motion and noted that it is positive news that Donegal County Council will work closely with the Group.

MDL31/21 **JUNCTION/CORNER AT RATHDONNELL**

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

“That this Council as a matter of urgency review the junction/corner at Rathdonnell with a view to reviewing the surface and erecting a safety barrier.”

Members were advised that:

“We will carry out a review of the issues at this junction and assess what remedial measures are appropriate and if they can be resolved as part of maintenance works. If a Safety Barrier or other additional works are required we will seek additional funding.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan stated that he had talked to the Roads team and had sent a photo to David McIlwaine. There is a dangerous camber on the road and there was an accident there recently. He noted that it is a busy time with Winter Maintenance but asked that the Road Safety team look at the grip on the surface of the road.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kelly stated that he is aware of this junction and it is urgent that it is reviewed as soon as possible.

Cllr. Brogan thanked the Members for their support.

MDL32/21 **OLDTOWN**

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

“That this Council engage with community representatives in the Oldtown area with a view to enhance facilities in the area.”

Members were advised that:

“Donegal County Council is currently examining options to improve the old football pitch in Oldtown and is happy to engage with community representatives with a view to enhancing this site and other facilities in the area that come under the Council’s remit.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan asked that Community & Enterprise section engage with the representatives in the area and noted that Cllr. McMonagle is involved in this. There is a great community there and a meeting should be held in relation to their concerns. The old iron bridge could be restored.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle said he had discussions with the group. There is a lack of facilities in the area and these are needed for local residents. He would welcome a meeting with the local representatives in relation to acquiring funding and offering advice. The lifebuoy rings have been stolen on a number of occasions and the local group are trying to prevent this. CCTV cameras are needed in the area.

Cllr. Brogan thanked the Members for their support.

MDL33/21 **MAYORS BUSINESS**

33.1 Market Square

Cllr. Donal Coyle advised that the Evaluation team would be meeting to discuss the 31 submissions received. He advised that he will update the Members on progress.

33.2 Direct Provision Centre

Cllr. Coyle referred to the email forwarded by Patricia McIntyre in relation to the Direct Provision Centre. He advised that he has spoken to Shane O'Connor. Due to Covid it will be at least the end of February before the first families will arrive. There is work to be carried out. There was a meeting in November and there was to be a meeting again with Members mid January but this is likely to be in February now. He asked Patricia to keep in contact with the Members in relation to the meeting.

33.3 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

Cllr. Coyle noted that 2 groups have been awarded €20k each at the Mountain Top and in Rathmullan.

MDL34/21 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Patricia McIntyre advised that there was no correspondence for consideration.

34.1 Review of National Development Plan

Liam Ward advised that this review was launched at the same time as the National Planning Framework review. Submissions are invited from the public by the 29th January 2021. This will be on the agenda for the Plenary Council Meeting next Monday. A draft submission will be issued to the Members by Friday this week for discussion at the meeting. Garry Martin is coordinating this on behalf of the Council. Cllrs. Brogan and O'Donnell were at the recent CPG meeting where this was discussed and it was agreed that Municipal Districts be consulted. A response is required from Donegal County Council to the questions. The submission will be mainly based on Headings and Themes eg. National Road Projects, Ten T Programme, Regional and Local Road

Improvements, Provision of Water and Wastewater, Towns and Villages etc. Liam advised that he would pass on items to Garry from the Members.

Cllr. Brogan noted that it is not long since the last Plan was adopted. It is important that population is taken into account and that gaps in investment are noted. Also infrastructure needed such as the N2/A5, Ten T Project and the Bonagee Link should be included. He noted that this had been discussed at the CPG meeting yesterday. Additional funding is required because of Brexit as 93% of the Donegal border is with Northern Ireland. He welcomed recent support from the Minister for Agriculture including funding for Rathmullan. He is looking forward to the presentation.

Cllr. McMonagle stated that the North West City Region should be included. There had been a meeting in Derry of the North West Cross Border group. There are deficits in the County and pressure must be kept on. He noted that recent funding for Rathmullan is a vote of confidence in the area but that €3 million is required to upgrade and develop the pier. Difficulties in relation to the A5/N2 need to be overcome. He commended the work of the Staff involved in this.

Cllr. Kavanagh stated that he agrees with Cllrs. Brogan and McMonagle and that the roads projects and City status project need to be included.

Cllr. McGarvey stated that he agreed with what had been said and that East to West need to be considered as well. The counties of Derry, Tyrone, Fermanagh and Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim need to be considered together. Cross border group meetings had previously been held. The UK are providing £10 billion a year to keep the North. Half of this should be given to the Republic.

Liam Ward advised that he would relay the comments to Garry and that the submission would be endorsed by full Council on Monday.

MDL35/21 **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.

Brenda Hegarty noted that Brexit and Covid have provided challenges for businesses. The Local Enterprise Office has been providing funding and support to businesses. There are 6 new programmes with a Retail programme commencing next week.

Cllr. Kavanagh acknowledged work being done in particular the recent Photography competition which had almost 1,200 entries and was won by a local girl.

MDL36/21 **COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES**

The contents of the Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services report as circulated with the Agenda were taken as read.

36.1 Development Fund Initiative

Francis Conaghan advised that the date for applications for funding will be closing on Friday of next week. After that he will be looking for a date for a workshop when the list is out. Date to be agreed at the end of the meeting.

36.2 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

Francis noted that 2 projects had received funding of €20,000 each – Mountain Top Walk, Letterkenny and Leharden Breakwater Walk near Rathmullan.

36.3 Town Bus

Francis advised that this workshop needed to be arranged but that the Group would prefer to meet in person. If Members wish to submit any extra routes for consideration then these can be passed on to him, to Patricia or to the Town Bus operator.

MDL37/21 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

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

37.1 Aura Leisure Centre

David referred to motion from Cllr. McMonagle and advised that he would follow up on the gritting of the roadway.

37.2 Adoption of Work Programmes

David referred to the 3 items on the Roads Report. The Restoration Improvement Programme from 2021 to 2023 and the 2021 Restoration Maintenance Programme (both attached) had been agreed at workshops. Both programmes need to be formally adopted along with the 2021 Bridge Strengthening Programme.

37.3 Community Involvement Scheme

David advised that an email has been sent advising that the scheme has been advertised in local newspapers with a closing date of 12th February. This is for additional projects/schemes and he asked Members to let interested groups know about this.

Cllr. Brogan asked that the back lane at Sliabh Sneacht be included as it would not be big money. He asked David to look at the report before the next meeting. He also asked that the takeover of College Farm Road be reviewed. The Ard O'Donnell road needs realigning. The bridge at Knockbrack is in need of urgent repairs as the road is partially closed.

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Michael McBride the Restoration Improvement Programme from 2021 to 2023 was adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. Kevin Bradley the 2021 Restoration Maintenance Programme was adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Donal Kelly the 2021 Bridge Strengthening Programme was adopted.

MDL38/21 **HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES**

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

Patricia advised that she would be looking for a date for a workshop on Housing Maintenance and Capital following on from the workshops held last year.

Cllr. Coyle agreed that this should proceed.

Cllr. McMonagle stated that it was important to hold the adjourned workshop. He is concerned about the number of refusals of housing by applicants. The reasons need to be looked at.

Cllr. Coyle asked if Members could be furnished with the names of the Officials involved in the Mica Redress Scheme. He noted that 50 applications have been approved with another 17 to be approved this week.

Patricia noted that there had been 125 offers of accommodation with 52 of those refused. She said she would arrange a breakdown of reasons for refusal and bring this to the workshop.

Patricia advised that she would circulate the names of the members of the team working on the Mica Redress Scheme to the Members.

MDL39/21 **PLANNING SERVICES**

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

39.1 Proposed Additions to the Record of Protected Structures

Elaine referred to the Report on Proposed Additions to the Record of Protected Structures – Appendix A. If the Members are satisfied then the 3 structures will be added. This had previously been raised at the October Municipal District Meeting and a public consultation was held. There have been no objections and the 3 structures were put forward for addition by the owners. The 3 properties are all located in Ramelton.

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle the addition of the 3 structures to the Record of Protected Structures was adopted.

39.2 Building Control & Taking in Charge

Paddy Mullen referred to report at Appendix B with 2 sections, the first on Building Control and the second on Taking in Charge.

Paddy advised that Building Control has held up well with the processing of Commencement Notices and Disability Access Certificates.

In relation to the Take in Charge Paddy advised that it is proposed to take in charge 3 estates in Letterkenny. For each estate a public right of way must be created under Section 207 and the taking in charge approved under Section 11.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Kevin Bradley the creation of a public right of way and the taking in charge of each of the 3 estates at Parkview Drive, Letterkenny; Gleann Eadan, Killyclug, Letterkenny and Castlebane, Lisnenan, Letterkenny was adopted.

Cllr. McMonagle asked that a workshop be held to discuss other applications. Paddy advised that he would be happy to accommodate this as soon as possible. Cllr. McMonagle asked that an update on all estates be provided at the workshop.

Cllr. Brogan noted that there are still problems with some estates. He asked that this be raised with Michael McGarvey. The Errigal View and Mountain View estates in particular have been held back by Irish Water. Pressure needs to be put on them to engage and commit to this. The issues need to be resolved. He asked Liam to address this.

Liam Ward thanked the Members for the adoption of the estates to be taken in charge. He acknowledged that there is work to be done and advised that a system has been set up internally for regular meetings between Paddy, the Water and Roads services. Liam advised that he would attend a workshop on this and advised that it has been agreed at SPC level that there should be a presentation on policy on Taking in Charge.

Paddy confirmed that a process is in place for cross service collaboration. There are problems with wayleaves but there has been progress since last year.

Liam advised that he needed to confirm dates for workshops on Regeneration Strategy and Advancement of Letterkenny Local Area Plan. He proposed that weekly workshops be held on the first 3 weeks of February and of March. Dates proposed are Monday 1st, 8th and 15th February and 1st, 8th and 15th March from 10am to 1pm. The agenda for each workshop would be set out.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh these dates were agreed.

It was noted that there is an ETB meeting on 15th February and it was agreed that the workshop could finish at 12 noon that day. An email is to issue to confirm dates and times of meetings.

Cllr. Kavanagh acknowledged the work done on the takeover of estates.

MDL40/21 ENVIRONMENT

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

Cllr. McMonagle welcomed the reports and acknowledged the work done. He noted that more bottlebanks are needed in the town.

Joe advised that he would enquire about the possibility of this with the relevant Staff.

QUESTIONS

MDL41/21 SEWAGE / FLOODING ISSUES AT GLENCAR ROAD, LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question could the Council provide a report on the ongoing sewage/flooding issues at Glencar Road, Letterkenny, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

“Donegal County Council will submit the question to Irish Water’s Local Representatives support email address and ask that they respond directly to Cllr. Kavanagh.”

MDL42/21 PUBLIC LIGHTING RETROFIT PROGRAMME

In answer to his question could the Members have an update on the public lighting retrofit programme for the area, including a timeline for the completion of works, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

“During year 1 of the SOX upgrade programme, good progress was made in the Letterkenny Milford MD - all SOX lamps in the following locations were upgraded to LED:

- *Kilmacrennan*
- *Milford*
- *Ramelton*
- *Downings*

The programme for year 2 is currently being reviewed and finalised. In Letterkenny Milford MD, the town of Letterkenny will be the main priority for the year ahead.

It should be noted that as well as programmed upgrades, all SOX lamps that fail are now routinely being replaced by LEDs through PL maintenance. The number of SOX lamps remaining is diminishing all the time. By the end of 2020, circa 47% of the Council’s overall inventory has LED lamps.”

MDL43/21 **NEWMILLS CORN AND FLAX MILL**

In answer to his question now that planning permission has been granted for additional civil works at Newmills Corn and Flax Mill, can the Council write to the OPW to ascertain what plans they have in mind for the future development of the facility and if they intend to have all the buildings refurbished and open to the public in the short/medium term, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

"Donegal County Council has been in touch regularly with the Office of Public Works in relation to the Newmills Corn and Flax Mills following ongoing representations from the Municipal District about what the OPW's plans are for the site going forward.

As part of the most recent correspondence OPW indicated that they would brief the Council further on their plans once the current planning application had been decided upon.

Now that the Planning decision has been made the Council has written to the OPW for an update and we await their response which will be relayed to the Municipal District once it is received.

Reply received from OPW 11th January 2021

The OPW has two projects included for the Newmills Corn and Flax Mill National Monument for 2021 Business Plan.

The first phase of works, which is at present out to tender, is a proposed development at New Mills, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal consisting of excavating and laying of new services from Gallaghers house to the Mill Complex and an ESB Service to Gallaghers house.

Following on from the civil works and in order for OPW to renew the relationship and proximity of Gallagher's House to the overall Newmills complex, it will be necessary to make the building accessible for their maintenance staff, interpretative guides and the visiting general public. Accessibility is underpinned by the need for safe working, and pedestrian circulation for all. The OPW is proposing to create a drop-off area to the rear of the Gallaghers, to facilitate access to the building by staff, visitors and maintenance contractors. This will include an accessible parking space, universal access provisions and associated landscape improvements.

It is hoped to complete these works by Qtr. 4, 2021 subject to Covid 19 restrictions etc.

2022 onwards:

On completion of these works, conservation work to the interior of Gallaghers will be completed and the interior features of the building will be reinstated. Most of these elements including the bar, original shelving and other fixtures and fittings have already been conserved, restored and are stored off site. The

goal is to reopen the Gallagher's building to the public to access interpretive spaces i.e. a restored interior.

Long-term access to the former residence and public house, 'Gallagher's', is subject to traffic calming measures at the site and on which OPW hopes to engage further with Donegal Co. Co. Supplementary design work and construction will be required to enable Gallaghers House to be made accessible and adapted to for use as an interpretative space.

Safer access is critical to opening up the site and for visitor numbers to grow along with the associated planning and development of the site. Underlying this, is the potential of the site to contribute to the economic, cultural, social fabric of the surrounding area and region.

To date the planning, roads and conservation divisions of Donegal Co. Co. have been extremely helpful with assisting OPW in the plans for the Newmills site and we look forward to future positive engagement with the Council."

MDL44/21 SURFACE SURVEY ON NEWMILLS BRIDGE

In answer to his question regarding his motion about getting a surface survey completed on Newmills Bridge and requesting an update regarding if this survey has been completed and the outcome please. As if this has not yet been done then it needs done as a matter of urgency, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

"Due to weather conditions this survey as not yet being completed. However, Area Roads will be placing and filling a salt bin at this junction within the next week and discussions have been held with locals regarding the spreading of the salt."

MDL45/21 JUNCTION / CORNER AT GLENSWILLY GAA GROUNDS

In answer to his question can I have an update on the works which was to be carried out at the junction/corner in front of the Glenswilly GAA grounds Road markings/ Signage etc.? When I last brought this up I was told it would be completed by the end of 2020. This again is a matter of urgency, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

"The relevant Signage has been delivered and will be erected after lockdown. Road lining contractors will also be back to complete the works when current restrictions allow."

MDL46/21 BARRACK JUNCTION IN GLENSWILLY

In answer to his question requesting an update as to when the lights will be erected at Barrack junction in Glenswilly and also when the lighting at Glenswilly Chapel will be changed to LED Bulbs and signage and road markings completed, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

“The work on the Lights at Barrack Junction will be started as soon as lockdown is lifted. Airtricity are responsible for the fitting of LEDs on Public lighting. There are no plans to amend the lines and signage at this location.”

MDL47/21 CLAREMANS JUNCTION

In answer to his question has Donegal County Council planned any further works at the Claremans junction, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised:

“There are currently no works planned at the Claremans Junction. We will carry out a review this location and can arrange a meeting with the Councillor to discuss the issues at this location.”

MDL48/21 PUBLIC TOILETS AT LETTERKENNY RETAIL PARK

In answer to his question requesting what progress has been made regarding installation of Public Toilets at Letterkenny Retail Park, Cllr. Donal Coyle was advised:

“Letterkenny Retail Park is in private ownership and as such is outside of the responsibility of Donegal County Council. When approached on previous occasions about the matter of public conveniences the centre manager referred to a number of premises within the centre who are providing public conveniences and this was their way of addressing the issue. Notwithstanding this a review of Public Conveniences County wide including Letterkenny is a commitment which DCC intend to progress in the near future.”

MDL49/21 JUNCTION AT OLD TECH, MILFORD

In answer to his question requesting an update on his motion re the Junction at the Old Tech, Milford, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

“This scheme has been prioritised for funding under the Low Cost Accident Scheme. Road Design have completed the design in anticipation of receipt of funding. When we receive confirmation of funding we will arrange to have this scheme included in our works programme.”

MDL50/21 SPEED REDUCTION AT THE BRIDGEND, RAMELTON

In answer to his question requesting what progress has been made on the speed reduction at the Bridgend Ramelton on the approach road from Milford, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised:

“This scheme has been prioritised for funding under the Low Cost Accident Scheme. Road Design have completed the design in anticipation of receipt of funding. When we receive confirmation of funding we will arrange to have this scheme included in our works programme.”

MDL51/21 DIGITAL HUB IN CARRIGART

In answer to his question when will the new digital hub in Carrigart be complete and the public have access to the public toilets, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised:

“Prior to the current Covid 19 construction industry restrictions which was put in place on Friday the 08th of January, the public toilet facility which forms part of the Carrigart Digital Hub building was on schedule for completion and opening in May 2021. This will now be delayed.

As works on site have ceased and the duration of the restrictions are unknown, it's difficult to estimate a revised completion date. By way of an example, if it's likely that construction works are stopped for approx 4 weeks then project completion will be delayed by 5-6 weeks to allow for the re-organisation of direct labour/sub-contractors and the availability & delivery of materials to site.

In this instance the project will be complete end of June/start of July 2021.”

MDL52/21 **FOOTPATH FROM CARRIGART TO DOWNINGS**

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

“The Council provided an update on the Carrigart - Downings project in September 2020. Since then, funding has been secured to facilitate the submission of the revised NIS for the scheme to ABP for its consideration and approval. The Consultant Ecologist has now finalised the revised NIS and same is due to be reviewed by Council staff next week with a view to lodging same by early February 2021. The timeframe for ABP approvals is typically six to nine months following the initial consultation period, however the Covid 19 situation may hinder this progress.”

MDL53/21 **HOUSES ON LONG LANE**

In answer to his question when will the houses being built at Long Lane be ready for allocation, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

“The construction phase of the 29 houses at the Long Lane, Letterkenny is due to complete at the end of February 2021, subject to no further delays as a result of Covid 19. Following this, there will be period for snagging and handover and it is envisaged that the allocation of the properties will commence late Q1 2021.”

MDL54/21 **JUNCTION OF CIRCULAR ROAD AND SLIABH SNEACHT**

In answer to his question when will the light at the junction of Circular Road and Sliabh Sneacht be fixed, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

“This matter has been referred to Airtricity and the Irish water sewer contract on a number of occasions. We are currently in consultation with both parties seeking clarification.”

MDL55/21 **FOUR LANE**

In answer to his question when is the start date for the Four Lane, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

“No start date has been set as procurement is still ongoing. It is expected that the tender and appointment process will be concluded by end of February 2021 with a projected start date in March 2021 subject to approvals.”

MDL56/21 **BRIDGE ACROSS THE SWILLY**

In answer to his question when will the Bridge across the Swilly commence, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

“The Ten-T project, which includes a crossing of the R. Swilly in Letterkenny, is progressing well.

Significant efforts have been made to minimise and mitigate the impacts of the current pandemic throughout 2020 and again this year to date. This has for the most part been successful.

The next stage of the process is the publication of the EIAR (Environmental Impact Assessment Report) and CPO (Compulsory Purchase Order) for the project. This is currently programmed for Q2 2021. This is a key step and will require government approval.

If approved to publish, it is hoped that an An Bord Pleanála hearing could commence before the end of the year.

The earliest construction start date for any element of the Ten-T project is provisionally 2024/5.”

MDL57/21 **VOLUME OF TRAFFIC ON MILFORD / LETTERKENNY ROAD**

In answer to his question what is the volume of traffic on the Milford / Letterkenny 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, the AADT on the R245 at Woodlands School was 9146 and on the R245/9 at Roughan the AADT was 5844.”

MDL58/21 **PURCHASE OF HOUSING IN THE COUNTY**

In answer to his question can this Council purchase more Housing in the County to reduce the outstanding applications at present, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

“The Council utilize a number of different mechanisms for the delivery of social housing, including the acquisition of houses. Over the last number of years, the Council has purchased houses in areas where there is a high demand for social housing or to meet the particular housing needs of a household. Houses have also been purchased through a turnkey package and it is envisaged that further opportunities will arise from this model of delivery through the expression of interest sought for turnkeys in 2018 for Letterkenny, Ramelton and Milford and in 2020 for Letterkenny. The Council has also sought expression of interests for land or properties in the County and the proposals received to date are currently being assessed. In addition, the Council’s Housing Construction programme has a number of housing projects due to complete this year. In this Municipal District there will be 29 units newly constructed units available for letting in Q1 2021. The Council also works closely with the Approved Housing Bodies to secure approval and funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the construction/acquisition of units for social housing purposes. The Council is committed to continuing with these models of delivery to enhance the social housing stock in the County.”

MDL59/21 **ROADS IN RATHDONNELL, TRENTAGH AND DROMORE, KILMACRENNAN**

In answer to his question when will the emergency works needed done to the roads in Rathdonnell, Trentagh and Dromore, Kilmacrennan as the roads are falling away and near collapsing, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

“The Area Office will investigate the near Road collapse and take action were required.”

MDL60/21 **SCHOOL LIGHTS AT ST. JOSEPH’S, RATHDONNELL, GARTAN N.S. AND TRENTAGH N.S.**

In answer to his question when will the traffic calming measures and school lights be completed in St Joseph’s, Rathdonnell, Gartan N.S, and Trentagh N.S, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

“The contractor has been instructed to carry out the required works. These repairs/replacements are due to be carried out in January 21 if Covid-19 regulations allow or at the earliest possible date thereafter.

In addition to this consultations have been had with the Principal of Rathdonnell NS regarding Safety outside the School and Road design are currently preparing a design and will be liaising with the principal in due course.”

MDL61/21 **ALPHA INNOVATION CENTRE**

In answer to his question requesting an updated report on the new proposed Alpha innovation centre in Letterkenny, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

“The Alpha Innovation Centre was awarded €3.7m in 2020 as part of a projected €6m project. This Centre will provide a new digital innovation centre with the expressed objective of building a strong innovative and entrepreneurial ecosystem enabling businesses, both start-up and existing, to scale, internationalise and respond effectively to emerging market opportunities. The Letter of Offer for the funding has been signed by the Council and returned to Enterprise Ireland in late 2020 and we are awaiting confirmation that all returned information is in order. The recruitment of the innovation team which includes an Innovation Manager and an Assistant Innovation Manager is currently being progressed and the Economic Development Unit is engaging with the Letterkenny 2040 Regeneration Team with a view to progressing the development of the Alpha Innovation Centre in a key town centre location in Letterkenny.”

MDL62/21 **DATES FOR WORKSHOPS**

Patricia advised that dates are required for the following workshops:-

- Town Bus (preference for face to face workshop)
- Swilly River Walk
- Housing Workshop
- Development Fund Initiative (mid February)
- Taking in Charge

There are also 2 outstanding requests for deputations from Mulroy Drive Group and Green School Travel.

The following dates were agreed:-

- Housing Workshop – Tuesday 9th February 2021 from 10am to 12.30pm
- Swilly River Walk - Tuesday 26th January 2021 – commencing at 10am
- Taking in Charge of Estates – Thursday 28th January 2021 – commencing at 10am
- Development Fund Initiative – Tuesday 23rd February 2021 – commencing at 10am

It was agreed to consider a date for the Town Bus workshop at the Municipal District Meeting on 9th February 2021.

Patricia advised that she would email the dates for workshops to the Members.

MDL63/21 **DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 9 February, 2021 in a venue to be confirmed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor

Meetings Administrator