

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY-
MILFORD MEETING, HELD IN LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES
CENTRE, ON 8th OCTOBER, 2019 AT 2:00 P.M.**

MDL 806/19 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

MDL 807/19 OFFICIALS PRESENT

Liam Ward, Director of Service
Patricia McIntyre, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services
Linda McCann, Senior Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services
Graham Diamond, Executive Planner
Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Joe Ferry, A/Senior Executive Chemist
Francis Conaghan, Development Officer

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. John O'Donnell.

MDL808/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of 8 October, 2019.

**MDL809/19 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 10
SEPTEMBER, 2019**

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. Michael McBride, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 10 September 2019, were adopted.

MDL810/19 OUTDOOR GYM 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 erect signage indicating that the gym in Bernard McGlinchey Town Park is for adult use.”

The Members were advised that:

“The gym in Bernard McGlinchey Town Park was funded by Healthy Ireland to support innovative, cross-sectoral, evidence-based projects and initiatives that support the implementation of key national policies in areas

such as obesity, smoking, alcohol, physical activity and sexual health. Accordingly the gym is available to all sectors of the community and would be considered discriminatory if restricted to adults only. There are no plans to erect Adult Only signage.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh asked that signage was erected to reduce the risk of young children having an injury when using the outdoor gym. Cllr. Kavanagh acknowledged the great facility and said he was raising the motion on health and safety grounds.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle said when the gym was put in place it was envisaged for adult use only by the Age Friendly Committee, the equipment for built for adults and asked that height restrictions be implemented.

Fergal Doherty agreed to look at the motion in line with conditions pertaining to the funding.

MDL811/19 UPGRADE PUBLIC LIGHTING

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

“That the Council upgrade the lighting on Convent Road, College Road and Cathedral Way.”

The Members were advised that:

“The upgrade of street lighting along Convent Road and Cathedral Way are part of the larger one way scheme which secured planning in 2017. In the event that funding is secured under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund or other, these will be upgraded accordingly. In the meantime, upgrading of the existing heads to LED's is part of the ongoing replacement programme being rolled out by the Council.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh said this motion was raised previously and asked that a light be placed on the pole at the convent to alleviate anti-social behaviour. Cllr. Kavanagh identified three lights on Cathedral Road that were obscured by high trees.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully supported the motion.

MDL812/19 UPGRADE SECTION OF COLLEGE FARM ROAD, LETTERKENNY

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

“That the Council find a way to fund the upgrade of the section of College Farm Road, which has been raised on numerous previous occasions.”

Members were advised that:

“The section of College Farm Road referred to on previous occasions, is a private road, over which the Council have no remit or means of funding.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh expressed disappointment in not finding a solution to deal with this small stretch of road as raised in previous motions. Residents had volunteered to lay materials as the road does not qualify for LIS or CES. Cllr. Kavanagh said residents had applied to have the road taken over and this was not possible as it was adjoining public roads.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Ciaran Brogan fully supported the motion.

Fergal Doherty agreed to look at taking over the road.

MDL813/19 FOOTPATH TO NURSING HOME AT WOODLANDS

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

“That this Council seek relevant funding to extend the footpath from the entrance at Alcorn's junction to the Nursing home at Woodlands.”

Members were advised that:

“The length of this proposal is over 1700m long, would require land take to construct, and involve the requirement for new Public Lighting and new drainage including manholes and gullies, new fencing, replacement of some walls and major side filling in places. It would also be premature in the sense that should the road ever require widening in the future then the location of the footpath would have to be set away back to allow the works to be done. There are currently no plans for these works to be undertaken, however the scheme will be discussed along with others at the upcoming workshop relating tot he '3 Year Public Lighting and Footpath Programme'.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle said he had numerous requests from pedestrians and parents walking with buggies in this area.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey fully supported the motion.

MDL814/19 FLOOD RELIEF WORKS AT LISTILLION

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

“That this Council carry out relevant works at the entrance to L154 from the N13 to relieve flooding.”

Members were advised that:

“Roads will carry out assessment of potential options for rectification following completion of surfacing season, and assess available funding options.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle corrected the motion to read the L1054 and highlighted the ongoing problem of water lying on the road which was beginning to deteriorate.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney fully supported the motion.

MDL815/19 BOUNDARY WALL REPAIRS RAY GRAVEYARD

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

“That this Council seek relevant funding for repairs to the boundary wall at Ray graveyard.”

Members were advised that:

“Raymoghly Graveyard including the boundary wall are archaeological monuments (DG054-032001-) protected under the National Monuments Acts and repairs accordingly must be carried out in conjunction with the National Monuments Service. MDL will seek funding under the appropriate programme when next available from the Heritage Council 'Structures at Risk' or similar programmes, although funding is also being sought for similar works at Kilmacrenan Abbey and Leck Graveyard . The availability of funding for such programmes is very limited, and was not available in 2019.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle said this was a historical inter-denominational graveyard and asked that work would be carried out on the wall.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney fully supported the motion.

MDL816/19 OLDTOWN BRIDGE LETTERKENNY

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

“That this Municipal District call on the OPW as a matter of urgency to dredge the upper side of the Oldtown Bridge and ensure that all Eyes of the Bridge are open and clear from obstruction.”

Members were advised that:

“The OPW have been made aware of silting at Oldtown bridge and have advised that it is included in their considerations for next years programme which they are currently putting together.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle advised that following a public meeting in September there was major structural concern expressed on the potential dangers of traffic volume using the bridge. Cllr. McMonagle referred to the deputation prior to the meeting where concerns were expressed on cracking, ivy/tree growth, power of water and that only two eyes of the bridge were now clear. Cllr. McMonagle asked that the OPW be requested to clear the upper side to alleviate undue pressure. Cllr. McMonagle welcomed the response and asked that priority be given to the bridge as it was an important piece of infrastructure in the town. Cllr. McMonagle asked if the Council was responsible for the removal of the ivy and when the last structural report was done on the bridge.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kavanagh fully supported the motion.

Fergal Doherty advised that the last formal consultant engineer inspection was carried out four year ago and the Council's Bridge Engineer had examined the bridge one month ago and had no concerns in relation to the structural changes from the previous report. Mr. Doherty advised that the Council propose to remove the ivy and repair/re grout the bridge when Irish Water works were complete and raise the concerns of Members with the OPW. Mr. Doherty said there were no concerns in relation to traffic on the bridge.

MDL817/19 WINDYHALL ROAD – ROAD SAFETY MEASURES

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

“That the Roads Section in the interest of Road Safety immediately take action to realign the Windyhall Road at the T Junction coming from the Long Lane to enable safe access to and from Windyhall Road for motorist.”

Members were advised that:

“Roads will develop designs and costings for required landtake and implementation, in readiness for potential funding options.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle welcomed the response and asked that works were carried out urgently.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kavanagh fully supported the motion.

MDL818/19 TRANSMISSION/COMMUNICATION MASTS

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

“That before any Transmission/Communication Masts are erected in Residential Areas a process whereby Local Residents are informed and consulted is part of the application process especially in relation to Section 254.”

The Members were advised that:

“Section 254 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) relates to the licensing appliances, apparatus, cables etc including overground electronic communications. Under Section 254 (1) “a person shall not erect, construct, place or maintain – overground electronic communications infrastructure and any associated physical infrastructure.... along a public road save in accordance with a licence granted by a planning authority under this section.

Although this section of the Planning Acts does not provide an opportunity for the general public to engage in the process of considering a licence, Section 254(6)(a) allows for “Any person to appeal the granting, refusing, withdrawing or continuing of a licence under this section by the planning authority to An Bord Pleanala. There are no time constraints in relation to the lodging of an appeal under this section.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle asked that consideration be given to a consultation process in relation to erection of masts referring to a recent mast erected in Glencar without local knowledge.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kavanagh said residents in the area felt misled and were concerned about the purpose of the mast, i.e. use for 5G.

Cllr. O’Donnell advised that he had a meeting with the Chief Executive of Signal and was advised it was to improve phone signal and not for 5G.

Liam Ward highlighted the anomaly in the Section in that submissions cannot be made but an appeal to the decision can be made which is still open to the residents in the Glencar area. He agreed to contact the Department requesting a review of the provisions of the Section 254 to allow residents consultation.

MDL819/19 EMERGENCY MOTION – LETTERKENNY WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Cllr. Michael McBride proposed the following emergency motion agreed with the Members, and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey was adopted:

“That the Letterkenny-Milford Councillors meet as a matter of urgency to discuss the problems our Waste Operators are having disposing of sludge in our modern, state of the art treatment plant in Letterkenny. We also ask all relevant stakeholders are in attendance.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride read out a letter from DS Environmental raising frustrations in relation to carrying out their business in line with regulations being imposed at the Treatment Plant. Cllr. McBride said a 3 day lead time/notice was an unacceptable requirement for businesses.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey fully supported the motion.

Joe Ferry agreed to bring the request for a meeting to Irish Water and the Director of Service for Water Environment.

MDL820/19 SIGNAGE AT ROUNDABOUT BUSINESS LINK ROAD

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

“That Donegal County Council examine the new roundabout adjacent to the former Unifi site including all access roads as I have had numerous complaints from local residents, taxi drivers and driver instructors regarding the lack of boxes and confusion over what lanes to use on approach to the roundabout.”

Members were advised that:

“Further details in relation to the specifics of the numerous complaints is required, after which the matter will be referred to the Roads Safety Engineer for investigation. Cllr. McBride is to liaise with the Area Engineer regarding specifics, outside of the meeting.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride expressed disappointment with the response and advised that some issues were raised by Driving Instructors.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan supported the motion.

Fergal Doherty advised that the road markings were in accordance with the appropriate guidelines, but agreed to meet locally once the specifics of the complaints were ascertained.

MDL821/19 SIGNAGE AT ROUNDABOUT BUSINESS LINK ROAD

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

“That Donegal County Council look at a road design between Trentagh Church and the Trentagh Crossroads with a view to raising the road to provide an escape road for up to 30 homes at times of flooding. I would ask that this plan is costed and a funding stream identified and pursued as it is not acceptable that residents must deal with this flooding on a regular basis.”

Members were advised that:

“Previous efforts to secure funding under the OPW Flood Mitigation Scheme for this location, have been unsuccessful. Roads will re-assess and re-apply.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride asked that the road was raised to alleviate flooding.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan fully supported the motion and asked that the matter was raised with the Director of Services. Cllr. Brogan asked how funding was allocated and that signage be erected in the area.

Fergal Doherty advised that the Council had applied to the OPW and this does not meet the criteria on number of houses actually being flooded. Fergal Doherty agreed to obtain costings and contact the OPW again. Fergal Doherty advised that a meeting would be held with Members to prioritise larger jobs to seek funding from TII.

MDL822/19 RESURFACING AT GARTAN HERITAGE CENTRE

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

“That Donegal County Council includes the tarring of the avenue in Gartan at the Heritage Centre for surface dressing in the next round of L.I.S. funding as it is an area of immense scenic value which is used by a multitude of people on a daily basis for recreational purposes, a total distance of approximately 1KM.”

Members were advised that:

“This to be included for assessment along with the other 300 odd existing applications, under the current guidelines, when future funding becomes available.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride advised that a large number of people using the centre and the road needs repairs as matter of urgency.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey fully supported the motion.

Cllr. O’Donnell asked that a special case is made to have the road tarred.

MDL823/19 DERELICT SITE TEAM PRESENTATION

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

“I propose that the derelict site team in Donegal County Council make a presentation to our Municipal District on what steps they are taking to address these issues.”

Members were advised that:

“It is intended that presentations in relation to derelict sites will be given to Members during the forthcoming round of workshops on the emerging Letterkenny Plan. The presentations will address the detailed provisions of the relevant legislation (Derelict Sites Act, 1990 [As Amended]), their relevance to the situation in Letterkenny, and the cross-Department solutions that are likely to be required.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan welcomed the proposed presentations and commented on the number of derelict sites in Letterkenny and Ramelton areas.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Bradley fully supported the motion.

Liam Ward advised a lot of work had been done as part of the Letterkenny Local Area Plan which would be presented at the workshop.

MDL824/19 PERIODIC SIGNAGE AT NATIONAL SCHOOLS

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

"I propose that we ask TII to take immediate steps to highlight and put additional signage in place at the schools of Lurgybrack, Illistrin and Magherabeg as the periodic signs erected are not visible enough."

Members were advised that:

"In the first instance Donegal County Council as the roads authority will consider a review of these locations based on the concerns raised. This will be carried out by the Donegal Road Safety Engineer in conjunction with the respective MD Roads Engineer."

Based on their expert assessments specific actions may be identified on a case by case basis. This will be referred to TII for approval / funding and subsequent action if required."

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan highlighted the need for larger flashing signs to alleviate safety concerns. Cllr. Brogan asked that the TII/NRDO improve signage at the schools.

On seconding the motion Cllr. O'Donnell fully supported the motion.

MDL825/19 PUBLIC TOILET FACILITIES CARRIGART DIGITAL HUB

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

"Calling on this Council to include public toilet facilities in the new Digital Hub in Carrigart."

Members were advised that:

"Members of the Council accepted the recommendation to proceed with the development of a Digital Hub in Carrigart, Co. Donegal at the Plenary Council meeting on 30th September 2019. Funding for the Digital Hub project was allocated to Donegal County Council in 2017 and the recent approval by the members allows the project to progress now to tender stage and construction permitting the drawdown of the funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development thereafter."

While there is no funding ring-fenced for the development of public toilet facilities in Carrigart, the Council has undertaken to explore options for same in the village.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. O’Donnell advised that the response did not outline what was agreed at the workshop which was that a separate Part 8 would be lodged to include development of toilets with rear access to the building as agreed with Members at the workshop.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan agreed that concern was the loss of funding and therefore a second Part 8 would be submitted.

Liam Ward advised that the Part 8 was presented at Plenary and there had been a discussion of amendment of the Part 8 subject to funding being available. The Council was not in a position to confirm if funding was available and costings on the provision of future maintenance was required. The Council would look to progress to costings which would provide for the facilities required as part of the Digital Hub building with rear access, subject to funding being confirmed.

MDL826/19 SPEED CALMING AT KILMACRENNAN VILLAGE

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

“Calling on this Council to contact TII about concerns raised locally about the speed entering Kilmacrennan village since the construction of the road. They would like to see a 60kph installed on both sides of the village of the N56 to calm traffic.”

The Members advised:

“The TII advise that Traffic Calming (signage and Kerbing) has been introduced as part of this scheme on the approach to Kilmacreannan. The approaches will be listed for review in the course of the next speed limit review. Speed limit reviews are carried out countywide periodically and a date for the next review has not yet been set. Any proposed changes to the speed limit must be carried out as part of that review.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. O’Donnell asked that the speed reduction is reduced to 60 kph further out from the village and not the current status of 100 kph to 30 kph as residents have expressed concern.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride asked that flashing signs giving the travelling speed were erected as an effective traffic calming measure.

MDL827/19 FOOTPATH CARRIGART TO DOWNINGS

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

“Calling on this Council to fast track plans to construct the footpath from Carrigart to Downings.”

Members were advised that:

“In relation to the AA required because of the footpaths location in an SAC, additional information that An Bord Pleanala requested has been submitted and is being assessed by An Bord. The decision in relation to the grant of permission/permission with conditions or whether further Public Consultation is required, remains with An Bord Pleanala. In parallel, an application for funding has been submitted under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2019 Measure 2. Members will be advised of developments.”

On proposing the motion Cllr. O’Donnell welcomed the response.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey fully supported the motion.

MDL828/19 MAYORS BUSINESS

Cllr. O’Donnell advised that he attended the following as Mayor of the Municipal District:

- Rudolstadt Delegation – visited Letterkenny from 27 September to 1 October and noted the sign twinning between St. Eunan’s College and the secondary school in Rudolstadt.
- Erasmus Delegation Reception held in Letterkenny PSC on 2nd October
- NW Simon Homeless Aware night on 4 October , Cllr. McMonagle was also in attendance.
- Race & Change Launch in Donegal Library
- Launch of Digital Connect with Packie Bonner
- Launch of FAI Exhibition with Ray Houghton
- Joseph McGettigan Memorial
- Town & Village Funding

MDL829/19 CORRESPONDENCE

Patricia McIntyre advised of the following correspondence:

Mayor of Rudolstadt thanked the Members for the hospitality during the visit.

Aisling Gallagher, Coordinator of the Erasmus thanked the Members for the presentation and reception held on 2 October.

MDL830/19 HOUSING

The Members noted the content of the Housing Report.

830.1 - Turnover of Council Houses

Cllr. McGarvey raised the delay in turning over Council houses and the level of work carried out causing the delay and that this had been raised at the Value for Money Committee.

Cllr. McMonagle raised concern at the length of time on transfer requests and asked for a presentation from an Approved Housing Body on number of clients, help/support given, complaints procedures in a workshop.

Patricia McIntyre agreed to follow up on the turnover of houses, transfer requests and coordinate a workshop with the largest of a number of Approved Housing Bodies in the county.

830.2 Willowbrook Housing Proposal

Cllr. McMonagle asked had the proposed increased from 40 to 50 and was the further 40 houses proposed on the second site not proceeding. Cllr. McMonagle advised that residents in the area were concerned about Japanese Knotweed.

Patricia McIntyre advised that Phase 1 was initially 40 units and the Department had asked that it be increased to 50. Approval in Principle was ready to be submitted to the Department in consultation with the HSE. Ms. McIntyre advised that Japanese Knotweed was raised previously and advised that there was none on the site.

830.3 Ramelton Housing Proposal

Cllr. O'Donnell asked for an update on the development at Ramelton. Patricia McIntyre agreed to circulate an update to members.

830.4 Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

Cllr. Kavanagh asked what the update was on the RIHL and was advised in the Housing report that 4 applications were received, two of which were approved and a letter was received from the Department to continue offering loans.

830.5 Unfinished Housing Estates

Cllr. McBride asked that an update on unfinished housing estates was circulated to members prior to the next meeting.

830.6 Social Housing Proposals

Cllr. McMonagle asked that an update on the proposed/new 30 housing social units was circulated to members.

830.7 Social Housing Development Kilmacrennan

Cllr. O'Donnell asked for a report on what plans were envisaged for future developments in Kilmacrennan.

MDL831/19 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Members noted the content of the Planning Report.

831.1 Local Area Plan

Members were advised that a Workshop on the Letterkenny Local Area Plan was to be held on Tuesday, 15 October 2019 at 11:00 a.m. in Letterkenny PSC.

MDL832/19 ENVIRONMENT

The Members noted the content of the Environment Report. Joe Ferry highlighted the Halloween National Reuse Month, Electrical Recycling in Carrigart, Beach Cleaning and report on Bathing Season – Lifeguards.

832.1 Civic Amenity Sites / Recycling Centres

Cllr. Brogan and Cllr. McMonagle asked for a presentation on the Recycling Centres. Cllr. O'Donnell proposed that this would take place at 1.30 p.m. on 12 November 2019 prior to the MD meeting.

Cllr. O'Donnell commended the support given to Tidy Towns and the success of each Committee, in particular, Kilmacrennan, Downings and Letterkenny. Cllr. O'Donnell thanked the staff of the Environment section for their support with particular mention to Martin Roarty.

MDL833/19 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Members noted the content of the Community Development Report circulated and in particular the following:

- Social Inclusion Week – 4th to 12th October, 2019
- Donegal Connect – 27th September to 6th October 2019
- Walks & Trails – Fanad Arch access,
- Part 8 - Alpha Building and Carrigart Digital Hub
- Bank of Ireland Enterprise Town Award – very successful tour and compliment Chamber of Commerce on their presentation.

Cllr. O'Donnell commended Toni Forrester on an excellent presentation and noted how impressed the judges were with the plans and future vision for Letterkenny.

MDL834/19 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

The Members noted the content of the Roads report circulated in particular the following:

- Japanese Knotweed

- Winter maintenance runs from 14 October and not the 21 October as noted in the report.
- Storm Culvert – Circular Road
- Report on Tidy Town Awards 2019.

834.1 Tidy Town Awards 2019

Cllr. O'Donnell asked that a recognition letter be sent to both Letterkenny and Carrigart Tidy Towns on their awards. Cllr. O'Donnell also asked that a letter be sent to all Tidy Towns committees acknowledging their participation in the competition.

834.2 Reinstatement of Roads

Cllr. McMonagle asked for a programme of reinstatement works to be carried out in Letterkenny town.

Fergal Doherty agreed to obtain an update from Irish Water and circulate to members.

834.3 Shore Road, Ramelton

Cllr. McGarvey thanked the Marine section for the works following the collapse of the wall at Shore Road.

834.4 Winter Maintenance

Cllr. Brogan asked that a workshop was held for new Members on the Winter Maintenance and that the list of routes was circulated to Members also.

Cllr. Coyle asked that roads that have a bus route be included in the programme.

Cllr. McBride asked for an update on what roads were gritted in the Manor area.

Fergal Doherty advised that any workshop would be a plenary affair as routes crossed MD boundaries. Fergal agreed to request of contact Roads Central to coordinate a workshop.

834.5 Meeting with Minister for Transportation

Cllr. Brogan asked that the meeting with the Minister was reconvened to discuss the roads in Letterkenny.

Questions

MDL835/19 DISABLED PARKING AUDIT

In answer to his question requesting an update on my previous motion asking the Council to take an audit of disabled parking spots in the area and to ensure they are all fit for purpose, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

“The Council has undertaken the audit referred to and are in the process of compiling the report with costings.”

MDL836/19 PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS AT GLENCAR PARK

In answer to his question requesting the Council look again at the amount of time that it takes the traffic lights to change at the pedestrian crossing at Glencar Park, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

Following inspection, it appears that these lights have been vandalised resulting in delays to changes. Roads have requested repairs to be carried out by the supplier at the earliest.

MDL837/19 BERNARD MCGLINCHEY TOWN PARK

In answer to his question requesting the Council to make sure there was sufficient and clearly visible signage to indicate that dogs were not allowed (other than guide dogs) in Bernard McGlinchey Park, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

“There are already signs in place advising that no dogs allowed. Council will review number and location to establish effectiveness.”

MDL838/19 SURFACE WATER FLOODING RAMELTON ROAD

In answer to his question requesting an update on Council’s intention regarding surface water and flooding at the Pin Tavern and immediate area, Cllr. Donal Coyle was advised:

“The recent flooding resulted from damages caused during the installation of mains by others, and have since been rectified.”

MDL839/19 HAWTHORN HEIGHTS

In answer to his question on when would the trees at Hawthorn Heights blocking the light from Street Lamps be paired back as per my motion, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

“Roads are in liaison with the St Eunans School Board of Management in whose property and under whose remit, maintenance of the trees lies.”

MDL840/19 GLEANTAIN ESTATE – WATER PUMPING STATION

In answer to his question had a decision been made as per his motion to Take in Charge the Water Pumping Station at Gleann Tain Estate Letterkenny, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

“Water Service are scheduled to meet the developer in the coming week to discuss the items relating to Water supply and foul sewers on a future development planning application in Gleann Tain. In the meantime the Councils Water Service are committed to ensuring security of supply to the Gleann Tain and Gort na Greine estates.”

MDL841/19 RETRO FIT OF COUNCIL STOCK

In answer to his question on how many of the current Social Housing stock require retro fit double glazing and doors and when and how would these works be carried out, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

“Funding for the replacement of windows and doors is available under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme. This Capital Programme is aimed at improving the standard and quality of local authority housing stock. Funding is available under the Programme in two phases. Phase 1 primarily focuses on improving the insulation of houses. Phase 2 provides for the replacement of windows and doors.

To date, the Council has sourced over €4million in respect of 2,327 houses under Phase 1. Funding for Phase 2 (windows and doors) was sought this year, but was unsuccessful as we have been advised that Phase 2 cannot commence until Phase 1 is completed. The Council is currently in the process of completing Phase 1, and intends to commence Phase 2 during 2020 in this regard. We have an estimated requirement to replace windows and doors in 874 houses throughout the county. The works will be procured via an existing framework of contractors that has been set up specifically for the Programme.”

MDL842/19 FLOODING AT TRENTAGH

In answer to his question requested an updated report on the progress to address the ongoing flooding in the Trentagh area, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

“Previous efforts to secure funding under the OPW Flood Mitigation Scheme for this location, have been unsuccessful. Roads will re-assess and re-apply.”

MDL843/19 SCHOOL CONSULTATION

In answer to his question requesting an updated report on the consultation with all our schools in and around Letterkenny to discuss their future needs as agreed by this Council, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

“As part of the pre-draft plan consultation work, the planning department undertook an extensive consultation exercise with all schools (at all levels) serving the town of Letterkenny, inclusive of those located outside of the Letterkenny Plan boundary (i.e. Woodlands, Illistrin and Lurgybrack). Face to face meetings were held with the principals of each school in almost all cases; where the arrangement of a meeting was not possible, schools principals were contacted directly by telephone.

The focus of the meetings/conversations with school principals centred on the current needs of each school in addition to the various principals' views regarding the future educational needs of Letterkenny. As regards current school capacity, it became apparent during the meetings that the Dept. of Education and Skills is currently considering proposals for the construction of extensions to a significant number of the existing schools ; e.g. Errigal College, St. Eunan's College, Scoil Colmcille, Scoil Naomh Fiachra. Subject to the provision of these extensions, the schools principals concerned were satisfied that their capacity needs in the medium term could be met within the curtilage of their existing buildings. In addition to the foregoing, it was ascertained that certain schools that are not subject to proposals for extension are capped in terms of pupil numbers (i.e. Scoil Adhamhnain) whilst others do not consider that they have capacity issues at present (i.e. Scoil Mhuire gan Smal) and others are presently adding additional classrooms (i.e. St. Bernadette's Special School). In summary therefore, all principals were generally satisfied that their projected pupil numbers can be catered for within their existing school grounds.

Following the meetings with school principals, the planning department met with officials from the Department of Education and Skills and presented our findings. Based on current population projections for the town, the Department officials were also satisfied that capacity needs in the medium term can be met within existing school premises (this is consistent with the Department's commentary when they were consulted during the preparation of the County Development Plan 2018-2024).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Letterkenny Plan will consider the need to reserve lands for school provision in the longer term, inclusive of lands for a future multi-denominational secondary school (an issue highlighted during discussions with school principals). Identification of lands for educational purposes will be undertaken in accordance with all relevant planning guidance and in consultation with the Department of Education and Skills."

MDL844/19 PROPOSED TRANSPORT HUB

In answer to his question requesting an updated report on the proposed transport hub as agreed by this Council, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised: *"The issue of a bespoke transport hub/interchange for Letterkenny, the optimum location for such a facility, and how it would integrate most effectively with existing and future sustainable and roads-based transportation linkages and facilities is central to the future planning of the town. In this context, it is proposed that the provision of this facility will be addressed in a comprehensive, strategic and evidence-led manner through the work of the Strategic Visioning element (particularly the proposed Masterplan) of the URDF-funded programme in conjunction with the ongoing review of the Integrated Land Use and Transportation Strategy, 2009, which review will inform the Local Area Plan. This will be discussed in further detail with Elected Members in Letterkenny, following the Workshop held earlier today."*

MDL845/18 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 12 November 2019 at Milford Public Services Centre.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor

Meetings Administrator