

MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY, HELD IN THE MILFORD PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2016.

MDL 315/16 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. Liam Blaney
Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr. James McDaid
Cllr. Ian McGarvey
Cllr. Gerry McMonagle
Cllr. Mick Quinn
Cllr. Dessie Shiels

MDL316/16 OFFICIALS PRESENT

Suzanne Bogan, Waste Information Officer
Graham Diamond, Executive Planner
Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate & Housing Services
Ciaran Martin, Development Officer
Linda McCann, Staff Officer
Liam Ward, Director of Service

MDL 317/16 APOLOGIES

Cllr. Michael McBride
Cllr. John O'Donnell

The meeting was chaired by Mayor, Cllr. James Pat McDaid,

MDL318/16 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 12TH JULY 2016

Mayor James Pat Mc Daid asked for a proposer and a seconder for the minutes of the MDL Meeting held on the 12th July 2016.

Cllr. D. Shiels stated that he had an issue with minute number MDL282/16 and asked who prepared the minutes. Eunan Kelly advised that he had finalised the minutes. Cllr. Dessie Sheils stated that he did not receive a report as detailed in Minute MDL282/16 as requested in his motion on this matter at the last meeting. He stated that he opposed adopting the Minutes until clarity was received on whether a disclosure had been made under Section 177(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 in advance of the July meeting. Liam Ward stated that the matter in hand was to consider the minute of the last meeting and the Committee

would consider the report on the land acquisition for social housing as part of the Housing Agenda.

Cllr D. Shiels stated that his questions was relevant and proceeded to read Section 177(2) of the Local Government Act 2001

“Where a member of a local authority, committee, joint committee or joint body of the local authority has actual knowledge that a matter is likely to arise at a meeting at which that member will not be present and which, if he or she were present, a disclosure would be required to be made under subsection (1), then that person shall in advance of such meeting make such disclosure in writing and furnish it to the ethics registrar.”

Liam Ward and Eunan Kelly advised that they were not aware of any disclosure being made.

Cllr D. Shiels stated that he had contacted the Council in Lifford at 12.30 p.m. but was unable to go to Lifford to inspect the register and be present in Milford at 2.00 p.m. He requested Liam Ward to contact the Ethics Registrar to find out if any disclosure had been made before the July meeting. Liam Ward stated that item under consideration was the Adoption of the minutes and not related to disclosures.

On the proposal of Cllr. Dessie Shiels seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, it was agreed to adjourn the meeting to allow Liam Ward an opportunity to contact the Ethics Registrar to ask if a disclosure had been made.

The meeting resumed when Liam Ward returned and advised the meeting that he had been advised by the Ethics Registrar that no specific disclosure had been made in relation to a specific item on the agenda prior to the July meeting.

Cllr. D. Shiels advised that this could have implications for all the Members. He stated that it was a legal responsibility of Members to make a declaration and was a criminal offence not to and a Member found guilty of this could face disqualification from the Council.

Cllr. M. Quinn asked for clarification from Cllr. Sheils if this related to a specific Member of Letterkenny MD and Cllr. Shiels advised that he did not mention anything about an individual Member.

Liam Ward clarified by stating that Cllr. Shiels asked if there was a specific disclosure on an issue on the agenda and that the Ethics Registrar had confirmed that no disclosure had been made on that specific issue. Mr. Ward further clarified that all Elected Members and senior officials were required to make an Annual Declaration of Interests in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001. Mr

Ward made it clear that he was not referring to the Annual Declarations in this regard but to the making of a specific disclosure relating to an agenda item. Cllr. Shiels agreed with this clarification.

On the proposal of Cllr. Dessie Sheils and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 12th July, 2016 were adopted.

MDL319/16 PARKING REVIEW IN LETTERKENNY TOWN

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

That the Council undertake a comprehensive review of parking in Letterkenny Town

The Members were advised that;

The Council reviewed parking, policy and enforcement, on an ongoing basis in Donegal and strived to implement improvements within resources available and the constraints of the relevant legislation and bye-laws. Since the abolition of the former Town Councils, a centralised county wide Parking Section had been set up such that uniform policies and practices were being implemented across the County. Since the formation of the Parking Section, the following improvement measures had been introduced:

- *A new operating system for the management of Pay and Display in the county, which allows for more advanced management of information collected, eg. drivers can now view photos of their vehicle online, showing the vehicle and the alleged offence. The new system allows for more efficient management of the appeals process, permit process and most importantly the prosecution process.*
- *A standardised uniform had been agreed and was currently in place for wardens in all towns.*
- *All Wardens had been issued with appropriate PPE including personal CCTV systems.*

It was anticipated that the improvements made by the introduction of the Parking Section will allow for a more robust and consistent approach to paid parking policy and enforcement in the county as a whole.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh stated that he had received numerous complaints regarding:

- insufficient parking facilities on Upper Main Street,
- lack of enforcement on Lower Main Street,
- unused taxi rank at the Old Dunne's Stores,

- abuse of disabled parking spaces by abled-bodied drivers
- disabled parking on Main Street is mainly on the left-hand side leaving disabled drivers coming onto oncoming traffic and not the footpath. Consider putting more parking on the right hand side of the street to alleviate this
- and the need for enforcement.

Cllr. Kavanagh asked that the Council carry out a full review of parking in the town and asked that all interested bodies be consulted, Chamber of Commerce, Taxi businesses, disabled drivers, etc.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle stated that he supported a full review of the issues raised by Cllr. Kavanagh. Cllr. McMonagle stated that taxi firms needed to be consulted in the review. Cllr. McMonagle asked that the Council examine the disabled parking bays, in particular, the size of the space and drop kerbs for disabled access onto the footpaths.

Fergal Doherty agreed to highlight the issues raised with the Parking Section and request that a full review be carried out.

MDL320/16 **GLENCAR ROAD**

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

That the Council again review safety on the Glencar Road

The Members were advised that;

The Council continued to monitor the Glencar Road following the implementation of safety measures a few years ago, and had recently met with the Road Design office on site to establish whether additional measures were appropriate. If identified measures were deemed appropriate, it was intended that an application for low-cost accident funding would be submitted for their implementation

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh stated that repeated accidents occur in a particular part of this road and expressed concern for the safety of road users and pedestrians. Cllr. Kavanagh asked that the reflector barriers are replaced following a previous accident and welcomed the Council seeking funding.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle concurred with Cllr. Kavanagh expressing concern for the safety of pedestrians. Cllr. McMonagle asked that the Council consider traffic calming measures, signs/ramps, on this road due to the large number of estates along this road.

MDL321/16 RATES ON CHARITY SHOPS

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

That this Council write to the Minister for Finance requesting that he legislate as part of the next budgetary process to remove the anomaly whereby charity shops raising funds for charitable services (which in many cases should be provided by the state) are required to pay commercial rates thereby reducing the ability of those charities to provide the services that they operate.

The Members were advised that;

Schedule 4 of The Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2015 sets out the properties that were exempt from commercial rates.

Section 16 of this Schedule exempts “any land, building or part of a building which is occupied by a body, being either- (a) a charitable organisation that uses the land, building or part exclusively for charitable purposes and otherwise than for private profit”.

In accordance with rating law, the occupier of all rateable properties must be issued with a rate demand.

However, if the above criteria was met, the rates were not payable and written off at year end.

In 2015 the Council wrote off a sum of €371,226 which equated to 5% of the total write offs under the heading “community and voluntary” and it was anticipated that a similar level of write off under this heading will be made in 2016.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Dessie Sheils outlined that a number of charity shops received rate demands in the County and stated that chairities opened these shops as a source of funding raising and any profit made goes to the Charity. Cllr. Sheils requested clarity in respect of the last paragraph of the reply on whether this is the Council’s approach in dealing with this matter.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Liam Blaney concurred with Cllr. Sheils and stated that the shops are a source of fundraising and any profit made goes to the charity. He asked for clarity on the Council’s position where there are any anomalies.

Liam Ward agreed to seek clarity from the Income Collection Unit.

MDL322/16 ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

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

That this Council make road safety improvements at (1) the crossroads junction in Letterkenny between the Cullion Road and the Bonagee road and especially the currently blind part of the junction where motorists travelling on the Cullion Road from Letterkenny are exposed to dangerous traffic movements of vehicles passing from the Bonagee Road through the crossroads junction and (2) Oliver Plunkett Street, Letterkenny by installation of a ramp to reduce speeding incidents of traffic travelling from the Main Street to the Pearse Road and (3) the Lismonaghan Road by completing the missing sections of footpaths above the Maples estate and passing the Rowan Park Estate and the missing sections of public lighting again above the Maples Estate and passing the Rowan Park Estate and also at the lower section immediately above the Leck Road Junction.

The Members were advised that:

With regards to the various matters raised :

- 1. The Crossroads had recently been relined, and was correctly signed in accordance with guidelines. The Council were currently reviewing this Crossroads and would refresh line markings and erect additional signage as required. The long term solution of the elimination of the Crossroads by the introduction of a staggered junction was currently not on the programme of roadworks.*
- 2. The Council were not aware of Oliver Plunkett Road experiencing exceptional or out of the ordinary speeding incidents, but in light of the motion raised would monitor and bring to the attention of the Gardai*
- 3. The various public lighting and footpath programmes were subject to funding and were discussed at the various workshops held with members throughout the year.*

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Dessie Sheils asked that the Council look at improving vision lines at Readymix junction for the safety of road users on the Cullion Road. Cllr. Sheils also asked that the Council look at installing a ramp to reduce the speed on Oliver Plunkett Road and install public lighting and footpaths on the Lismonaghan Road from the Maples to Rowan Park and further up this road. He highlighted his concern of the number of estates on this road and children using the road.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Liam Blaney stated that he had put forward a motion previously on this stretch of road and asked that the Council seeking funding to improve the footpath and public lighting on this road.

MDL323/16 POLICY ON LAND ACQUISITION FOR SOCIAL HOUSING

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Dessie Sheils and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney:

That this Council as a matter of policy will not reconsider any proposal made to sell a site to it for social housing where such proposal was previously made to the Council and accepted by it but then withdrawn by the applicant(s), especially in the currently pertaining circumstances where the Council has a pressing need to build social housing and cannot be subjected to a process of applications being submitted, withdrawn and then resubmitted at the discretion of applicants which can only ever result in delays and extra costs to this Council.

The Members were advised that;

It should be noted that from time to time, land previously offered and subsequently withdrawn could become available in the future. The main consideration must always be the suitability of land in accordance with the assessment criteria and departmental oversight and approvals. The focus must remain on the delivery of the capital programme and with recent expressions of interest only providing limited opportunity, Council must as a minimum consider all potential options, including land that had previously been withdrawn, subject to suitability and meeting the necessary consents as previously outlined. It would be considered in the public interest, to properly consider the purchase of suitable land even though it had been previously withdrawn.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Sheils stated that the Council had a requirement to provide social housing and was currently limited to the option at Long Lane. He asked that the Council not reconsider any proposal withdrawn and exhaust it's own land options first prior to considering other proposals.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Liam Blaney stated that the Member of the Municipal District could not set policy and asked that the SPC for Housing consider the existing policy and amend if necessary.

Cllr. Mick Quinn strongly opposed the motion being put forward to the SPC as he did not agree with the motion. He stated that the Council had an obligation to exhaust all options to in an effort to provide social housing support to the hundreds of applicants on the waiting list. Cllr. Gerry McMonagle seconded Cllr. Quinn's objection to the motion and stated that it was limiting the Council in providing social housing and reason for withdrawals was unknown. Cllr. McMonagle stated that the Members or the Council cannot pre-empt why a vendor withdraws a submission.

Cllr Blaney withdrew his support for the motion on basis he did not agree to exclude any landowners but did support referring the motion to the S.P.C. Cllr Shiels did not agree with the amendment.

Cllr. Quinn's opposition motion was put to a vote and the motion was supported by Cllrs Blaney, Kavanagh, Mc Garvey, Mc Monagle and Quinn.

Cllr Mc Daid declared that Cllr Shiels's motion was lost.

MDL324/16 RELIEF BRIDGE FROM BONAGEE TO RAMELTON ROAD

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

That this Municipal District request that the Roads Section in Donegal re-examine the proposal to provide a Bridge over the Swilly with road from Bonagee and to Ramelton Road and at what point.

The Members were advised that;

This motion was to be discussed at the workshop on the 'Bunagee Link' in advance of the meeting

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Ian McGarvey asked that the Council re-examine the bridge over Lough Swilly to alleviate traffic congestion on the Ramelton Road. Cllr. McGarvey asked that the whole roads network in Letterkenny be examined with a view that ensures that the structure in place serves the people of the town/county and future development in the town.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Liam Blaney welcomed that the NRDO have agreed to review the proposal as discussed in the Roads Workshop prior to the meeting.

MDL325/16 HARBOUR MASTER

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

That this Municipal District recommend the appointment of a Harbour Master for the Harbours within its District

The Members were advised that;

The current proposed Work Force Plan did not include for any additional Harbour Masters within the county, however, Donegal Co. Council recognised the need for a person to be available to deal with issues that arise with the increased usage experienced at the various piers and harbours throughout the county. Donegal County Council would shortly commence a safety assessment of all piers and harbours throughout the county with a view to maintaining public

access in a manner that is as safe as practical without impeding the primary function of the facility. This assessment would identify defects with current facilities and make recommendations that may also include an increase in visits and inspections by Council staff.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Ian McGarvey asked that the Council consider Harbour Master on a possible part-time basis due to the increase of usage of the piers.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Liam Blaney concurred with Cllr. McGarvey.

MDL326/16 KEADUE BRIDGE

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

That this Municipal District outline the problem in re-aligning the Road at Keadue Bridge.

The Members were advised that;

There were currently no resources allocated towards the realignment of the Keadue Bridge.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Ian McGarvey stated he had raised the necessary works at this bridge before and highlighted the works also needed on bridges at Bunlin, Ards and Illistrin. Cllr. McGarvey stated that works were overdue on this bridge and spoke of the high number of tourists in the Municipal District and asked if in-house staff design the works necessary at Keadue and Bunlin Bridge.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Liam Blaney stated that plans were in place to carry out the necessary works over 10 years ago at huge cost. This bridge was a landmark and needed to be addressed.

Fergal Doherty advised that there were no resources allocated to widening bridges and recommended that Members take this to Plenary Council.

MDL327/16 MILFORD SEWERAGE TREATMENT WORKS

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

That the Municipal District of Letterkenny write to Irish Water requesting them to upgrade the Milford Sewerage Treatment Works.

The Members were advised that:

This motion would be forward to Irish Water if the motion was passed.

Milford along with Ramelton and Kilmacrennan form part of the 2017-2021 Town & Villages SS Programme. A consultant had been appoint to progress these schemes

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Liam Blaney stated that improvement works were now urgently needed as the treatment plant was no longer fit for purpose. Cllr. Blaney requested that a submission was made to Irish Water.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan advised that this upgrade had been discussed for some considerable time and requested an update from Irish Water.

MDL328/16 SPEED LIMIT ON THE CORRENAGH/LISTILLION ROAD

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

I propose that we review the speed limit on the Correnagh / Listillion Road and erect signs for traffic calming and revert back to us with proposals.

The Members were advised that;

The review of this speed limit (L1054-2) had been included under the current speed limit review. In line with current guidelines, the speed limit as currently posted was the appropriate speed limit for this road. In view of the existing relatively poor vertical and horizontal alignment on sections of this road, warning signs and road markings were currently being reviewed with a view to their enhancement later in the year.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan highlighted the high volume of traffic in the mornings and evenings on this particular road which is being used as a relief road. He asked the Council to look at points of the road which were narrow and put traffic calming measures in place to reduce speed. He also asked that the Council would review the speed limit on this road and report back to the Members.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle concurred with Cllr. Brogan and asked that the speed limit was reviewed on this road.

Fergal Doherty advised that the speed limit had been reviewed and was deemed appropriate for this road and advised that road markings and signs would be put in place by the end of the year.

The Members welcomed this.

MDL329/16 RAMELTON – TOWNS & VILLAGES RENEWAL SCHEME

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

I propose that we as a Council liaise with Ramelton Tidy Towns Committee with regard to the proposed works in the Towns and Villages Renewal Scheme for their town.

The Members were advised that;

The Donegal County Council would be liaising with the Ramelton Tidy Towns committee in the coming week with regards the Villages Renewal Scheme.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan acknowledged the great work of the Ramelton Tidy Towns Committee and community at large. He asked that if funding becomes available that the Council ensure the Committee have an input to any proposed works.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Ian McGarvey concurred with Cllr. Brogan.

MDL330/16 MAYORS BUSINESS

Cllr. James McDaid, Mayor congratulated:

- Mark English, Brendan Boyce, Sinead Jennings, Chloe McGee, Tori Penna and Patsy McGonigle on their success in the Olympic Games
- Donegal Minors in the Ulster Championship.

Cllr. McDaid wished Letterkenny Tidy Towns Committee success in the National Tidy Towns Competition and also wished Johnny Loughrey well in the Paralympics.

Cllr. McDaid encouraged everyone to take part in the Donegal Hospice Coffee Morning events to be held throughout the county on Thursday, 15th September, 2016.

Cllr. McDaid also informed the Members that the next Letterkenny Town Forum meeting would be held in Letterkenny Public Services Centre on 20th October, 2016 at 4.00 p.m.

Cllr. Shiels asked that Richard Simms Manager of Usain Bolt and Mo Farah also be congratulated on his success in the Olympics 2016.

MDL331/16 CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr. McDaid advised that a Deputation request has been received to attend the next meeting of the Municipal District from Paddy Delap, Devlin Hall group. On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan it was agreed to receive the deputation.

MDL332/16 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Graham Diamond updated the Members on a report circulated with the Agenda which included:

1. Summary of planning applications for the District
2. Appeals (Received & Decisions Notified).
3. Significant Cases (incl. Transboundary applications)
4. Other case types [Part 8's etc]

MDL333/16 ENVIRONMENT

Suzanne Bogan updated the Members on a report circulated with the Agenda, in particular, the introduction of two new Recycling Centres at Aura Leisure Centre and Circular Road, Letterkenny.

The Members noted the contents of the report commended the Council in their work at Dooley Beach, electrical waste recycling and school environment awareness and promotion programme.

Cllr. Blaney requested that the Council seek to increase the number of Blue Flag Beaches in the County in order to boost the tourism industry.

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan commended the work of the Litter Wardens and support given to community groups.

Cllr. Liam Blaney asked that the Council confirm when the public conveniences in Rathmullan would be completed as it was expected this facility would be in place for the summer season this year.

MDL334/16 COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

The Members noted the content of a report circulated with the Agenda. Ciaran Martin thanked the Members on behalf of the Fanad Lighthouse project for their financial support under the DFI and gave an update on the number of visitors to date and the success of the Lighthouse being open to the public.

Ciaran Martin informed the meeting of ongoing works under the Donegal Walks and Trails and funding received for the development of walks in Churchill. He invited the Members and public to partake in the free events organised as part of Cultural night in Letterkenny on Friday, 16th September, 2016.

Ciaran Martin also updated the meeting on the Letterkenny Youth & Family Services taking part in the Pride of Place 2016 awards which is taking place in the Waterfront, Belfast on 26th November, 2016.

The Members welcomed the report and in particular commended the support given by the Council to the development of Fanad Lighthouse which has proven to be a great success.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey also highlighted the high usage of the Lough Swilly Ferry this year.

MDL335/16 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

The Members noted the content of the Roads report circulated with the Agenda. Fergal Doherty advised that the pavement works were now complete on the N56 Knocknamona and westbound lane of the dual carriageway.

As a follow up to the Letterkenny Municipal District meeting of 12th July 2016, Fergal Doherty, Roads Area Manager presented a final report in relation to the proposed Declaration of the following road as a public road;

The Link Road and roundabouts at former Unifi site in the townlands of Ballyboe Lisnenan and Ballyraine, length 330m between roundabouts (to be named L-1016)

The members noted that there were no objections/representations received during the public consultation period following publication of the required notice in accordance with Section 11(1)(b)(iii) of the Roads Act 1993. The members were satisfied that the road is of general public utility, that a public right of way exists over the road, that the cost of bringing the road to a suitable standard for use by the general public, estimated at €46,000 is within the means of the Letterkenny MD and that the additional maintenance cost of this section of road into the future is not likely to be significant and in any event is justified by the benefit of having this additional section of road added to the Council's existing public road network.

On the proposal by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle the MD members resolved to declare the said road to be a public road in accordance with said section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 to take effect from 11th October 2016

MDL336/16 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

The Members considered a report circulated with the Agenda on Housing and Corporate Services. Eunan Kelly advised that the report requested at the July Meeting and referred to in the minutes on land purchase for social housing was included in the Housing Report.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle asked that the Council seek larger size accommodation, 4-5 bedrooms when purchasing houses due to the demand. Eunan Kelly advised that the Council were doing this and outlined that there is also a high demand for two bed accommodation in Letterkenny in particular.

Cllr. McMonagle asked if the qualifying income threshold for families applying for social housing support could be reviewed by the Department as families with

two incomes were finding it difficult to obtain a mortgage and do not qualify for housing support. Eunan Kelly agreed to raise this with the Department.

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan enquired about the level of contact / engagement with housing applicants as part of the Housing Needs Assessment. Eunan Kelly advised that applicants were contacted by letter over a two month period and contact was also made by phone.

Cllr. Brogan highlighted the challenges faced by tenants who were unable to purchase their homes under the Tenant Increment Purchase Scheme as they were not in employment despite having the funds available to buy.

Eunan Kelly advised that he understood that the Purchase Scheme had been discussed at the July Housing and Corporate Strategic Policy Committee where it was agreed that a report on the issues being raised by tenants in relation to the purchase scheme would be prepared and circulated to the members in advance of making a submission to the Minister seeking to have the scheme reviewed to address these issues.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey noted a 50% refusal rate in offers made and welcomed that the Council would advertise for expression of interest for land acquisition in order to address the need for more houses.

Cllr. Dessie Sheils highlighted the difficulty people under the Shared Ownership Scheme are encountering where their property is in negative equity and going through the mortgage arrears resolution process and asked if they could be considered under the Tenant Purchase Scheme. Eunan Kelly advised that these are two different schemes and the Council does work closely with anyone who is facing financial difficulties with their loans, and agreed a submission should be made to the Department.

Cllr. Sheils noted the recent announcement of increasing the student accommodation on UCD campus and asked if any such proposal was being discussed at LYIT on lands which is currently being used as a car park. Cllr. Sheils asked that Minister Coveney be asked to assist the LYIT in progressing student accommodation.

MDL337/16 ***ERRIGAL VIEW ESTATE***

In an answer to his question if the Council would provide a “Children at Play” sign for Errigal View Estate, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

Errigal View was a private estate and was not currently under consideration for taking in charge. The Council had no remit within Errigal View with respect to signage.

MDL338/16 OLDTOWN BRIDGE

In an answer to his question if the Council would provide a lifebuoy at the Oldtown Bridge, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

The Marine Section would provide a life ring at this location in the coming weeks.

MDL339/16 KILLYLASTIN CROSSROADS

In an answer to his question if the Council would tidy up the area at Killylastin crossroads which has become very overgrown and untidy, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

Council would add the tidying of this location to their current programme of works, and were working in association with the Gleann Eadann residents association regarding this.

MDL340/16 ROADWORKS AT KILTOY & BLUEBANKS

In an answer to his question for an update on Roadworks at Kiltyoy and the Bluebanks, Cllr. Dessie Sheils was advised that:

With respect to Kiltyoy, a successful tenderer was currently being appointed and construction of the roundabout was due to commence by the end of the month. The time for Completion was 22 weeks. In relation to Costs, TH would confirm the details when all the necessary approvals were in place.

With respect to Bluebanks, this project was ready to tender subject to exchequer funding being made available. There was no allocation in place at present to enable construction to commence.

MDL341/16 FLOODING AT GLENWOOD PARK

In an answer to his question for an update on planned works at Circular Road to prevent further flooding incidents at Glenwood Park, Letterkenny, Cllr. Dessie Sheils was advised that:

Council were negotiating with Irish Water with a view to having the required Circular Road relief culvert installed during the construction of the Letterkenny Sewerage Improvement Scheme. These negotiations had not concluded.

MDL342/16 EPA ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS

In an answer to his question for an update on the enforcement proceedings taken by the EPA against the Council and Irish Water and whether these have been fully concluded or not, Cllr. Dessie Sheils was advised that:

A report was being prepared and would be circulated at a future MDL Meeting.

MDL343/16 ROAD SAFETY AT BALLYRAINE

In an answer to his question for the Council Engineers to examine the road safety measures at Ballyraine, Letterkenny, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that:

Further information in relation to what specific measures the question refers to, were required before a response can be issued.

MDL344/16 DERELICTS BUILDINGS RAMELTON

In an answer to his question if anything is being done about derelict Buildings in Ramelton as this has been raised many times, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised:

That a report would be circulated to Members on this matter.

MDL345/16 PROTECTED BUILDING RAMELTON

In an answer to his question for an up to date list of the protected buildings in Ramelton, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that:

PS table 31: Letterkenny EA, of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012 – 2018 lists the protected structures in Ramelton and the list was circulated at the meeting.

MDL346/16 BRIDGE AT CLARE MANS

In an answer to his question if the Bridge at the Clare mans that had collapsed and coned scheduled for repair in the short term, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised that:

The parapet on this bridge was damaged recently having been hit by a vehicle. The parapet was scheduled for repair in the coming weeks (by end of October) following the completion of the RI and RM roadworks programmes. The location was currently coned off pending the repairs.

MDL347/16 FLOODING AT RIVER LENNON

In an answer to his question was there any developments on the flooding issue along the River Lennon between Kilmacrennan and Trentagh that isolated people in their homes last winter. (motions passed at this MD looking for action), Cllr. Michael McBride was advised that:

The Office of Public Works (OPW) was the state agency primarily charged with protecting communities against flooding events. They had carried out studies country-wide to identify areas at risk of flooding and to assess mitigation measures to prevent or minimise the risk. To date the Council were not aware of findings from the O.P.W. in relation to the River Lennon

MDL348/16 RATHMULLAN TOILETS

In an answer to his question when tenders will be sought for the Rathmullan toilets? When doing so can we make sure time frames are included ie. Start date and Finish date. Can this Council envisage any obstacles in this project going forward? I think it is vitally important at this stage that steady progress is being made on this project and no more delays, Cllr. J. Pat McDaid was advised that:

Architects in relation to the new Public Conveniences in Rathmullan had been appointed at the end of July. The appointed architects were making good progress in relation to preparing the tender documents and it was hoped that it would go out for tender at the end of October/ beginning of November, 2016.

MDL349/16 FLOODING AT TRENTAGH CHURCH

In an answer to his question if the Council had any success in acquiring money for flood prevention at Trentagh Church? When can we expect all our roads programme to be fully completed? Including road marking and signage etc at the corner beyond Glenswilly N.S. where we had numerous accidents in the past year, Cllr. J. Pat McDaid was advised that:

The Road markings Contractor was starting in the Letterkenny Rural RSS area this week (week commencing 12th September) and we would expect to have Glenswilly lining completed within the next 2 weeks. The Signage would be erected before the end of October 2016.

MDL350/16 GULLIES AT ROSSAN COLLEGE & SWEENEY'S PETROL STATION

In an answer to his question if the Council could put in additional gullies between Rossan College and Sweeney's Petrol Station as the footpath was continuously flooded, Cllr. J. Pat McDaid was advised that:

The Council were reviewing this section of the road with respect to drainage and had sought funding accordingly from the TII. Council would advise at future meeting, although there was currently no allocation of funding here.

MDL351/16 KILTOY ROUNDABOUT

In an answer to his question for an update on when successful Contractor would start on the Kilty Roundabout and time frame for these works and overall costs of same, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised that:

With respect to Kilty, a successful tenderer was currently being appointed and construction of the roundabout was due to commence by the end of the month. The time for Completion was 22 weeks. In relation to Costs, TII would confirm the details when all the necessary approvals are in place.

MDL352/16 TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME

In an answer to his question if a response had been received from a request to the Minister for Environment to the challenge people are facing in the buying out of there Council house and if changes are going to be brought forward, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised that:

The matter was discussed at the July meeting of the Housing and Corporate Strategic Policy Committee and it was agreed that a comprehensive paper on the issues being raised by tenants through the members in relation to the tenant purchase scheme would be prepared and circulated to the members in September in advance of submission to the Minister in the context of seeking to have the scheme reviewed to address the relevant issues.

MDL353/16 DESIGNATED URBAN GATEWAY SCHEME

In an answer to his question for an update report on the Designated Urban Gateway Scheme and what progress and time frame is in place for this, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised that:

A Project Manager and DCC Steering Group had been appointed for the development of the Social Enterprise building, with a view to finalising the design brief in the coming weeks.

With respect to the Joe Boner Road section of the DUGS, design was substantially complete and the Part 8 planning process had commenced with public consultation currently in place. Roads were liaising with Irish Water to consolidate the foul infrastructure. It was anticipated that tenders for construction would issue in early 2017.

All projects must be completed and funds drawn down by December 2018.

MDL354/16 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 11th October, 2016 in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre commencing at 2:00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor

Meetings Administrator