

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY-MILFORD MEETING, HELD ONLINE, ON 9 MARCH, 2021 AT 2:00 P.M.**

**MDL119/21 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

**MDL120/21 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  
Geraldine Havlin, Executive Planner  
Francis Conaghan, Development Officer  
Joe Ferry, A/Senior Executive Scientist  
Barney McLaughlin, Economic Development

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Donal Coyle

**MDL121/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

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

**MDL122/21 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. Kevin Bradley the Minutes of meeting of 9 February 2021 were adopted.

**MDL123/21 FOOTPATH FROM WOODLANDS SCHOOL TO KILTOY JUNCTION**

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

**"That the Council seek funding to provide a footpath from Woodlands school to Kilty junction."**

**Members were advised that:**

***“We have carried out a preliminary assessment and costing for the construction of a footpath between the Kilty Road and Woodlands. A request has been submitted for this project to be considered for an Active Travel funding application.”***

It was noted that Cllr. Gerry McMonagle has a similar motion at Item No. 10 on the Agenda and it was agreed that the two motions would be discussed together.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh advised that Residents in the area had raised this with him. A footpath would make the roadway safer, reducing the speed on the road and providing access from Woodlands School to Estates in the area. It would also promote walking and connect walking routes in the area. This would improve the area and connect communities.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Gerry McMonagle thanked Cllr. Kavanagh for seconding his motion. He welcomed the response given that a request has been submitted under Active Travel for funding. This is a large area that needs to be connected from Loughnagin to Woodlands School where there are 350 pupils a lot of whom live in the general area. He advised that the School are in support of this initiative, have an Active School Status and are promoting a 5km cycling project. The School has an Active Travel Flag and this is an apt time for this motion. It would encourage the children and parents to walk to school. IT will provide a link with walkways in the area and will reduce speed on the road. He hopes the application will be successful and that the footpath is put in place in the near future.

Cllr. Kavanagh also welcomed the positive response given and asked that Members be kept updated.

#### **MDL124/01    UPDATES FROM IRISH WATER**

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

***"That after having logged calls with Irish Water, Councillors can then get subsequent updates locally, instead of having to keep going back to Irish Water for further updates."***

**Members were advised that:**

***“A separate dedicated Irish Water communications portal for Councillors is available for communications with Irish Water.***

***There are a number of avenues available to the Elected Members to raise queries/ questions with Irish Water which include use of the dedicated Local Representative telephone number 1890 178 178 or the dedicated Local Representative Support Service email. [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie).”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh stated that when a call is logged with Irish Water initially it is then referred to Donegal County Council for appraisal and action. He says that Members should be able to get updates locally. Every time Irish Water is contacted a different person answers. Standard email responses are issued and it takes a few days to get a response. In relation to a call he logged in relation to sewage and water flooding gardens on Glencar Road he was advised that CCTV had identified the problem and it would be fixed by December 2020. He was later told it would be January 2021. He contacted IW again as the problem reoccurred and has now been told it will be April 2021 before the matter is resolved. Meanwhile Residents have been in touch with him again. The system is cumbersome and people think that the Members are not getting back to them. There should be a contact in Donegal County Council who Members can phone instead of having to get updates from different people.

**MDL125/21    LIGHTS FOR NEW WALKWAY FROM KILMACRENNAN TO MOUNTAIN TOP**

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

**"That this Council look for funding for lights on the new walkway from Kilmacrennan to the Mountain Top in Letterkenny."**

**Members were advised that:**

***"The TII have been consulted regarding this motion and have provided the following response.***

***The provision of lighting on rural sections of cycle or footway would not be in accordance with TII standards and/or best practice.***

***In safety terms it should be considered that many people using a rural cycle or pedestrian way at night will have to access and/or leave the facility at some point and must therefore should have both high visibility attire and other appropriate own lighting to enable them to safely complete the rest of their journeys. Lighting of cycle/pedestrian ways in rural areas would constitute a significant capital and ongoing maintenance cost which might be considered to be best assigned to the provision and maintenance of lighting in current designated urban areas. In addition environmental issues include but are not restricted to negative effects of the natural environment and habitats, significant energy use and light pollution. As such lighting of rural sections is generally not appropriate."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. O'Donnell asked that the Council contact TII again in relation to the need for lighting on the path from Kilmacrennan to Letterkenny. There is a new part of the walkway to be built from Illistrin. There are a lot of new developments in Kilmacrennan. People are using the walkway at night. Lighting would add the finishing touches and would be of benefit to the whole area. He stated that the response given in relation to cost is vague.

**MDL126/21 STREET LIGHT AT BALLYARE JUNCTION**

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

**"That this Council erect a street light at Ballyare junction at Mickey and Marjorie Mc Hugh's."**

**Members were advised that:**

***"We will assess this location and consider it for inclusion in Priority list for programmes that provide funding for public lighting."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. O'Donnell stated that this is a busy staggered junction and a light is needed to light up the junction. There are a number of roads leading on to this junction. He welcomed the response given. Cllr. Liam Blaney and Cllr. Kevin Bradley also supported this motion.

**MDL127/21 STREET LIGHTING ALONG SHORE ROAD IN RAMELTON**

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

**"That this Council install street lighting along the shore road in Ramelton."**

**Members were advised that:**

***"We will assess this location and consider it for inclusion in Priority list for programmes that provide funding for public lighting."***

On proposing the motion Cllr O'Donnell stated that lighting is needed in this area as there are a lot of Residents and an apartment block on this road. He noted that he is satisfied with the response given and asked that this be prioritised.

**MDL128/21 SPEED REDUCTION AND SAFETY MEASURES ON LISNENNAN ROAD**

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

**"That this Council put in place speed reduction and safety measures on the Lisnennan Road as a matter of urgency."**

**Members were advised that:**

***"We will forward this issue to Road Safety Engineer to carry out a Safety Assessment of this section of road and to identify what measures may be required."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle noted that motions have previously been submitted from most of the Members for this road. He referred to a recent incident where a car had gone off the road and mounted a footpath and hit a sign. Speed was the cause of this. Residents have raised their concerns with him. He noted the response given and advised that he was satisfied that something will be done to alleviate the problem.

**MDL129/21 KINCRAIGY / LABBADISH ROAD AT CARRICKNAMART**

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

**"That this Council carry out immediate repairs to the Kinraigy / Labbadish Road at Carricknamart."**

**Members were advised that:**

***"We will carry out an assessment of the condition of this road and try to identify a source of funding to carry out any necessary repair works."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Coyle stated that the road is breaking up. There is a river running parallel to the road which is deep. There is heavy traffic on the road. The road needs to be strengthened and bollards are needed. He noted the response given and advised that he was satisfied that something will be done.

**MDL130/01 SURVEY OF VACANT, DERELICT, ABANDONED AND UNFINISHED HOUSES IN LETTERKENNY**

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

**"That this Council carry out a comprehensive survey of all vacant, derelict, abandoned and unfinished houses in all estates in Letterkenny."**

**Members were advised that:**

***"It is agreed that the suggested comprehensive survey of the wider town would be a valuable and informative exercise for the Council. The Planning Section did carry out a comprehensive survey of derelict sites in the town centre in and around 2019/2020. The survey identified a range of potential sites/concentrations of such properties including: Lower Main Street; Main Street; Former ESB site; Former Model Bakery site; Former Bacon Factory; and other individual sites around the broader town centre. This worked was a valuable resource in informing the successful funding applications to the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), and the work now being progressed under the Regeneration Strategy. The derelict sites survey has also benefited the Letterkenny Plan project with, for example, the Former Model Bakery moving towards zoning as an Opportunity site (as discussed at recent workshops)."***

***The suggested broader town survey would require both the utilization of datasets such as ESRI and Geodirectory together with on-the-ground inspections. Unfortunately, Covid restrictions would prohibit the carrying out of the physical survey work at this time. This situation can be reviewed when resources and Covid restrictions allow.***

On proposing this motion Cllr. Coyle noted that Members have probably already brought a similar motion to the Council. He stated that there are too many vacant and derelict houses in the town. He noted his surprise at the response given. He is not referring to derelict sites but rather to abandoned, derelict houses in estates. He said it is not fair on Residents in estates where houses are falling down, boarded up and grass growing on roofs. Others in the estates are doing their best to maintain their properties. There is a lack of housing in the town. A survey should be completed of all these houses and details of owners obtained. A lot of houses were purchased by investors and the houses have been left lying to deteriorate further. This is not fair on Residents Associations. The properties need to be logged and the ownership determined.

**MDL131/01 FOOTPATH FROM LOUGHNAGIN HEIGHTS TO WOODLANDS SCHOOL**

This Motion was proposed by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and discussed in conjunction with Item No. 2 – Motion raised by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh.

**"That we put in an application under the Active Travel Initiative for funding for a footpath from Loughnagin Heights out to Woodlands School."**

**Members were advised that:**

***"We have carried out a preliminary assessment and costing for the construction of a footpath between the Kiltroy Road and Woodlands. A request has been submitted for this project to be considered for an Active Travel funding application."***

**MDL132/01 SAFETY AUDIT ON FOOTPATHS IN LETTERKENNY**

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

**"That we inspect and carry out a Safety Audit on our footpaths in Letterkenny."**

**Members were advised that:**

***"The Roads Area Team regularly carry out inspections and assessments of footpaths. Where upgrades or replacements are required sections are prioritised for consideration for funding from various sources."***

On proposing this motion Cllr. McMonagle noted that he has seen this problem for himself. People out walking can also see the problems. There are broken kerbs, potholes and trip hazards. People have fallen around the town in various locations. Cllr. McMonagle referred to some examples – the crossing to the Shopping Centre where paving stones are sticking up, the crossing on Circular Road has trip hazards and again on Main Street. Repairs should be carried out where problems are.

David McIlwaine advised that generally inspections are carried out where locations have been identified. Repairs to these have to be prioritised based on funding available. There is no specific funding other than the maintenance budget. He advised that he will try to set up a system to detect the issues.

Cllr. Brogan referred to the new Footpath Programme adopted in 2017. Existing footpaths were neglected. Someone needs to be dedicated to carry out full audit of footpaths. This needs to be considered more seriously. A report on the audit should be brought back to the Members.

Cllr. McMonagle stated that disability groups and groups dealing with visually impaired persons are aware of the difficulties with footpaths. He noted that funding is a problem but a safety audit should be done. He asked that disability groups etc. be contacted to determine what issues there are. He asked that funding be sought for the audit. He thanked Cllr. Brogan for supporting his motion.

**MDL133/01 DOG FOUL BINS AND NO DOG FOULING SIGNS**

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

**"That we install Dog Foul Bins and No Dog Fouling Signs at the Thorn and other popular walkways in Letterkenny."**

**Members were advised that:**

***"The Council's Litter Wardens have erected dog fouling signage in a number of areas around Letterkenny in recent weeks, and it is planned to erect more signage including in the areas mentioned here. The Council's awareness campaign on dog fouling promotes "Any Bag Any Bin" therefore dog waste can be disposed of in any litter bin or disposal bin."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle stated that this is a scourge on everyone. Everyone is out and about walking and people are out with their dogs. More bins are needed. There had been more bins, some of them must have been removed. He knows there is a policy of "any bin will do" but there are no bins. He is only aware of one sign in town, more signs are needed and there needs to be enforcement of the rules. On the more popular walkways bins must be provided and more importantly signs. An awareness day should be held where information is given about the danger to health of dog faeces. It is only a small minority of dog owners who are not being responsible. They

need to clean it up and bin it. It is important to eradicate the bad behaviour of dog owners.

**MDL134/01 R250 LETTERKENNY TO GLENTIES ROAD AT NEWMILLS**

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

**"That this Council take action and examine the R250 Letterkenny to Glenties road at Newmills as the River erosion is getting worse."**

**Members were advised that:**

***"We will carry out an assessment of this location and liaise with the OPW to see if suitable remedial works can be carried out and funding identified."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kelly noted that he was happy with the response given. Out past Newmills there are two locations on the left hand side where the river turns back. The river bank is being eroded. This is a busy road with heavy lorries using it. He is concerned that the road will collapse. Boulders may help stop the erosion. It wouldn't cost much to resolve this.

**MDL135/01 INCLUDE ALL ROADS ON ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME**

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 include all roads Primary / Secondary and Local roads to the road maintenance programme as a matter of urgency."**

**Members were advised that:**

***"All roads that are included in the Roads Schedule are under the charge of Donegal County Council. Road Maintenance is prioritised on a needs basis and level of funding available. Currently the Roads Area teams are working under Covid 19 restrictions. Therefore are restricted to carrying out essential maintenance works only."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kelly stated that all roads need to be included in the maintenance programme. All roads should be treated the same. The restrictions are not fully thought through. The Council should be fulfilling their duties and keep the roads to a high standard. He has received numerous phone calls about potholes. It is not good enough that only primary roads are considered essential. The crews are out 3 days a week, why not 5 days. He said he had spoken to Council employees and they are more than happy to be out 5 days. The Council should be back maintaining all roads. Otherwise the works will be far behind and impossible to get on top of. People are using the roads that are not up to standard. It is a shame that roads are being left to deteriorate. This must be dealt with as a matter of urgency.



**MDL136/01 RESURFACING OF ROAD FROM GARTGAN OUTDOOR CENTRE TO BIRTH PLACE OF ST. COLMCILLE**

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

**"That this Council examine and liaise to get the road at Gartan outdoor centre from the carpark to the birth place of St Colmcille resurfaced as it is in bad need of repairs."**

**Members were advised that:**

***"As this is a private road, it is not under the responsibility or the authority of the Roads & Transportation Directorate of Donegal County Council. The County Donegal Heritage Office can provide advice on heritage issues, consent required from the National Monuments Service for works in the vicinity of an archaeological monument (such as Leac na Cumha – DG044-021- ---) and possible heritage funding. Expert conservation advice and supervision would be required in the design or hard re-surfacing of roads in the vicinity of archaeological monuments and advance consent would be required from the National Monuments Service in relation to its impact on archaeological monuments. There may be opportunities for a local community group to get funding for the work under the National Monuments Service's Community Monuments Fund (that closes on April 12) or the Heritage Council's Community Heritage Grants Scheme (that closes on March 29). Both of these heritage grant schemes are highly competitive so there is no guarantee of funding. The community group will have to enlist expert conservation supervision but this can be built into project costs. The main concern will be in protecting and conserving the integrity of the archaeological monuments and heritage sites so any project would need to be carefully considered and be able to articulate the benefits for heritage."***

On proposing this motion Cllr. Kelly noted the response given that this is a private road and that Donegal County Council is not responsible for it. He asked that the Roads Section liaise with the Heritage Section and arrange an inspection of the road. The road needs to be improved and resurfaced. This is the 1500 anniversary of St. Colmcille and will attract tourists to the area if lockdown is lifted. The road is only 200 yards long. It is a shame the state that it is in.

**MDL137/01 FOOTPATH FROM KILMACRENNAN TO LOUGH SALT JUNCTION**

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

**"That Donegal County Council asks the TII to extend the footpath from the Church of Ireland in Kilmacrennan to the Lough Salt junction on the right hand side of the N56 travelling towards Creeslough."**

Members were advised that:

***“Donegal National Roads Office are currently progressing design of the N56 Doonwell to Drumbrick improvement project, As part of this project an independent active travel (cycle/ped) facility is proposed. In addition consideration will be given to extending any such facility south to the Kilmacrennan town boundary and North to the Glenveigh Junction and Termon.***

***The particular details and location of any active travel facility must be based on design standards. All projects including active travel are subject to project management and project appraisal guidelines.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride referred to the road known locally as The Grove and to the works on the road through Kilmacrennan which was badly needed. These works brought the footpath out along the Church of Ireland. There is scope to extend this footpath. The Council should ask TII to visit. A footpath and cycleway should be brought out to the end of the town. A lot of people are out walking and cycling. This is needed on the other side of the village out as far as the speed limit. He noted that works are to be done from Doonwell to Termon. This should then be extended further towards Termon. He thanked Cllr. O'Donnell for supporting his motion.

**MDL138/21 ROAD FROM KILMACRENNAN TO CHURCHILL STATION CROSSROADS**

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

**"That a full audit of the road from Kilmacrennan to the Churchill Station crossroads road be carried out by Roads identifying all the problems and that the report be circulated to all Municipal Councillors with the estimated costs included to bring this road up to a safe standard so we can include on future roads programmes."**

Members were advised that:

***“Through the Pavement Manage system Surveys are carried on all roads on a regular basis. A PSCI survey was carried out in 2019 and another survey was is due to be carried out this year . Sections of this road have been included in the Roads Restoration Maintenance and Improvement programmes over the last number of years.***

***In July 2020, 7 sections of this road were included in the 5 year priority list for applications for Specific Improvement funding. The total estimated cost of the 7 sections included in the 5 year priority list is €4 million.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Mc Bride noted that this has been raised a number of times. There is an issue with flooding in the winter time. A motion was passed before in relation to this. The sides of the road are falling away from Carrick Bridge to the Station and from Dromore to Cotteen. There is

heavy traffic, school buses and agricultural vehicles using this road. Crews have been out trying to build this road up but there is no foundation or the road is too soft. The cost of the work needs to be got and funding sought. This road should be top of the agenda. He thanked Cllr. Kelly for supporting the motion.

**MDL139/21 LEGNAHOREY ROAD**

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

**"That the Legnahorey Road is included on the next Roads Programme as the road surface is in very poor condition. This road continues to develop and also needs lay byes to ease traffic flow problems currently being experienced by local road users on a daily basis."**

**Members were advised that:**

***"We will carry out and assessment on this road and consider it for prioritizing in future funding programmes."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride stated that this is on the outskirts of Kilmacrennan. There has been a lot of development there and a lot of houses. The road surface is bad with potholes and the road cracking up. Lay byes are needed on the road due to the volume of traffic as it is not wide enough. He has spoke to Residents there who are concerned about the condition of the road. It needs to be surface dressed.

**MDL140/21 ROAD BETWEEN RAY BRIDGE AND MCADOO'S CORNER – MOSS ROAD**

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

**"That the road between Ray Bridge and Mc Adoo's corner, known locally as the Moss Road is resurfaced as a matter of priority."**

**Members were advised that:**

***"As part of the 2021 Restoration Improvement Programme that was adopted by the members in January MD meeting a sum of €89,100 was allocated to carry out restoration works on sections of this road. Additional sections of this road have severely deteriorated over the last few months and require urgent repairs. We are currently in the process of identifying funding to carry out these additional repairs. It is planned to carry out these road restoration works as soon as Covid 19 Restrictions and programming allow."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney welcomed the response given. The road is in bad shape following the frost over the past few months. The money allocated is not enough. Another €30,000 would be needed along with the €89,100 already allocated. He asked that extra money be allocated to this

road. Irish Water may dig up the road again. People travelling from Rathmullan to Milford use that road.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey noted that he was happy to support the motion. It is a busy road connecting the two areas. It needs to be looked at and something done.

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

**MDL141/21 CONTINUATION OF GREENWAY FROM PORT BRIDGE TO THE THORN**

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

**"That the Council consider continuing the Greenway from the Port Bridge along the shore by the Thorn. The Residents are inundated with walkers & cyclists and no footpath on this dark busy road."**

Members were advised that:

***"We will liaise with the Community Development section regarding consideration for inclusion as a Greenway Project as part of the current outdoor recreation strategy. With reference to footpaths and public lighting this road can be considered for inclusion in priority lists for Footpaths & public light programmes, active travel applications or other possible sources of funding."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Bradley stated that he had received calls from Residents. This is a very busy road and a footpath is needed on it. He is satisfied with the response given that the Roads Section will liaise with Community Development in relation to this.

**MDL142/21 BROADBAND FOR FATHER ARNOLD TERRACE**

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

**"That Broadband be provided for the Residents of Father Arnold Terrace, Manorcunningham as they are finding it difficult in these times not being able to work from home."**

Members were advised that:

***"The motion is noted and when adopted the issue raised will be forwarded to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications who are responsible for the roll-out of the National Broadband Plan. If the occupiers have wireless broadband we can carry out a site survey to check if there are any trees on Council lands that may be blocking the signal and can be trimmed back, if possible."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Bradley stated that the Residents had been in contact with him in relation to the problem. Trees are causing the problem. He is happy with the response given.

**MDL143/21 MCGOVERN ROAD, GLENOUGHTY CLOSE**

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

**"That this Council sort the footpaths and Road at McGovern Road Glenoughty Close."**

**Members were advised that**

***"We will carry out an assessment on the condition of these footpaths and identify what repairs are required. If additional funding is required to carry out these repairs we will consider this for prioritizing in future funding applications."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Bradley welcomed the response given. This matter has been raised by other Councillors.

David McIlwaine advised that Glenoughty Close is in the process of being taken over and the Planning Section is dealing with this.

**MDL144/21 EXTEND NORTHERN RELIEF ROAD**

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

**"That this Council working with our Roads Design Team extend the Northern Relief Road from the (Pramerica roundabout ) to continue on to the Windy Hall Road to improve the roads network in the area."**

**Members were advised that:**

***"We will liaise with the Road Design and Planning sections regarding the development of this road. In July 2020 this road was included in year 1 of the 5 year priority for applications for Specific Improvement funding."***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan asked that Road Design get involved in this to improve the design of this busy relief road. It is used by many people travelling to work and schools etc. More needs to be done with the road. Road Design should look at linking it up with the Northern Relief Road. It is a dangerous stretch of road which leads to the top of Glencar. A decent allocation is needed to address the issues.

David McIlwaine advised that he will liaise with Road Design. The work that was previously done was on the 5 year priority list.

Cllr. Brogan asked if the road is in Council ownership.

David advised that the Council do own the road.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Bradley stated that he crosses this road a lot of times a day. It is a main vein and is not adequate. It is used by school children a lot.

**MDL145/21 SAFETY BARRIER AND FLOODING ISSUES AT BALLYRAINE ROAD / BOTTOM OF GORTLEE**

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

**“That this Council address the issues of the safety barrier and flooding issues at Ballyraine Road / bottom of Gortlee ( Trio Foods ) as a matter of urgency.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“An application has been forwarded to Roads Central for funding for the provision of this Safety Barrier. We will carry out an assessment of flooding and drainage issues.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan noted that he was happy with the response given that funding is being sought for the barrier. This has been causing problems for the business there. People are walking past there every day throughout the day. It is a busy stretch of road.

**MDL146/21 RAMELTON TOWN AREA**

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

**“That this Council provide safe walking for people in Ramelton Town area.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“In the last number of years sections of footpaths have been replaced on Rectory Road, Tank Brae, Chapel Road, Church Street, Castle Street and Back Road through the Footpath and Public Lighting Programme, CIS and Active Travel Schemes. Further schemes on the Ballyarr Road, Bank Terrance and the Mall are programmed to be completed in 2020. In addition this application have been submitted to the NTA for additional future Active Travel funding within Ramelton town.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey advised that he respected the response given. The footpaths that have been replaced are footpaths that are already there. A survey of the town should be done in relation to provision of adequate support for walkers. Walkers need protection. Lighting is needed also. A walk around the town would be of benefit to not only the people from

the town but to others also. Concrete should be considered for pathways as tarmac can be slippery.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney stated that Cllr. McGarvey had outlined the matter well and he was happy to support the motion.

**MDL147/21 UPPER MOUNT MARIAN, MILFORD**

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

**“That Irish Water deal with the serious low water pressure in Upper Mount Marian, Milford.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“Irish Water are aware of the issue at Upper Mount Marrison, Milford. A request for pipe replacement of backyard services has been forwarded to Irish Water for consideration under one of Irish Water’s programmes.***

***Applications for Irish Water funding for replacement of Backyard Services is made to Irish Water Asset Planning and delivered under the Leakage Reduction Programme on approval by Irish Water.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey noted that his motion had been raised a long time ago by Cllr. Blaney. The work done is not satisfactory. The Fire Service has indicated that the water pressure is not satisfactory. There is an obligation on the Councillor to ensure that work is done. They have been receiving complaints from Residents. Irish Water had promised the work would be done but this has not been dealt with. He asked that Irish Water be contacted and asked to deal with the problem.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney agreed that he had previously raised a motion in relation to this before Irish Water took over. There is not enough pressure. There is a 3 inch cast iron pipe which is there over 60 years and is corroded. He fully supports the motion and this matter needs to be sorted.

Cllr. McGarvey thanked Cllr. Blaney for supporting his motion and hopes that this will be dealt with as soon as possible.

**MDL148/21 PIER AT RATHMULLAN**

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

**“That Donegal County Council liaise with all agencies to develop the full potential of The Pier at Rathmullan.”**

**Members were advised that:**

***“In Q4 2020, a report was submitted to the Minister of the Department of the Marine, Food and Agriculture in relation to the Pier/Harbour needs of Donegal which requested that funding opportunities be provided by the DAFM to support the Council in the development of said facilities. Rathmullan Pier is included in this report. No response has been received to date.***

***In the meantime, a dive survey has now been completed of the Rathmullan Pier pile support system and an assessment of the pier and works required to enable the current weight restriction to be removed and to provide a fit for purpose facility is underway. On completion, the report will be submitted to the DAFM for consideration.***

***The Council met with the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) in recent weeks on the designation of Rathmullan in support of the fishing industry in light of Brexit implications and has engaged with the key users in relation to the development of the Pier and its refurbishment, including the Irish Navy, the Commissioner of Irish Lights and local Fishing operators.***

***The Council will continue to liaise with all agencies to develop the full potential of the Pier at Rathmullan.”***

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey noted that cruise ships are coming in to Killybegs. Rathmullan could benefit from this if work was done to the pier. He asked for information on the survey that has been completed. He stated that this attraction should not be ignored and that it could generate activity in the area.

David McIlwaine advised that he could not expand on the response given from the Marine Section. He agreed to follow up on the request and get the information from the Marine Section for Cllr. McGarvey.

Cllr. McGarvey noted that local Engineers should be updated on surveys.

#### **MDL149/21    MAYORS BUSINESS**

Cllr. Donal Coyle noted that there have been a number of Workshops and Meetings since the last Municipal District Meeting. He hopes that Members can get back to face to face meetings and to normality soon and that the vaccine will work.

He stated the number one thing is our health and hopes that when the current lockdown is over that it will be the final one. Many people have lost their lives and many others are suffering with depression. This is affecting many people. He appealed to the public to stick it out over St. Patrick’s Day and the Easter period. There is light at the end of the tunnel and he looks forward to everything opening up again.

Cllr. Coyle offered his congratulations to Cllr. Mícheál Naughton, Councillor in the Donegal Municipal District who recently was appointed President of the



Ladies Gaelic Football Association for a 4 year term. The LGFA will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> year in existence during this 4 year term. This is a great honour and for the County. He wished him well in his role.

Cllr. McGarvey stated that he would like to be associated with congratulating Cllr. Naughton. He also wished to express his appreciation to the Medical Staff for their work during this current period. He said that cross border services should be looked at for people waiting on operations.

## **MDL150/21   CORRESPONDENCE**

### **150.1 Deputation from Letterkenny Community Centre**

Patricia McIntyre advised that she had received a request from the Letterkenny Community Centre to present their plans for the site to the Members.

Patricia suggested that this take place before the next Municipal District Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April at 1.30pm.

A discussion took place in relation to deputations generally and how long some of them are taking and whether extra time should be given. It was noted that in the Standing Orders deputations are only allowed 15 minutes to speak. This needs to be adhered to.

Cllr. Coyle asked Patricia to remind the deputation of the time constraints for their presentation. He also asked Members to adhere to limit on time for questions after a presentation.

It was agreed that the deputation would take place at 1.30pm on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

## **MDL151/21   PLANNING SERVICES**

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

Elaine McEntee noted that the report is as normal with the only additions being a recap on the workshops held with the Regeneration and Development Teams.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey asked if planning permission 19/51352 could be revisited and asked for an update on the RMR application. He asked if an SEA had been requested for both applications.

Elaine advised that further information had been sought and responded to on the RMR application. She advised that as it is a live application she cannot discuss it further in a public setting. She told Cllr. McGarvey that he could contact Geraldine to discuss the application.

Cllr. O'Donnell advised Elaine that he and some of the Members had attended a Tourism meeting recently where they had received input into what is needed.

He asked that Patricia McIntyre forward contact details of the persons who organised the meeting to Elaine. This would help make her aware of the type of applications that might be coming in. Information was provided in relation to car parks, campervan stations needed etc.

Cllr. O'Donnell thanked Elaine and Geraldine for their work during a difficult time, having Zoom calls etc.

Elaine advised that any planning applications can go through the preplanning process.

In relation to queries raised by Cllr. McGarvey, Liam Ward advised that the application for the sewerage scheme is a current application and as it is a live application it cannot be discussed in a public setting and noted that Cllr. McGarvey was advised that he could contact Geraldine in relation to same. Liam also advised that the application at Drummonaghan had been through the planning process, had been appealed and the appeal upheld. The matter rests there.

Cllr. McGarvey advised that he has drafted a letter to the Attorney General as a Regulatory body who can monitor what is being done. He had written to the Office of the Ombudsman and been advised that they have no authority in this matter.

Cllr. McMonagle referred to Motion and Question in relation to derelict sites and asked if Planning is responsible for the Derelict Sites Register. He asked why there are only 2 derelict sites in this Municipal District area. He referred also to a recent enforcement case in relation to 2 no. mobile homes which have to be removed making the occupants homeless. He understood that no evictions were to be made during the current time.

Elaine advised that Planning are responsible for the Derelict Sites Register but she is unsure as to whether it is currently being updated. She advised that the enforcement case is going through the courts and is a live matter. Her understanding is that there would be more leniencies during Covid. She advised that it would have to be taken up with the Senior Executive Planner as she is not familiar with the case.

Liam Ward confirmed that Derelict Sites is dealt with by the Planning Service in the Central Planning Unit. He noted that he was surprised that there are only 2 in this Municipal District. He wanted to flag with Members that there are operational difficulties with the legislation which is to be reviewed to make it easier to operate. He noted that the response given to Cllr. Coyle's motion didn't address the point raised. Work has been done in Housing in relation to estates and the impact on the estates. Detailed work has been done determining owners of properties and trying to get in touch with them. He advised that another update would be provided on that work. He noted that there is a need to review the approach in the County but that reviews can take time.

Cllr. McMonagle thanked Elaine and Liam for their responses. He said the enforcement case had already been through the courts and decided. He noted that he had already raised this with Carol Margey. These people now need to rehouse themselves. There are a lot of abandoned sites in the area. He asked if this is a personnel issue and if there are not enough planners. He feels the Council could be doing better.

Liam Ward acknowledged that there is a need to review the process and the legislation. Currently the owners details have to be obtained, they have to be written to and details placed on a register. Works can be carried out by the Council and then bill the owner. There is also the CPO route. Funding is needed for this and a plan for any properties that this is done for. It can be challenged. He advised that he would talk to the Senior Planner and Paul Christie in relation to this.

### **MDL152/21 ENVIRONMENT**

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

Cllr. McMonagle raised a query in relation to the River Swilly at the Oldtown Bridge. The OPW were to carry out dredging of the 3 eyes. There has been a fall in of the bank on the Oldtown side which is now blocking one of the 3 eyes. He asked for a report / update on when the work will be done. The Council need to meet with the OPW.

Joe Ferry advised that he will contact the OPW and look for feedback on the matter.

Cllr. Brogan stated that he fully supported Cllr. McMonagle in relation to this matter. A commitment was made 18 months ago with the Minister in Lifford. It is not good enough that the work has not yet been done. The OPW should be asked to meet the Municipal District Members in relation to issues in Letterkenny. They should be asked to outline their plans for challenges around the town.

Cllr. Brogan acknowledged the great work being done by Noel O'Donnell and Martin Roarty in relation to illegal dumping. A strong message needs to be put out that prosecutions will take place and that there are severe penalties. A small minority of people are dumping their rubbish. The Tidy Towns Committee has done great work and he wants to pay tribute to all the volunteers. This is an insult to them. Letterkenny had won the Tidiest Town prize in 2015/2016. Action is needed and CCTV may need to be put in to catch the offenders. This should not be tolerated, action should be taken and they should be taken to court.

Joe advised that this Department is headed by Matthew Byrne and they have been very active in relation to fly tipping. There are statistics on the number of litter fines issued and that are being paid and the number of prosecutions taking place. Case studies have been done by the Waste Regulation Team. He will request that more detail is included in the report for the next Municipal

District Meeting. Some excellent work has been done. He mentioned a group of footballers from the Ballyraine area who have done good work. Bags and litter pickers can be provided to groups. Data will be provided for the next meeting.

Cllr. Brogan asked that Matthew make a presentation to the next meeting.

Joe advised that this could be done and a countywide picture presented.

Cllr. McBride raised a question in relation to community clean ups during Covid and that some groups are not supported. A clear policy is needed for the springtime. This could be advertised in local newspapers or over the airways with a clear message as to what can be done. He noted that CCTV footage can provide top quality pictures but wondered if this can be used going forward. There could be serious implications if not.

Joe advised that there had been a legal issue in the last few days but thinks that this matter may have been resolved. He said he would try to find this out and pass on the information.

Cllr. McBride asked that this information be forwarded to all the Members. He noted that a policy on community clean ups is important.

Joe noted that the mobile litter unit have been lifting rubbish.

Cllr. McGarvey noted in relation to derelict sites that the Council have the authority to approach the owner. He asked if the Council has any control over Irish Water and what can be done in relation to the low water pressure in Mount Marian.

Joe advised that he is not involved in the issue in relation to Mount Marian and that Irish Water have a replacement programme and that Mount Marian is probably on a list like everything else. Priority is based on the number of bursts and other issues. Priorities are based on funding and cost of works. The Members can consult with Irish Water through the available channels.

Cllr. McGarvey asked if there is a contact in Donegal.

Joe advised that there is an office in Donegal Town but Irish Water decide how contact can be made with them.

Cllr. McGarvey stated that the Council have lost control.

Joe advised that the Council have a Service Level Agreement with Irish Water.

Cllr. McMonagle referred to his motion in relation to bins and signage for dog fouling and asked if the Council are in a position to increase the numbers.

Joe advised that Martin Roarty has been very active on this and will speak to him and find out what can be done.

Cllr. McMonagle advised that it is important that this is followed up on.

Cllr. O'Donnell advised that he has noticed over the lockdown that cardboard boxes are being left behind at bottle banks and wondered if a cardboard recycling bin could be provided beside them. 90% of people are using cardboard boxes to bring bottles to the banks. He has seen this at the bottle banks in Kilmacrennan, Downings and Carrigart.

Joe advised that he feels this may be a non runner as there is already a contract in place for the lorries that collect the bottles and cans. He said he would speak to those in charge of the contract but he doubts that this would be possible.

Cllr. O'Donnell stated that the boxes are creating a litter hazard. People are not adhering to bringing the boxes home with them. He knows that Letterkenny Skip Hire for example can provide different compartments for the different types of recycling items and that perhaps another compartment could be added for cardboard. Council lorries could maybe pick up the cardboard. Adding this to the service should be considered as it is costing in the long run.

Joe advised that bringing the bottles in a plastic container would be more sustainable – reuse rather than discard.

Cllr. O'Donnell stated that this is not what is happening on the ground and that the Council should try to facilitate this.

Cllr. Brogan referred to the Civic Amenity Sites run by Bryson Recycling. He asked if Joe could facilitate a presentation from them in relation to what challenges they are facing and what services they have. An update is required on how it is working for them. These sites were funded by the general public and the Council needs to know what return there is on them.

Joe advised that he will speak to those involved and see what can be provided either by Council Staff or by Bryson Recycling.

Cllr. McGarvey stated that the availability of the sites should be advertised. He noted that people are not even putting the bottles in the bank but are leaving them sitting in the cardboard boxes beside the banks.

**MDL153/21 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, I.S. & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

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

**153.1 Donegal Place Brand Initiative**

Barney advised that the launch has been put back to the end of April.

**153.2 Remote Working**

Barney advised that the final draft of the new Donegal Remote Working Strategy for Business is to be presented to the next Economic Development, IS and Emergency Services SPC in March.

### **153.3 North West Tourism Product Development Programme**

Barney advised that the NWRDG has set aside €100,000 for 15 businesses in Donegal and Derry in the next few weeks. This will be advertised. Each business will get additional support of €2,500 over the next few months between now and June. Along with a Marketing programme.

### **153.4 County by County Programme**

Barney advised that the PBS TV Channel in the USA will put out a County by County programme this week across the States which will include a 30 minute programme featuring County Donegal.

### **153.5 Local Enterprise Office**

The Local Enterprise Week has been very successful this year with 20 events. There has been a high demand for the Brexit Training Programme.

Cllr. Kavanagh thanked Barney for the report. He noted that the Trading Online Voucher Scheme had 462 applications in 2020 with funding of €1.1m. In 2021 so far there has been 63 applications receiving funding of €148,000. There has been a huge uptake. He asked if there has been any feedback from the businesses availing of this on how online trading is working for them and how trading in the future might work. Cllr. Kavanagh also noted the WiFi progress with 9 locations now installed with points there for use.

Barney McLaughlin advised that he would ask the LEO to get back to Cllr. Kavanagh in relation to the Trading Online Voucher Scheme.

Cllr. McGarvey asked if Counties Tyrone and Fermanagh are working together with Donegal for development. He also asked if there are blackspots for broadband in the County.

Barney advised that he would ask the LEO to clarify this.

Liam Ward referred to the workshop on 8<sup>th</sup> March in relation to a minor Tourism fund managed by the Economic Development Unit. Barney McLaughlin is involved in the Tourism side of this. Members should contact Francis Conaghan in relation to any projects that might avail of this.

Cllr. O'Donnell asked that the Development Fund Initiative applications be reviewed.

Liam Ward advised that this would be brought before the Plenary Council for consideration and this avenue would be open to Members.

Cllr. Kavanagh asked for update in relation to Trading Online Voucher Scheme.

Barney advised that the LEO would get back to him.

## **MDL154/21 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

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

### **154.1 Development Fund Initiative Workshop**

Francis Conaghan thanked the Members for the cooperation at the Development Fund Initiative Workshop and advised that the Minutes need to be proposed and seconded.

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael McBride and seconded by Cllr. John O'Donnell the Minutes of the Letterkenny-Milford Municipal District Development Fund Initiative Workshop held on-line on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021.

### **154.2 Rural Section**

Francis advised that the Rural Section want to have a workshop with the Members in relation to funding for schemes. They want to engage with the Members in relation to strategy. Dates proposed are either Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March or Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. It was agreed that the workshop would take place on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 10am.

### **154.3 Town Bus**

Francis asked if a date could be agreed at the next Municipal District meeting for the Town Bus workshop as they would prefer a face to face meeting. This was agreed

### **154.4 Pride of Place**

Francis advised that there would be a call out later this month for nominations for Estates, Towns & Villages etc. Members should contact Francis with any nominations.

## **MDL155/21 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

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

### **155.1 Community Involvement Schemes**

David advised that €310,837 has been allocated for Community Involvement Schemes as part of the 2021 Roads Programme. An advertisement published in January for additional applications resulted in a further 15 applications in the Letterkenny Milford MD. These will be combined with applications remaining from 2018. A workshop will be required with Members to prioritise allocation of funding.

### **155.2 2021 Roads Restoration Improvement and Maintenance Programmes**

David advised that €3.676m has been allocated to the Letterkenny / Milford MD for Restoration Improvement Schemes in 2021. This is an increase of €257,000 on 2020 allocation. There has been an increase of €84,952 on the Restoration Maintenance Programme from 2020.

Programmes agreed in January were based on 2020 funding. A workshop is needed to agree how the additional funding will be spent.

It was agreed that a workshop would be held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 starting at 10am.

David advised that he would circulate programmes to the Members prior to that. He also advised that the Budget Distribution 2021 is €10,354,834. This is similar to last year with an increase of €100,000. A detailed breakdown will be provided after the workshop for the April Municipal District Meeting.

Cllr. O'Donnell asked for an update on the Local Improvement Scheme.

David advised that there has been no confirmation of funding for this scheme. It was thought that it might be announced in March but nothing has been received yet.

Cllr. Brogan thanked David for his report. He referred to motion from Cllr. Kelly. There had been 10 days of good weather but not enough men out working on the roads. There are essential works that could be done such as draining, etc. He asked that David contact the Director of Roads in relation to this.

David advised that he shared Members concern in relation to the deterioration of the roads. He agreed to follow up on this to see if any progress can be made.

Cllr. O'Donnell referred to his role as Chair of the Roads Strategic Policy Committee. He advised that he had already mentioned this to the Director Roads at the recent SPC meeting. It was noted that the Council must lead by example during the current pandemic. Tenders should be sought for works now so that the work can be pushed forward when the men are fully back to work.

David acknowledged that only 6 months work has been done in the last 12 months and that projects will need to be prioritised.

### **MDL156/21 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES**

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

Cllr. McGarvey asked for an update on applications in the Municipal District and how many can be facilitated, how many vacant houses there are.

Cllr. McBride referred to report provided at last Housing meeting giving a breakdown of the waiting list figures. He asked for clarification on the Net figure.



Patricia advised Cllr. McGarvey that there are 1115 approved applicants. Some of these will be facilitated through casual vacancies. There are currently 26 casual vacancies. There are 29 new builds on the Long Lane. There are 30 units being acquired through Turnkey at Carnnamuggagh. Nominations have recently been sent to Respond for 14 no. houses they have available for letting.

Patricia advised Cllr. McBride that the gross need on the report is all applicants on the list including transfer applicants who are in receipt of the Housing Assistance Payment. The gross need is 1115 and the net need is 349.

Cllr. O'Donnell referred to the housing development that was to be purchased in Ramelton but fell through. He asked if the funding is still there or if it has been transferred elsewhere. He also asked if the matter could be progressed with the new owner.

Patricia advised that she will check with the Housing Capital Section and will get back with a response.

Cllr. O'Donnell asked that this be copies to all Members. He congratulated the Housing team on all the work they have been doing during lockdown.

#### **MDL157/21 FINANCE**

Patricia advised Members that documents for the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2021 have been circulated to Members. It is mandatory that the Schedule must be adopted by the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March. The Schedule should be considered by the Members who must resolve to adopt the Schedule with or without amendments. However, any amendments must be within the overall revenue budget adopted for the Council.

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney, seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh it was resolved to adopt the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2021 for the Letterkenny Milford Municipal District.

#### **QUESTIONS**

#### **MDL158/21 TRAFFIC LIGHTS ON POLESTAR ROUNDABOUT AND OTHER ROUNDABOUTS**

In answer to his question are the Council still planning on putting traffic lights on the Polestar Roundabout and other roundabouts in the town and if so is there a timeline for the work, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

*“During 2019, the Council developed a solution to manage traffic though the section of the network from the Joe Boner/Neil T Blaney junction through the Polestar Roundabout to the Creamery mini roundabout at the N56/R245 junction. The Part 8 Planning for the Letterkenny Traffic Management project was approved at the Plenary Meeting of the Council on the 20th July 2020.*

*The project will, when completed, manage the traffic along these sections of the national and regional roads in this urban area of Letterkenny, which has a designated speed limit is 50kph. The proposed works are mainly confined within the extents of the existing road cross section, with a small amount of land purchase to provide extra width where required. The scheme includes for the installation of a MOVA (“Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Actuation”) controlled traffic management system at all junctions with road widening at various locations, new signing and road lining. The works improve and extend existing shared pedestrian\cycle pathways and provide for controlled crossing points at all 4 no. junctions along with provision for a new pedestrian\cycle traffic light crossing in the vicinity of Rossan College with footpath realignment to facilitate the new layout.*

*In 2020, through funding allocated by the DoT, Donegal County Council completed some advance site clearance works, commenced acquisition of some small parcels of land and following a procurement process, purchased a MOVA controlled traffic signal system in November 2020 for the tendered cost of €336,000.*

*DoT has allocated €550,000 to the project for 2021. The civil engineering works elements of the project have been designed and construction will be completed from the Joe Boner / Neil T Blaney Junction up to but not including the Polestar roundabout as Contract 1, subject to Covid 19 restrictions. This road is a regional road and so the DoT funding is applicable. The TII has indicated support for the funding of the remaining elements of the project along the N56 including the Polestar roundabout. Separately, the N56 4 Lane Project is due to commence in Q2 2021. The remaining Traffic Management works will be considered with respect to the timing of the various phases of construction and the implementation of those works on the N56 4 Lane road*

*In summary, the Letterkenny Traffic Management Project will be constructed in phases, commencing with the Joe Boner/Neil T Blaney junction to the Polestar roundabout in 2021 and each phase will provide a benefit to the existing congestion in its own right. The Contract 1 work will also facilitate the opening of the new Joe Boner road.”*

**MDL159/21 DUMPING OF OLD PAINT**

In answer to his question are the Council going to have a day for dumping old paint any time soon, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

*“We are proposing to establish a year round collection of waste paints at each of the Council’s Recycling Centres. We are currently assessing the most suitable method of doing this while trying to achieve value for money. In tandem with this collection would be the establishment of a paint reuse scheme for non-hazardous water based paints where paints suitable for reuse would be donated, stored and redistributed to local community groups or an identified social enterprise. We are also working with the Rediscovery Centre on the viability of establishing a paint reuse social enterprise in the local area and are part of working group on paint reuse with other LA’s.”*

**MDL160/21 UPDATE ON PROVISION OF SEATS**

In answer to his question requesting an update on progress on the two seats which DCIL and the Credit Union agreed to purchase as per his previous motion, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised:

*"We have been in contact with these groups and are in the process of agreeing a method of procurement and suitable locations for the seats."*

**MDL161/21 PUBLIC LIGHTS IN MILFORD**

In answer to his question when will the public lights be put up on infill section on way to Lidl from Milford town, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised:

*"These works were programmed to be completed in the early part of 2021 but due to the Lockdown we have been unable to complete these works. We will programme to carry out these works when Covid restrictions allow."*

**MDL162/21 WALKWAY FROM ILLISTRIN TO MOUNTAIN TOP**

In answer to his question when will work commence on the new walkway from Illistrin to the Mountain Top, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised:

*"It is expected that work will commence on this Scheme before the end of Q2 2021 subject to TII approvals and Covid 19 Restrictions applicable at that time."*

**MDL163/21 DISABLED CAR PARKING BAY IN CARRIGART**

In answer to his question when will the disabled car parking bay be installed at the chemist in Carrigart, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised:

*"This work was due to be completed but has been delayed due to Covid Restrictions. We will programme to carry out these works when Covid restrictions allow."*

**MDL164/21 WORK ON THE FOUR LANE CARRIAGEWAY**

In answer to his question requesting a definitive date for commencement of work on the Four Lane Carriageway, Cllr. Donal Coyle was advised:

*"The contractor appointment process is still ongoing as well as appointment of Site Management Team and closeout of all deliverables under project appraisal, project management, public spending code etc. for approval by TII."*

*It is not reasonable or feasible to set a specific date on the completion of all these elements only that they are imminent and that we would hope to see commencement on site in the coming months."*

**MDL165/21 LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME APPLICATIONS**

In answer to his question requesting that members be furnished with the criteria used in determining Local Improvement Scheme applications, Cllr. Donal Coyle was advised:

*“Local Improvement Schemes are determined in accordance with attached document that was issued by the Department of Rural and Community Development in April 2020.”*

**MDL166/21 DERELICT SITE REGISTER FOR LETTERKENNY/MILFORD MD**

In answer to his question how many Buildings, abandoned houses, Parcels of Lands etc. are registered on our Derelict Site Register for Letterkenny/Milford Municipal District, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

*“There are currently two sites on the Derelict Sites Register for the Letterkenny-Milford MD area (please see details below), although site DS 121(L) is due to be taken off the list due to a new development on-site.*

*In the broader context, the limited capacity of the Council to prioritise the use of the provisions of the Derelict Sites legislation has been noted in previous responses to MD motions and questions. That said, the significance of the issue is fully acknowledged. To that end, the Planning Section did carry out a comprehensive survey of derelict sites in Letterkenny town centre in and around 2019/2020. The survey identified a range of potential sites/concentrations of such properties including: Lower Main Street; Main Street; Former ESB site; Former Model Bakery site; Former Bacon Factory; and other individual sites around the broader town centre. This worked was a valuable resource in informing the successful funding applications to the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), and the work now being progressed under the Regeneration Strategy. The derelict sites survey has also benefited the Letterkenny Plan project with, for example, the Former Model Bakery moving towards zoning as an Opportunity site (as discussed at recent workshops).”*

**LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

<b>DS Ref.</b>	<b>Built Heritage Class</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Owner</b>
DS 110 (L)		Ballyare, Ramelton.	Paddy Coyle (Deceased)
DS 121 (L)		Tamney, Fanad.	Sheila Shields

**MDL167/21 HOUSES AT FAIRGREEN HILL**

In answer to his question can the houses at Fairgreen Hill be considered for Painting, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

*“The Council will shortly be putting in place the External Painting Programme for Social Housing 2021 and Fairgreen Hill will be considered for inclusion in the Programme.”*

**MDL168/21 WORK FOR RESIDENTS OF LITIR ARD**

In answer to his question requesting an update on the work agreed to be carried out by Council for the Residents of Litir Ard, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised:

*“The Council met with representatives of the Leitir Ard estate in August 2020 and a number of issues were raised by the residents. The Council agreed to tidy up the seating areas (at the front of the estate and the area near the green) and to arrange for the removal of bushes from the main green areas.*

*The residents were also seeking a multi-purpose surface on part of the green area with fencing and the Council is still exploring how best to have these works carried out. The residents also requested speed ramps be installed. However, due to the excessive widths of the roadway, ramps are not considered an option. However, the Council did agree to explore the option of having appropriate signage erected at the location.*

*The residents requested dog litter bins be provided near the estate and this request was forwarded to colleagues in the Environment at the time.”*

**MDL169/21 FUNDING FOR WALKWAY AND CYCLING FACILITY FROM CONWALL GRAVEYARD TO NEWMILLS CORN AN FLAX**

In answer to his question has the application been submitted to seek funding for a Walkway and cycling facility from Conwall Graveyard to Newmills Corn and Flax following his recent motion, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

*“We have carried out a preliminary assessment and costing for the construction of a Walkway and Cycling facility from Conwall Graveyard to Newmills Corn and Flax mills. A request has been submitted for this project to be considered for an Active Travel funding application.”*

**MDL170/21 SAFETY BARRIER ON R251 ACROSS FROM CHURCHILL QUARRIES**

In answer to his question has this Council made any further progress regarding the erection of a new safety barrier on the R251 across the road from Churchill Quarries, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

*“An application for funding for this section of barrier has been submitted to Roads Central. We are awaiting a response regarding this application.”*

**MDL171/21 DOG LITTERING SIGNS AND BINS IN KILLYLASTIN AREA**

In answer to his question requesting that this Council supply and erect Dog littering signs and Bins in the Killylastin area from the Service Station to Ghleann Rua and Solomons areas, Cllr. Donal Kelly was advised:

*“The Council’s Litter Wardens have erected dog fouling signage in a number of areas around Letterkenny in recent weeks, and it is planned to erect more signage including in the areas mentioned here. The Council’s awareness campaign on dog fouling promotes “Any Bag Any Bin” therefore dog waste can be disposed of in any litter bin or disposal bin.”*

**MDL172/21 SAFETY MEASURES AT CROSSROADS AT THE GAP IN MILFORD**

In answer to his question being that the funding is now in place for the Safety Measures at the crossroads at the Gap in Milford, when is it envisaged these works will be completed, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

*“An allocation of €30,000 had been issued by the Department of Transport to carry out Safety Works at this location. An initial design has been prepared by Road Design and this currently being reviewed. It is programmed to commence the construction works on this project in September 2021.”*

**MDL173/21 PUBLIC LIGHTING AND UPGRADING OF FOOTPATH FROM ESB SUBSTATION TO MILFORD**

In answer to his question when will the Public Lighting and the upgrading of the Footpath from the ESB Substation towards the Town in Milford be completed, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

*“These works were programmed to be completed in the early part of 2021 but due to the Lockdown we have been unable to complete these works. We will programme to carry out these works when Covid restrictions allow.”*

**MDL174/21 PATHWAY TO THE GREAT ARCH AND CAR PARK IN POLLETT, FANAD**

In answer to his question requesting an update on what progress has been made on the construction of the pathway to the Great Arch and the Car Park in Pollett, Fanad, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised:

*“Donegal Co Co has completed tender for works, mobilisation to site by contractor has been delayed due to finalising of matters with landowners. Anticipated that construction can commence on easing of COVID-19 Level 5 restrictions.”*

**MDL175/21 ROADS ALLOCATION FOR LETTERKENNY MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

In answer to his question requesting a breakdown of our recent roads allocation for Letterkenny MD in the areas of specific improvements and safety improvements and a timeframe for the works programme, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

*“With reference to the 2021 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads funding that has been received from the Department of Transport, the following Safety Schemes have received funding in the Letterkenny Milford MD.*

- 1. The Junction between the R245 and the L1242/1 at the Gap in Milford Allocations received €30,000.*
- 2. L5154/1 Wood Road and L1054/1 Carrygawley Crossroads Allocations received €20,000.*
- 3. L1352/4 & L1412/2 Ballyare Crossroads Allocations received €17,000.*
- 4. L1114 Leck Road Crossroads Allocations received €20,000.*

*The design works on these projects are currently being completed and it is programmed to have all these projects commenced by September 2021.*

*The Letterkenny Milford MD has received the following Specific Improvement Funding.*

*The Polestar Roundabout and Junctions Allocation Received €550,000. This allocation is to carry out phase 1 of this project. The civil engineering works elements of the project have been designed and construction will be completed from the Joe Boner / Neil T Blaney Junction up to but not including the Polestar roundabout as Contract 1. The programming of these works are dependant on COVID 19 restrictions. The Contract 1 work will also facilitate the opening of the new Joe Boner road.*

*Former National Roads Allocation received €350,000. This allocation is to fund the resurfacing of the R229 road from the Hospital Roundabout to the Pramerica Roundabout. These works are currently being tendered and when the Contractor is appointed the timing of the works will be programmed.*

*Strategic Regional & Local Roads Allocation received €100,000. This is allocation is for design works and appointing a Consultant for the Southern Relief Road.”*

#### **MDL176/21 TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES IN LISNEANNAN AND MANORCUNNINGHAM**

In answer to his question requesting an updated report on the traffic calming measures to be put in place in Lisneannan and Manorcunningham and a timeframe for the works, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

*“The Speed tables at Manorcunningham were programmed to be completed but this has been delayed due COVID 19 restrictions. These works will be completed when restrictions allow.*

*We will refer the Traffic calming issues at Lisnennan to the Road Safety Engineer to carry out an assessment and provide a recommendation.”*

#### **MDL177/21 COLLEGE FARM ROAD**

In answer to his question requesting an updated report on the takeover of road in College Farm Road and when this will be finally addressed, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised:

*“In accordance with the Donegal County Council Draft Policy on the creation of Public Roads “A public right of way must exist prior to commencing the process”. In relation to the College Farm Road, we have not yet been successful in establishing the public right of way, which must be declared by each of the PRAI registered land owners.”*

**MDL178/21 LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME**

In answer to his question is there a Local Improvement Scheme this year, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

*“There has been no announcement from the Department regarding funding for Local Improvement schemes in 2021. When and if we receive confirmation of funding we will notify the Members.”*

**MDL179/21 REPAIRS TO ROADS SERVING A GROUP OF HOUSES**

In answer to his question requesting can Roads carry out some repair to roads serving a group of houses that are in bad condition, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

*“Roads Section are responsible for all roads on the Roads Schedule. There is currently no funding available for the repair or maintenance of private roads.”*

**MDL180/21 ROAD SERVING MILFORD WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

In answer to his question will this Council demand that Irish Water carry out the repair to this Road serving the Milford Water Treatment Plant that has been destroyed due to the heavy Traffic to and from the Plant, this has been referred to previously, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

*“Remedial works to the access road have commenced and will continue at Area level. Irish water funding may not be attainable for full remediation.”*

**MDL181/21 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 in a venue to be confirmed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Mayor

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Meetings Administrator



