

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING,
HELD IN THE MILFORD PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE, MILFORD ON
TUESDAY, 9th FEBRUARY, 2016 AT 2PM**

MDL 48/16 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. Liam Blaney
Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr. Michael Mc Bride
Cllr. James Pat McDaid
Cllr. Ian Mc Garvey
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
Cllr. John O'Donnell
Cllr. Mick Quinn

MDL 49/16 OFFICIALS PRESENT

Liam Ward, Director of Service
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate & Housing Services
Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Frances Friel, Staff Officer
Ciaran Martin, Community & Enterprise
Conal Mc Gettigan, A/Senior Executive Planner
Suzanne Tinney, Waste Regulation Officer, Environment

The meeting was chaired by Mayor, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle

MDL 50/16 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Kavanagh seconded by Cllr. M. Mc Bride the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 12th January, 2016 were adopted.

Matters Arising:

Cllr. L. Blaney referred to discussion at January Meeting regarding issues with regard to the Aghadachor Group with Cllr. G. Mc Monagle advising that he would make contact directly with the Group to seek clarification etc. In this regard, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle advised that he made contact with the Chairperson of the Group but that no response had been received to date.

MDL 51/16 BRIDGE LIGHTING

On the proposal of Cllr. I. Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney the following motion was adopted;

That Donegal County Council provide lighting on Ray Bridge, Ramelton / Rathmullan at the two junctions, Drumherville and to Glenalla.

The Members were informed that;

The Municipal District of Letterkenny would review along with the various other requests for the erection of public lighting. There was currently no Programme for erection of new lighting. In the event that funding was identified, it was likely that prioritisation would go to the locations identified in the various workshops on public lighting held recently by members.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to the safety issues which could be addressed with proper lighting. F. Doherty, Area Manager advised that he would revert back with quotations for lights at these locations.

MDL 52/16 POLICY – USA INDIVIDUAL COMING TO LIVE IN IRELAND

On the proposal of Cllr. I. Mc Garvey seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell the following motion was adopted;

That this Municipal District request a review of Policy that prevents an individual from the USA setting up a home here unless they can prove an Income of €50,000 each – 2 people €100,000.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to recent discussion on local radio and the current policy that required those returning from USA and setting up a home here to have an income of €50,000.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell outlined the need to lower the threshold.

L. Ward, Director advised that 2 options were available namely; (1) Submit motion again to Plenary Council or (2) Municipal District write to the Department of Justice.

MDL 53/16 WARNING SIGNS - BRIDGES

On the proposal of Cllr. I. Mc Garvey seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney, the following motion was adopted;

That this Municipal District provides forward warning on approach to bridges in the County to assist approaching motorist, particularly tourists for safety reasons.

The Members were informed that

Roads would review signage at known narrow bridges, with a view to erecting signage where appropriate.

MDL 54/16 DUAL CARRIAGE WAY

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid, seconded by Cllr. M. Mc Bride, the following motion was adopted;

That this Council write to the NRA/TII asking emergency funds to be provided for the dual carriage way entering Letterkenny. This road is deteriorating rapidly and carries a huge volume of traffic leading in and out of Letterkenny.

The Members were informed that;

There was ongoing representation to the TII, at senior level in the roads section in relation to the dual carriageway on the N13, and the requirement to resurface.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid welcomed the recent resurfacing works but referred to the urgent need for resurfacing.

MDL 55/16 BRIDGES – MEENROY ROAD

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid seconded by Cllr. M. Quinn, the following motion was adopted;

That this Council source funding for both Bridges which are very unsafe in Meenroy Road(R250) , these bridges are both built on very dangerous bends and are very unsafe with having no parapets. These Bridges are being talked about for years and it looks like nothing is going to be done until there is a fatal accident.

The Members were informed that;

Further replacement of the parapets on both bridges was on the Programme of works for completion in the short term. However the long term widening or replacement of one or both bridges was beyond the budgetary capabilities of the MDL, and should be referred to Plenary Council.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid outlined that he had previously brought this motion to the Council but that no effort had been made to make safe.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. M. Quinn also referred to replacement of parapets not a viable solution with the real issue being inadequate funding to deal with issues like this.

MDL 56/16 **RESIDENTS PARKING**

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell, the following motion was adopted;

That this Council engage with residents in estates in and around Letterkenny that are having difficulty getting parking at their own home with a view to erecting signage and residents passes.

The Members were informed that;

Resident passes were only applicable where pay parking was in operation. Outside of such areas, it was not possible to grant exclusive parking privileges along the public road. Whilst signs had been erected in a number of residential locations in the past, these are advisory only, and there were currently no plans for further erection of others.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. C. Brogan referred to difficulties in areas such as Mc Clure's Terrace on the High Road, Ard O'Donnell and estates around the Hospital area. Cllr. C. Brogan asked that the Council engage with residents in these areas as residents need to be able to park in front of their houses.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. O'Donnell outlined that this was a common problem in estates in general, referring to households with 2 cars etc. Cllr. J. O'Donnell asked that the Council look at areas where perhaps extra parking could be put in and disability bays if required. Cllr. J. O'Donnell asked that the Council carry out a survey in all estates and recommended 1 or 2 disabled bays within each estate.

MDL 57/16 **LITTER BINS**

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan seconded by Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid, the following motion was adopted;

I propose that this Council purchase more new bins. A number of damaged bins in Letterkenny have been replaced in the recent past.

The Members were informed that;

A number of damaged bins in Letterkenny were in the process of being replaced.

This was welcomed by Cllr. Brogan

MDL 58/16 **LETTERKENNY URBAN TRANSPORT STUDY**

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan seconded by Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid, the following motion was adopted;

I propose that our Road Design team revisit the LUTS study with a view to addressing current traffic movements around Letterkenny.

The Members were advised that;

The findings of the Letterkenny Urban Transport Study, identified a number of major infrastructural requirements that are required to address current traffic movements in Letterkenny, with funding representing the reasons why these have not been implemented. Roads continue to strive to address traffic movements within the resources available. Updating of the LUTS study could be carried out on an 'as required' basis, in tandem with identified funding streams.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. C. Brogan referred to the LUTS Study commissioned by the former Letterkenny Town Council and where the Bonagee Link was identified as the most important project to address traffic situation in Letterkenny. Cllr. C. Brogan asked that the Council relook at this study and look at solutions particularly in relation to morning traffic in the Mountain Top area and Glencar area. Cllr. C. Brogan asked that Road Design revert back in this regard.

F. Doherty, Area Manager advised that he would refer this matter back to Road Design but outlined the need to identify a funding stream in order for measures to be put in place.

Cllr. C. Brogan asked that Road Design meet the Council to relook at the LUTS Study referring to the need to rezone lands etc.

MDL 59/16 FLOODING – OLD DERRY ROAD

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Mc Bride, seconded by Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid, the following motion was adopted;

That the flooding problem on the Old Derry Road adjacent to Letterkenny Glass be investigated and a workable solution put in place as soon as possible.

The Members were informed that;

Roads will investigate with a view to establishing feasible solutions.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to the massive problem of flooding in the area and if the Council could investigate and deal with issue in the short-term to make it safe for residents.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. J. Pat urged that the Council address the issue as soon as possible.

F. Doherty, Area Manager advised that Roads Section have investigated the area and a solution has been identified. An application for funding has been submitted to the Department.

MDL 60/16 BACK LANE – ROSEMOUNT, KILMACRENNAN

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Mc Bride seconded by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey, the following motion was adopted;

That the back lane between the front row of cottages and the middle row in Rosemount, Kilmacrennan be resurfaced as a matter of urgency due to it's poor surface.

The Members were informed that;

The Restoration Improvement Programme having been agreed by members, there was currently no other budget for resurfacing works on public roads. Members may include for agreement in the 2017 RI Programme.

MDL 61/16 WILD ATLANTIC WAY

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Mc Bride, seconded by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey the following motion was adopted;

That the Municipal District call a meeting of interested parties with a view to creating a second loop from the Wild Atlantic Way starting in Letterkenny taking in Newmills, Churchill, Gartan, Derryveagh, Glenveagh, Dunlewey, Doon Well and Kilmacrennan, with a view to promoting our natural assets, history and promoting our business community along the route while generating more business for our hotels and shops and the business community in Letterkenny.

The Members were informed that;

The Council would liaise on this motion with Failte Ireland, who were co-ordinating all Wild Atlantic Way initiatives in the County.

On proposing the motion Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to the success of the Mulroy Drive Loop and that Bord Failte were in favour of taking loops off the main Wild Atlantic Way. Cllr. M. Mc Bride outlined that this gave visitors an opportunity to stay in the area extra nights to travel the loops within Donegal and also supported local businesses and rate payers. Cllr. M. Mc Bride also referred to the opportunity to arrange bus routes from Letterkenny 2-3 days per week during the Summer months.

MDL 62/16 CATHEDRAL QUARTER

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Mc Monagle seconded by Cllr. M. Quinn the following motion was adopted;

That this Council formally set up a link with the Church Lane Group to actively promote and work with them towards their vision for a

Cathedral Quarter to be established to help promote tourism and regeneration of Letterkenny Main Street and it's environs.

The Members were advised that;

The Local Authority had engaged with the group since their inception and had delivered support, both financial and guidance to the group. The Development Officer would again meet with the group to identify any further support that may be needed.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to the recent presentation to the Council outlining that the Committee would like to see a formalised link with the Council. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle advised that the group were seeking the expertise of the Council in guidance and in order to source funding

On seconding the motion, Cllr. M. Quinn referred to the great potential this project has for the town and the wider Municipal District.

L. Ward, Director acknowledged the large number of groups/organisations within the Municipal District but that the Council would be happy to engage further with the group as requested.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to the group's desire to raise the project to another level and welcomed the continued support of the Council.

MDL 63/16 RESURFACING – MOYLE VIEW, MILFORD

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Mc Monagle seconded by Cllr. M. Quinn the following motion was adopted;

That this Council puts the resurfacing of the road in front of the houses at Moyle View, Milford on Roads Maintenance Programme.

The Members were informed that;

The Restoration Improvement Programme having been agreed by members, there was currently no other budget for resurfacing works on public roads. Members may include for agreement in the 2017 RI Programme.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to a section of the road that was widened but was not finished property.

F. Doherty, Area Manager advised that he would investigate and revert back in this regard.

MDL 64/16 CIRCULAR ROAD

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Mc Monagle seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney, the following motion was adopted;

That we get Road Design and the Council's Road Safety Officer to look at the traffic flow on the Circular Road Letterkenny to assess the

request from local residents for further Traffic Calming measures along this busy road especially near the junctions of Long Lane and Muckish Ave.

The Members were informed that;

This would be referred to Road Design, to establish the requirement or not of further traffic calming measures.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle outlined that this was a very busy road and referred to 3 recent accidents at bottom of Long Lane area. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle referred to the need to relook at this junction and also referred to the serious problem with water on the Circular Road. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle asked that the Council look at the Circular Road in its entirety.

F. Doherty, Area Manager advised that he would refer the matter to Road Design and assess according to accident statistics. He further advised that the issue with water had previously been looked at and not considered a major concern but that the matter would be further examined. The Members were also advised that the Council are talking to Irish Water re works on Circular Road.

MDL 65/16 BUS SHELTER – ERRIGAL COLLEGE

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr. M. Mc Bride, the following motion was adopted;

That the Council work with Errigal College with a view to providing a bus shelter at the school.

The Members were informed that;

Roads will liaise with the College regarding details, and requirement for a bus shelter. At this moment in time there is no identified budget for providing bus shelters.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh outlined that this matter had been discussed previously and that the College has raised the matter again. Cllr. J. Kavanagh asked that the Council liaise with the School Principal and see if something could be agreed between the Council and the School.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. M. Mc Bride also referred to the need for a bus shelter at the school and the possibility of a lay-by for the buses.

MDL 66/16 ACCESSIBLE TO BUSINESSES

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Kavanagh seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney, the following motion was adopted;

That the Council calls on businesses in the area to make their premises accessible to people of all abilities.

The Members were informed that;

Building Regulations 2010, Technical Guidance Document M, Access and Use deals with accessibility of premises.

Section 0.1 of TGD M states that,

'The requirements of Part M (M1-M4) aim to ensure that regardless of age, size or disability :

- (a) new buildings other than dwellings are accessible and useable;*
- (b) extensions to existing buildings other than dwellings are where practicable, accessible and useable;*
- (c) material alterations to existing buildings other than dwellings increase the accessibility and usability of existing buildings where practicable;*
- (d) certain changes of use to existing buildings other than dwellings increase the accessibility and usability of existing buildings where practicable, and*
- (e) new dwellings are visitable.'*

It is not a requirement for businesses to retrospectively make their premises accessible.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. J. Kavanagh outlined that the issue had been raised by a number of people and asked that businesses etc upgrade their access for those with disabilities and the elderly. Cllr. J. Kavanagh asked that the Council highlight the matter and that businesses concerned look at their own premises in terms of access etc.

MDL 67/16 COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney, seconded by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey, the following motion was adopted;

That this Municipal District supports the reversal of recent decision in relation to Long Term Residential Nursing Care at Ramelton Community Hospital.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. L. Blaney referred to recent announcement to build a Community Hospital in Letterkenny but that this should not be at the loss of Stranorlar, Ramelton and Lifford. Cllr. L. Blaney outlined that it was imperative that Ramelton Community Hospital be kept as a long-term stay and requested a meeting with the HSE.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey outlined the importance of Ramelton Community Hospital. Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to upcoming meeting on Saturday re St. Joseph's Hospital in Stranorlar and if a meeting could be arranged with the Minister re the 3 Nursing homes in the area.

Cllr. C. Brogan, as a Member of the Regional Health Forum, outlined that it should not be a case of Letterkeny versus Ramelton/Stranorlar

referring to the need for a community hospital in Letterkenny. However, Cllr. C. Brogan acknowledged that capital investment into Ramelton and Stranorlar Hospitals was needed.

MDL 68/16 **MAYOR'S BUSINESS**

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle congratulated Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce on reaching €1.1m in gift card sales 2 months after launching.

MDL 69/16 **REQUEST FOR DEPUTATION**

Cllr. L. Blaney referred to request from Rathmullan Residents to meet with the Members of the Municipal District at their March Meeting re Swilly Ferry etc. It was agreed that the deputation could attend the next meeting of the Municipal District at 1.30pm in the Letterkenny Municipal District.

MDL 70/16 **CORRESPONDENCE**

L. Ward, Director advised that he attended the recent announcement of Letterkenny's success in the Designated Urban Grants Scheme as previously outlined. A formal letter of grant agreement had been received and a letter of acceptance would be returned to the North West Regional Assembly. This was welcomed by the Members.

Cllr. M. Mc Bride referred to the initiative taken by Pramerica and United Healthcare in providing Shop LK Vouchers to their employees totalling €250,000. Cllr. M. Mc Bride outlined the great potential to retain spending in the Letterkenny area.

MDL 71/16 **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

C. Mc Gettigan, Planning briefed Members in relation to report previously circulated which included;

1. Summary of Planning Applications for the District
2. Appeals (Received & Decisions Notified)
3. Significant Cases (incl. Transboundary applications)
4. Other cases types (Part 8's etc)
5. Unfinished Housing Developments

The contents of the report were noted by the Members.

MDL 72/16 **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

S. Tinney, Waste Regulation Officer briefed Members on contents of report previously circulated with updates on the following;

1. Waste Enforcement Report – 1044 complaints in 2015. 87% closed by end of year. 15 Warning Letters issued, 135 Fixed Penalty Notices.
2. Civic Amenity Sites – 6 locations
3. Waste Awareness – Preparing for Spring Summer Clean ups.
4. Beaches – Applications submitted for 13 Beaches for Blue Flag status and further 5 beaches for Green Coast status to An Taisce
5. Coastal Erosion – OPW carrying out a study on North West Coast which will be of particular interests to Donegal County Council in considering coastal flood and erosion hazards.

MDL 73/16 **COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE**

C. Martin briefed the Members on contents of report previously circulated with the following items noted;

1. Fanad Lighthouse – scheduled to open in February. Site visit for Councillors to be arranged
2. Donegal Marathon – roll out of public relations plan
3. Educate Together Primary School – Complete Purchase of site
4. Playgrounds – Maintenance Company to continue work on the various playgrounds
5. Donegal Walks and Trails – Dependent on funding from the Recreation Scheme
6. Public Participation Network – County Plenary AGM to be held on 9th March, 2016
7. Donegal Gathering - Website stats included
8. Go Visit Donegal – Stats included
9. IPB Pride of Place 2016 – Closing date 25th March 2016
10. Junior Achievement – New volunteers required
11. Local Development Strategy (Leader) – submitted for consideration on 26th January 2016

MDL 74/16 **ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION**

F. Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation briefed Members in relation to content of his report previously circulated. Report included the following updates;

1. 2016 Regional and Local Grant Allocations

The Members were advised that Appendix 1 contained roads grant allocations to Donegal and noted that the County RI and RM allocations were the same as last year. Plenary Council to decide whether this would be allocated to MD's on a "per km" basis or

whether former Town Councils with low kms be allocated a block allowance before allocation of remainder on a “per km” basis.

2. Agreement of 2016 RM Programme

A brief discussion followed and on the proposal of Cllr. J. O’Donnell seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle the Members adopted the 2016 Restoration Maintenance Programme as detailed in Appendix 2.

3. MDL Bridge Strengthening Prioritisation List 2016

The Members were advised that following the recent flooding events Road Design carried out re-inspections of the top 13 ranking bridges from the 2015 MDL Bridge Strengthening priority list prior to agreement with Members. No funding for bridge strengthening had been confirmed as yet but it was anticipated that budget would be the same as previous years in the sum of €50,000 per Municipal District. It was likely that this may cover strengthening on up to 3 bridges, and as per Road Designs report the following were recommended;

1. Bridge No 7295 at Gortnastraw
2. Bridge No 153, Glentidaly
3. Bridge no 7252, Tirhomin

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Mc Bride, seconded by Cllr. J. O’Donnell, the Members adopted the above prioritisation list for the Bridge Strengthening application.

Cllr. J. O’Donnell referred to land at Carrigart in which landowner was willing to give land for footpath with businesses and landowner willing to do the works. He outlined that the only cost would be materials. F. Doherty, Area Manager advised that the area in question was in a Special Area of Conservation and an appropriate assessment and a Part 8 was required. Two thirds of proposed footpath was in an S.A.C. and no funding identified for the “Appropriate Assessment. No work can be carried out until Part 8 was completed.

MDL 75/16 HOUSING AND CORPORATE SERVICES

E. Kelly, Area Manager briefed Members on contents of report previously circulated and noted the following items;

1. Various Issues
2. Progress Report – Grants
3. Progress Report – Loans
4. Progress Report – Casual Vacancies

Housing Stock

There were currently 1,282 housing units owned and 1,362 housing units maintained by the Council in the Municipal District of Letterkenny.

Fairgreen Hill

Remedial work ongoing at a 5 no. houses and was expected to be completed by the end of January, however work was delayed due to the weather. Contractor waiting for appropriate weather to complete the 5 houses underway and commence work on two further houses.

Long Term Leasing.

Applications are being assessed on an ongoing basis. 86 houses had been leased in the Letterkenny EA to-date and 5 under consideration.

R.A.S.

There were currently 123 Rent Supplement Recipients who had transferred to R.A.S. in the Letterkenny E.A.

Housing Assistance Payment (H.A.P.).

H.A.P. was introduced in Donegal for all new housing applicants who did not previously get Rent Supplement from 25th May 2015. Since 14th September the Council was dealing with applications from applicants on Rent Supplement moving accommodation and transferring them to H.A.P. The Council had also commenced an agreed phased transfer for all remaining applicants on Rent Supplement to H.A.P. with the intention that all applicants on Rent Supplement were transferred to H.A.P. within two years. 297 Rent Supplement Recipients had been contacted to transfer to HAP and 171 had been transferred at this time.

To date 331 HAP applications had been approved and 8 were being processed.

Donegal County Council Offers / Vacancies 2016

3 Offers issued to date

2 Refusals

1 pending

4 awaiting response

2 Vacancies occurred to date this year

Voluntary Housing Tenancies

Apex Housing Association	62 units
Aras Cois Locha	4 units
Cluid Housing Association	32 units
NW Simon Housing	39 units
Oaklee Housing Association	58 units
S.T.E.E.R.	58 units

2015 House Purchases

Five purchases being processed.

House Extensions

Work commenced on 12th October 2015 on extension in Carrigart.

Voluntary Housing.

Anvers Housing Association, Loughnagin, Letterkenny.

Construction completed.

STEER Housing Association.

A number of other applications from STEER have obtained approval in principle from the Department and were being progressed by STEER. 15 additional Units allocated in December/January.

Cluid Housing Association

Application received provisional approval from Department and being progressed by Cluid. Five houses allocated in December/January.

Oaklee Housing Association

Application received provisional approval from Department and being progressed by Oaklee.

A.P.E.X.

A.P.E.X. in consultation with the H.S.E. and the Council regarding an application in Letterkenny.

Donegal Fabric Up-Grade Programme 2013

Work has been completed on 502 houses to date. Work was completed in December 2015 on 87 houses in Carrigart, Kilmacrennan and Milford. A further 40 houses were to be advertised shortly for the next phase of the project.

Social Housing Investment Programme- SHIP 2015-2020

Project Appraisal & Permission to Proceed to Design Stage submitted to the Department for 30 housing units on Council owned land at Long Lane, Letterkenny. The site is circa 2.8 acres and located between Ard na Rí and Manor View.

The lands were zoned as “Primarily Residential” in the 2009-2015 Letterkenny

& Environs Development Plan; however this site was re-zoned in Variation

No.2 June 2013 of the plan as “Primary Residential” “PR7”. Further information on the project forwarded to the Department on the 29th October 2015.

It is proposed to begin clearing the site in the near future. Expressions of interest were sought from landowners for parcels of land they would be willing to sell for development of social housing in the Letterkenny area with a closing date of 16th October, 2015.

Eight submissions were received and a panel was set up to evaluate the submissions received. Two submissions were selected for further consideration; one submission was subsequently withdrawn and remaining submission currently being assessed.

Housing Engineer

E. Kelly, Area Manager advised that Brendan Ferguson had replaced John Mc Carron as Housing Engineer. It was agreed that contact number for Brenda would be forwarded to each Member.

H.A.P. Inspections

The Members were also advised that condition of H.A.P. properties were self certified by the Letting Agent/Landlord but Council must inspect properties within 8 months. Council can then serve Improvement Notice/Prohibition Notice depending on the condition of the property. A member of staff had been appointed to carry out these inspections and inspections on other rented properties.

Tenant Purchase Scheme

Cllr. L. Blaney queried the new Tenant Purchase Scheme with E. Kelly, Area Manager advising that the Department were currently finalising application form and explanatory leaflet. It was hoped that documentation would be finalised by early March 2016.

Maintenance Issues

Cllr. L. Blaney also referred to the issue of front doors warping in the Ard Na Glas estate in Kilmacrennan and asked that the Council look into this.

MDL 76/16 STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

In answer to his question as to when will the Strategic Development Fund money be announced so people can start applying for it, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

The Strategic Development Fund would be advertised in the coming weeks along with associated details on how to access application forms, closing dates etc.

MDL 77/16 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

In answer to his question if Councillors can be selective in the Meetings they attend, if so under what criteria, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

It was a matter for each Councillor to determine which meetings they propose to attend. Each Councillor was entitled to receive a Monthly Allowance to cover the cost of attendance at statutory meetings such as Meeting of the Plenary Council, Municipal District Meetings, Strategic Policy Committee Meetings, Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and Joint Policing Committee Meetings. In the event that a Councillor fails to attend the required 80% of statutory committee meetings, the Monthly Allowance was reduced accordingly.

MDL 78//16 BARRIER – RAMELTON

In answer to his question if the Council would erect a barrier on the Burnside Road Ramelton above The Steeples and just before Mary Kerrs entrance for safety as this was a corner where cars end up in the field on occasion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

Roads would investigate with a view to establishing feasible solutions.

MDL 79/16 MASS ROCK

In answer to his question if the Council would Council carry out works to the road to the Mass Rock at Aughtelin which is in poor state at present, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

This road was a private road over which the Council had no remit.

MDL 80/16 ROAD JUNCTION - GARTAN

In answer to his question if this Council could put road markings in the junction in Gartan where the Lough Akibbon bar used to be, traffic and mainly tourists get confused at this junction as they are unaware of which road is the main road leading to Churchill. This would also leave the junction much safer for road users and pedestrians, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

Roads would investigate and line appropriately.

MDL 81/16 ERRIGAL COLLEGE – BUS SHELTER

In answer to his question if the Council could assist Errigal College in any way possible in their quest for a bus shelter at the entrance to the school, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

Roads would liaise with the College regarding details, and requirement for a bus shelter. At this moment in time there was no identified budget for providing bus shelters.

MDL 82/16 **MEENAROY BRIDGE**

In answer to his question as to when will the parapets on both Meenaroy(R250) bridges be fixed. These bridges are currently very unsafe and needs temporary work carried out as soon as possible, Cllr. J. Pat Mc Daid was advised that;

These parapets were Programmed to be fixed last month, but crews were diverted onto storm related emergency works. It was now intended to have the parapets fixed before end of March depending on weather.

MDL 83/16 **ROADS ALLOCATIONS**

In answer to his question if the Council could confirm allocations for Kilty Roundabout, Coolbouy to Kilmaccreannan, Bunnagee Link, Lifford to Letterkenny and the proposed schedule of works for these for 2016, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

Allocations were €1m, for each of:

- *Coolboy Kilmaccrennan Realignment Scheme*
- *N56 Kilty Roundabout*

with the design and supervision of works to be co-ordinated by the NRADO in Donegal Town.

Further updates on Programme and extent of works to be undertaken in relation to both schemes would be brought to a future MDL Meeting.

MDL 84/16 **ILLISTRIN/LURGYBRACK SCHOOLS**

In answer to his question if this Council could confirm that Illistrin and Lurgybrack schools were now pilot projects for reducing speed limits and what was now the time frame for this to happen, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

As outlined in a previous meeting, Illistrin and Lurgybrack can only be furthered for implementation of reduced speed limits following the ongoing speed limit review and parallel identification of funding for the implementation of the required physical measures. Application was being submitted to TII for funding.

MDL 85/16 **LUTS STUDY**

In answer to his question if this Council could identify the areas in need of funding in the LUTS study to help reduce traffic problems in and around Letterkenny, Cllr. C. Brogan was advise d that;

The findings of the Letterkenny Urban Transport Study, identified a number of major infrastructural requirements that were required to address current traffic movements in Letterkenny, number 1 being the Bonagee Link Road.

MDL 86/16 **RECENT FLOODS**

In answer to his question as to what financial aid was available to land owners who had their land destroyed by gravel and debris deposited by the floods. (Up to 1000 beer cans in one field along the Lennon) and what effect has this on the freshwater pearl muscle project, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

Water-borne debris was a feature of most flood plains across the county and was a persistent problem along the larger rivers such as the River Finn & Leannan. Regrettably, it was linked to the practice of littering in country areas and can only be solved by education and the Council's enforcement activities.

Currently Donegal County Council assists communities to conduct Spring Clean Up in their areas by providing clean-up equipment and where necessary skips. Throughout the year the Council would make their Mobile Litter Units available to take away the waste collected by community clean-ups.

To request assistance in these matters contact can be made to the Councils Environment section through the Call Centre, 074 9153900.

The Freshwater Pearl Mussel was unlikely to be at risk from large items of water-borne debris, as their habitat was the river bed, but significant flood events could impact through increased siltation and scouring of the river bed. As these are natural events on a substantial scale, exacerbated by large catchments, it was difficult to see any viable solution.

The Government announced details of a number of schemes to provide temporary emergency humanitarian support to people who have been affected by recent flooding during the period between December 2015 and January 2016. At the request of the Government, the Irish Red Cross Society has agreed to administer two temporary emergency support schemes. One of the schemes was to provide temporary emergency humanitarian support to Community, Voluntary & Sporting bodies affected by flooding during the period between December 2015 and January 2016. The closing date for these applications is 21st February 2016.

Farmers Seeking advice/support in relation to animal welfare matters should contact the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine: Call save 0761 064426 Animal Welfare Helpline: Call save 0761 064408 or 016072379Teagasc Advisory Helpline: Call save 0761 113555

The Department of Social Protection's Humanitarian Assistance Scheme provides emergency financial assistance to households who are not able to meet costs for essential needs immediately following flooding.

Details of all the schemes available on www.redcross.ie

MDL 87/16 BLUE/BANKS/KILMACRENNAN PROJECT

In answer to his question for a progress report on the Blue Banks / Kilmacrennan project and proposed works for 2016, Cllr. M. Mc Bride was advised that;

The NRADO had advised in relation to the Blue Banks that "Tender documents were being completed for N56 Coolboy - Kilmacreannan presently and it should be ready for tender by March 2016. The project runs from the end of the N56 Mountaintop Phase 2 at Coolboy to the Speed limit in Kilmacreannan. The scheme included a significant section of Trunk and distributor Watermain to be funded by IW. The scheme had NOT been approved to go to tender. The allocation for 2016 was in relation to the continued purchase of land following confirmation of the CPO/EIS at the end of 2014."

MDL 88/16 COMMEMORATIVE GARDEN BALLYMACCOOL

In answer to his question if he can have an update on his motion to develop a Commemorative Garden at Ballymacool Park to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that;

The Council were currently finalising plans for the Ballymacool Commemorative Garden and expect to be in a position to report back to the members at the March meeting.

MDL 89/16 LENNON GROVE, RAMELTON

In answer to his question if he can have an update on when the unfinished works needed at Lennon Grove, Ramelton would be completed and can the Council confirm if they were in discussions with the developers to ensure these works were completed to high standard, Cllr. J. Mc Monagle was advised that;

The Council were pursuing enforcement action (enforcement notices had been served and follow-up consultations with the County Solicitor had taken place) and were also seeking to engage with relevant private sector parties. There was a meeting with one such party this week. The Council was committed to securing a resolution for this site.

MDL 90/16 **CIRCULAR ROAD**

In answer to his question if the Council could get an update from Irish Water confirming that the new sewer work along Circular Road would be completed in 2016 and confirmation that this work would also address the flooding issues in Glenwood Park and Beechwood Road, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

The Members were informed that;

Consultants were currently finalising Tender Documents for Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme. The current programmes schedules the formal tender process to commence in Q2 2016. IW approval and appointment of contractors was currently programmed to be finalised in Q4 2016 with works anticipated to commence on site in Q1 2017.

Following consultations with DCC Roads, the tender documents would include proposed drainage works along the Circular Road.

MDL 91/16 **SIGNAGE – O'DONNELL PARK**

In answer to his question if the Council could provide signage for O'Donnell Park at the bottom of the town, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

The GAA were required to erect the required signage, and should apply for a section 254 licence prior to its erection. Forms were available on the Donegal County Council Web Site.

MDL 92/16 **AN GLEANN RUA ESTATE**

In answer to his question if the Council could have an update on outstanding work in An Gleann Rua estate, including progress with sewage pumping station, and estate takeover by the Council, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

The Council continued to pursue the drawdown of the bank bond in respect of this development in order to facilitate the identified resolution works. Assessment of the tenders received for the new wastewater pumping station was currently ongoing and it was envisaged that a contractor should be appointed within the next 1-2 months. Although a taking in charge application was submitted in April 2015 by the Receivers, the Planning Authority does not intend to initiate formal taking in charge procedures until such times as the site resolution works have been completed.

MDL 93/16 **DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 8th March, 2016 in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

