

Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Lifford-Stranorlar held on 2nd February 2021 at 11am.

Members Present	Cllr. Gary Doherty, Cllr. Gerry Crawford, Cllr. Frank McBrearty, Cllr. Liam Doherty, Cllr. Martin Harley, Cllr. Patrick McGowan.
Officials Present	Joe Peoples, Olive Gillespie, Tony Browne, Ciara Condon, Kathleen McGowan, Claire McGeever, Brenda Hegarty, Paul Gallagher.

Cllr. Gary Doherty, MD Cathaoirleach opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance at the remote meeting. As a mark of respect and to remember all those who have sadly passed away, a one minute silence was observed.

Items from the agenda were discussed as follows:

260 Corporate Services

260.01 Votes of Sympathy

Members passed a vote of sympathy on the passing of:

- Joe Smyth, father of Shane Smyth, Tourism Officer, Bundoran.
- Peter McTaggart, father of Joseph McTaggart, Chief Fire Officer.
- Donnachadh McGeehin, brother of our former colleague Jimmy McGeehin.
- John Murphy, father of our colleague, Shaun Paul Murphy, Community Development.
- Roderick (Roddy) Forsyth MacLennan, brother of our colleague Jacqueline Abbas, Donegal County Museum.
- Maureen Sweeney, Summerhill, mother of our colleague Mark Sweeney, Roads Area Manager in the Donegal M.D.
- Michael McClintock, Claremorris, son of our colleague, Dearn McClintock, formerly of Environment Section.
- Rose Coyle , sister-in-law of Jeanette Longwill, Library Service.
- Michael McCaul, father of our colleague, Kevin Mc Caul, Library Service.
- Mary Patricia Murphy, mother of our colleague Donal Murphy, Roads Office, Donegal M.D.
- Andrew Scanlon, our colleague, Stranorlar Water Services.
- Martin Flanagan, our retired colleague.
- Grace McHugh, daughter of our colleague John McHugh, Roads Services Stranorlar.
- Kathleen Connolly, mother of our colleague Mary Connolly, Finance Section.
- Lala Shiels, mother of our colleague Mairead Shiels, Income collection, Finance.
- May Walsh, retired Branch Librarian, Ballyshannon Library .

- John Doherty, father of our colleagues Eileen McLoughlin, Housing, Lifford, and Paddy Doherty, Community and Enterprise, Lifford; uncle of Tommy Doherty, Stranorlar Roads; and uncle of our former colleague Bridie McBrearty.
- Mark Browne, nephew of Connie Duffy and Miriam Browne.

260.02 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Lifford-Stranorlar held 23rd September 2020.

The Minutes were approved on the proposal of Cllr. P McGowan and seconded by Cllr. F McBrearty.

260.03 Confirmation of Minutes of Budget Meeting of Municipal District of Lifford-Stranorlar held 28th October 2020.

The Minutes were approved on the proposal of Cllr. F McBrearty and seconded by Cllr. P McGowan.

260.04 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Lifford-Stranorlar held 19th January 2021.

The Minutes were approved on the proposal of Cllr. F McBrearty and seconded by Cllr. P McGowan.

261 Confirmation of Date and Venue for Next Meeting and Business Prescribed by Statute

261.01 It was agreed that the next meetings of the Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District would be held online on Wednesday, **24th March 2021** as follows:

- **Workshop** **10.00 am.**
- **Meeting** **11.00 am.**

253 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations from Services

262.01 Planning Services

The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read.

The following comments were made:

- Members welcomed the report and progress made in relation to Taking in Charge of Private Residential Estates and thanked Paddy Mullen and his team for their work.
- Members requested an update in relation to an issue involving bog slippage at Meenbog Ballybofey. Ciara Condon stated that a multidisciplinary and cross border investigation is ongoing and an update will be issued to Members.
- Members queried when the Wind Energy Guidelines will be updated. Ciara Condon confirmed that works are ongoing on this matter within the Central Planning Unit however the Council are waiting on guidelines to be issued by the Department to inform the final draft of same.

As outlined in the update report, the Taking in Charge team included details in relation to 3 housing estates in the Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District, presented to Members seeking approval to complete the Taking in Charge process. These were approved by Members as follows:

Rossgier Close, Rossgier, Co.Donegal

On the proposal of Councillor Gerry Crawford seconded by Councillor Frank McBrearty it is resolved that the Council make an order in accordance with Section 207 of the Planning & Development Act 2000(as amended) for the creation of a public right of way over the estate roads within the housing estate Rossgier Close, Rossgier, Lifford as set out in the attached maps, to enable it to proceed with the taking in charge of the estate.

On the proposal of Councillor Gerry Crawford seconded by Councillor Frank McBrearty it is resolved that the Council make an order in accordance with Section 11 (1) of the Roads Act, 1993 to declare the estate roads within the housing estate Rossgier Close, Rossgier, Lifford to be a public road and note the consequential provisions contained in Section 180(4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) whereby this Council will also take in charge the water services infrastructure and the public open spaces or car park within the attendant grounds of the development and will subsequently transfer the water services within the estate to Irish Water.

Millview Heights, Ballindrait, Co.Donegal

On the proposal of Councillor Frank McBrearty seconded by Councillor Gerry Crawford it is resolved that the Council make an order in accordance with Section 207 of the Planning & Development Act 2000(as amended) for the creation of a public right of way over the estate roads within the housing estate Millview Heights, Ballindrait as set out in the attached maps, to enable it to proceed with the taking in charge of the estate.

On the proposal of Councillor Frank McBrearty seconded by Councillor Gerry Crawford it is resolved that the Council make an order in accordance with Section 11 (1) of the Roads Act, 1993 to declare the estate roads within the housing estate Millview Heights, Ballindrait to be a public road and note the consequential provisions contained in Section 180(4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) whereby this Council will also take in charge the water services infrastructure and the public open spaces or car park within the

attendant grounds of the development and will subsequently transfer the water services within the estate to Irish Water.

Railway Park, St. Johnston, Co. Donegal

On the proposal of Councillor Frank McBrearty seconded by Councillor Liam Doherty it is resolved that the Council make an order in accordance with Section 207 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) for the creation of a public right of way over the estate roads within the housing estate Railway Park, St. Johnston as set out in the attached maps, to enable it to proceed with the taking in charge of the estate.

On the proposal of Councillor Frank McBrearty seconded by Councillor Liam Doherty it is resolved that the Council make an order in accordance with Section 11 (1) of the Roads Act, 1993 to declare the estate roads within the housing estate Railway Park, St. Johnston to be a public road and note the consequential provisions contained in Section 180(4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) whereby this Council will also take in charge the water services infrastructure and the public open spaces or car park within the attendant grounds of the development and will subsequently transfer the water services within the estate to Irish Water.

262.02 Housing & Corporate Services

The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Members referred to the number of refusals in relation to offers of social housing. Olive Gillespie acknowledged the refusals but added good progress had been made, with a lower number of approved applicants refusing offers of social housing compared to previous years in this municipal district. She explained the individual circumstances of each case involving a refusal is also taken into consideration when reviewing the reason/s why an applicant has refused an offer.
- Members requested an update in relation to the Windows & Doors Replacement Programme. Olive Gillespie confirmed that the Housing Office was currently waiting on an announcement from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. Given the length of time the Members have been waiting for this funding, Cllr. F McBrearty proposed that the Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to outline the urgency and need for this Programme to be expedited. This was seconded by Cllr. P McGowan and agreed by all the Members.
- Members requested an update in relation to the new scheme at Trusk Road, Ballybofey. Olive Gillespie advised the tender documentation was being prepared and it was agreed an update would be available at the next meeting.
- Cllr. P McGowan referred to the existing development of vacant/unfinished apartments above Supervalu, Ballybofey. He requested that the Members be kept updated in relation to any contact received, requesting the Council to become involved in this development for social housing.

- Cllr. G Crawford sought clarification in relation to any plans for the provision of 2 bed accommodation, based on housing need figures. Olive Gillespie confirmed that there is a significant 2 bed housing need in a number of locations in the Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District and this is being examined further by Housing Services. Ms. Gillespie also outlined that there are 2 bed units being progressed in Raphoe, St. Johnston, Ballybofey and Gallows Lane, Lifford.
- Cllr. P McGowan requested an update from Housing Construction in relation to land acquired for social & affordable housing and turnkeys. Olive Gillespie confirmed that the Council are working through the proposals received from land/property owners as a result of an advertisement campaign and she will follow up on an update for the next meeting.
- Cllr. Garry Doherty acknowledged the update on the Habinteg Project for Castlefin and welcomed the submission of the planning application in December 2020. Regarding the housing need figures as circulated, Cllr Doherty put forward the numbers on the list does not reflect the real housing need, as a number of households are just over the income threshold for eligibility to social housing. In relation to the provision of grit bins within housing estates, Olive Gillespie confirmed these can be provided by Housing Services were required.

262.03 Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services

The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Brenda Hegarty informed Members that the Minister for Agriculture, Food, and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue TD, has issued a call for proposals for Agri-Food Tourism Initiatives under the 2021 Rural Innovation and Development Fund.
- Brenda Hegarty informed Members that the Trading Online Voucher (TOV) Scheme has now reverted back to the 50% support rate.
- Members agreed to accept the offer of meeting virtually with National Broadband Ireland. Brenda Hegarty agreed to relay the acceptance of this offer to Daragh McDonough, Broadband Officer.
- Cllr. M Harley referred to the Caravan & Camping Study by KPMG as outlined in the update report and requested that Members of the Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District have an input into the future development of this sector. Brenda Hegarty agreed to refer this request to Barney Mc Laughlin, Head of Tourism.
- Cllr. F McBrearty referred to the Beltoney Stone Circle and the potential for tourism within the Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District, and requested the Council to be more proactive in promoting East Donegal. This was supported by all Members who highlighted the potential for holidaying/staycationing within the District and outlined a number of other locations such as Trusk Lough, Cloghan Lodge, Drumboe Woods and the Ballybofey to Donegal Greenway, which are huge attractions to the area but which need to be promoted through a joint strategy within the Municipal District. Brenda Hegarty agreed to refer this request to Barney Mc Laughlin, Head of Tourism.

262.04 Environmental Services

The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Cllr. P McGowan queried when the bottle banks would be moved to a new location. Paul Gallagher informed the Members that the tendering process for the provision of new bottle banks has been concluded and an update report will be provided to Members at the next meeting.
- Paul Gallagher updated Members in relation to the CFRAM Programme and agreed to provide an update report for the next meeting. Cllr. M Harley requested an update in relation to the Lifford Flood Relief Scheme before a meeting of LATCH the following week.
- Cllr. M Harley referred to the level of illegal dumping throughout Donegal and suggested that the pricing structure for households might have to be re-examined.
- Cllr. P McGowan referred to the level of litter along river banks, particularly around the Twin Towns and requested this be cleaned up. Paul Gallagher agreed to have the issue surveyed and revert back to Members. Cllr. McGowan also referred to the level of litter along the Ballybofey to Liscooley road and requested this to be cleaned up. Paul Gallagher stated that this would require traffic management but would revert back to Members on the issue by the end of the week.
- Cllr. G Doherty referred to a number of complaints received in relation to the unavailability of the public toilets at the Balor Theatre, Ballybofey due to Covid-19 and queried if a solution could be found. Paul Gallagher agreed to investigate if a short term solution can be found and will revert to Members.
- Cllr. F McBrearty requested an update in relation to the area cleaned up by Christy Murray, local volunteer. Paul Gallagher confirmed that the site is being monitored by the Litter Warden and an update will be provided in relation to the Old Dump, Raphoe.

262.05 Roads Services

The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- The Road Restoration Improvement Programme 2021 was proposed by Cllr. P McGowan and seconded by Cllr. M Harley.
- The Road Restoration Maintenance Programme 2021 was proposed by Cllr. G Crawford and seconded by Cllr. L Doherty.
- The Drainage Works Programme 2021 was proposed by Cllr. M Harley and seconded by Cllr. P McGowan.
- Claire McGeever informed the Members that the closing date for receiving applications in relation to the Community Involvement Scheme is 12th February 2021.
- Cllr. G Crawford referred to the problem of flooding caused by water running onto public roads. Cllr. Crawford acknowledged that a lot of work has been carried out regarding this issue but highlighted that there remains a number of locations that

continue to cause danger to traffic when flooding occurs. Cllr. G Doherty suggested sending an application to TII for funding to carry out remedial works at a number of locations highlighted by Members during the meeting. Claire McGeever agreed to revert with a detailed response on this issue.

- Cllr. F McBrearty requested an update in relation to drop kerb works at Cois Abhainn, St. Johnston. Claire McGeever agreed to follow up on this issue and revert to Members.
- Cllr. P McGowan queried if the pothole machine is operational during the Covid-19 Lockdown. Claire McGeever confirmed that remediation works are continuing where necessary in relation to potholes.
- Cllr. M Harley referred to the Roads Works Programme being delivered at the end of the year during poor weather conditions which is causing roads being left in a poor state.
- Cllr. G Doherty referred to a number of complaints in relation to the Gritting Programme and queried if the Council could provide 24 hour cover. Cllr. Doherty requested this issue to be included on the next MD Workshop Agenda. Claire McGeever confirmed that the current Gritting Policy doesn't cover 12 midnight to 6am but stated that if there is a concern about a particular location, to forward details. Ms. McGeever also stated that gritting is a county wide issue but a meeting could be arranged to discuss.

In relation to grit bins, Claire McGeever stated that if there are specific locations that are causing a problem, to forward details which will then be examined.

- Members requested an update in relation to the following:
 - Works at Sessiagh O'Neill Bridge.
Claire McGeever confirmed a report was forwarded to Members in December in relation to Sessiagh O'Neil footbridge and an update was provided in February Q1 2021. Updates can be provided once further milestones are reached.
 - Completion of the Stranorlar Bridge.
Claire McGeever confirmed this issue has been referred to TII and will revert back to Members with an update.
 - Signage entering Liscooley Village.
Claire McGeever agreed to request an update from TII.
 - Link road to Ballybofey/Stranorlar Bypass.
Claire McGeever confirmed that updates can be provided to Members on a quarterly basis or when milestones have been reached. An update will be provided in Q1 2021.
 - Hedge Cutting - Dreenan to Crossroads.
Claire McGeever confirmed a number of cases were pursued in 2020 with good results and any specific cases raised by Members can be followed up.

- Hedge Cutting – Meencarriagh, Ballybofey.
Claire McGeever agreed to provide an update.

262.06 Community Development

The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Members agreed to hold a workshop to discuss the Development Fund Initiative (DFI) on Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 2pm.
- Kathleen McGowan reminded Members that the closing date for receipt of applications in relation to the Covid-19 Emergency Fund is Friday 19th February 2021.
- Cllr. G Doherty requested an update in relation to Town Twinning.
- Cllr. M Harley queried if the Council could examine the possibility of providing a walkway around the lake at Trusk Lough through the Donegal Walks & Trails Project. Kathleen McGowan agreed to refer the request to Paddy Doherty.

263 Members Motions

263.01 The following Motion was submitted by Cllr. F McBrearty:

Motion: *"I am calling on DCC to begin repairs to the back roads in St Eunans terrace Raphoe ASAP."*

Reply:

'The Policy on repairs to back lanes and roads/footpaths in Council owned social housing developments has yet to be considered and agreed by the Plenary Council in the context of budgetary provision and scheduling of works.

In the meantime, the back roads in St. Eunan's Terrace, Raphoe have recently been surveyed by the Housing Engineer to establish the remedial works required at this location and in preparation for this work programme.'

The Motion was seconded by Cllr. G Crawford.

Cllr. F McBrearty stated that he did not accept the answer he received in relation to his Motion. He stated that the issue at St. Eunan's Terrace, Raphoe is a Council problem, not a Roads or Housing problem, and requested a date for the completion of works at this location.

Cllr. Crawford stated that the Motion needs to be acted upon and brought to the Plenary Council for resolution.

Joe Peoples stated that the issue will be brought to the Housing and Corporate SPC and to the Roads & Transportation SPC. Following this, a new policy dealing with this issue will be brought to the Plenary Council for approval.

263.02 The following Motion was submitted by Cllr. P McGowan:

Motion: *“Please give a update on progress with development at Drumboe park following on from my earlier motion for the Council to proceed with the purchase of the land which has full planning permission and can options for funding be giving high priority.”*

Reply:

‘Further to sustained and ongoing conversations in relation to the potential of Drumboe Woods, BASICC supported by Donegal County Council submitted an Expression of Interest to Leader outlining a project proposal to appoint consultants to prepare a Feasibility Study and Concept Development at Drumboe Woods. The Expression of Interest was approved on the 30th April 2020 thereafter BASICC with Donegal County Council met in workshop to outline the scope and detail of a ‘Request for Quotation’ (RFQ). In this regard email correspondence issued from BASICC to five suppliers on the 26 June 2020 with a closing date for receipt of quotations before 12 noon on Friday 10th July.

Three quotation responses were received in this regard. An evaluation team meeting was subsequently held on the 14th July 2020 in The Base, the outcome of which concluded that the response to quotation received from Pasparakis Friel Architects meets the qualifying criteria of the Request for Quotation across quality and cost. A Tender Evaluation Report was subsequently prepared and included within the application information along with requisite supporting documentation and which was forwarded to Leader for further and informed consideration.

In this regard the project proposal to appoint consultants to prepare a Feasibility Study and Concept Development at Drumboe Woods received favourable consideration and BASICC received formal notification in respect of same on 24th September 2020.

Thereafter, Pasparakis Friel were formally appointed as Project Lead and a Project Inception meeting was held on Thursday 12th November 2020 between Pasparakis Freil, BASICC and Donegal County Council.

Work is progressing in relation to the scope of the subject site, however travel restrictions imposed as a result of Covid19 has limited access to the sites, furthermore Pasparakis Friel with BASICC and Donegal Council, in light of the current Level 5 restrictions are reviewing

the proposed medium and timeline for public consultation to inform the detail of the Study.

As Members are aware Pasparakis Friel are also the consultants preparing the Ballybofey-Stranorlar Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan. The Stage 2 Report of the Strategy and Action Plan which is at working draft stage was presented to Members in workshop yesterday Monday 1st February 2020. Community Development and the Regeneration Team continue to work together in their respective roles to ensure an integrated and aligned vision in relation to the town centre and the surrounding Drumboe Woods and Environs.

It is anticipated, and subject to members availability that Pasparakis Friel will make a further presentation to Members and in the coming months, specifically in relation the Feasibility Study and Concept Development at Drumboe Woods

In relation to the purchase of land Donegal County Council's legal representatives are liaising with the legal representatives of the owners of the property in Drumboe to finalise the purchase and transfer of the property to the Council.'

The Motion was seconded by Cllr. M Harley.

Cllr. P McGowan welcomed the response to his Motion but highlighted that funding is now required to support the progression of the project to the next stage. Cllr. McGowan outlined the merits of the proposed project site and the benefit this project would be to the local area.

264 Members Written Questions

264.01 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. G Crawford:

Question: *"When What number of voids have been funded and restored during 2020 in this MD and at what locations. What is the target for 2021."*

Reply:

Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District returned twenty seven (27) social housing properties to productive use in 2020 under the Voids Programme.

The properties were in the following locations:

- Ballybofey & Stranorlar -9 units
- Killygordon- 3 units
- Castlefin-5 units
- Lifford-3 units
- St.Johnston -3 units
- Raphoe-2 units
- Convoy-2 units

As regards targets for the Voids Programme in 2021, this is dependant on properties being vacated and returned to Council stock. However as detailed in the Casual Vacancies Report, voids refurbishment contracts and tender processes are underway on a number of properties, to continue the ongoing work in addressing the social housing need across this Municipal District.

Olive Gillespie
Area Manager Housing & Corporate Services
Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District

264.02 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. G Crawford:

Question: *“What actions have taken place in this MD to address the problems of flooding caused by water running onto roads and to property by those who don’t take any action year after year to address the issue.”*

Reply:

The Roads Service Supervisors and Executive Engineers identify various locations of water flowing onto the road on an ongoing basis and identify measures to address same. Some of these issues are resolved with cleaning outlets, speaking to land owners or minor works. In most situations the Council works with the landowner to try to resolve issues. More complex jobs or jobs requiring a budget may need to be placed on the following years Drainage List or in the case of the National Primary Road, the Geo App system, to seek funding. The drainage list has for the past number of years been used to address many legacy drainage issues. In some cases the resolution is complex and difficult to resolve e.g. where there is no drain to discharge to. In addition various issues are highlighted through complaints and rep.s from Elected Members and TDs. These are investigated by the RSSs and EEs to determine what measures are required to address them should they relate to Roads.

In 2020 various problem locations were identified involving landowners. These included;

- Drumkeen RSS area. 7 identified. 6 resolved. 1 outstanding.
- Castlefin RSS area. 20 identified. 16 resolved. 4 outstanding/ ongoing.
- Lifford RSS area. 8 identified. 4 resolved. 2 are ongoing and 2 awaiting funding.

A number of issues are outstanding or ongoing for various reasons such as dry weather required to carry out the drainage, discussions ongoing with 3rd party landowners, funding required (applications submitted) etc.

In addition to the issues identified above involving landowners many more are resolved throughout the year. Last year 20 specific locations were addressed under the Drainage Programme costing in excess of € 190,000.

264.03 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. G Crawford:

Question: *“When will ducting of overhead wires in Bridge St Lifford be carried out as many commitments to do so have long since passed.”*

Reply:

Community Development Dept. will make arrangements to have this work completed when the current COVID-19 restrictions are eased, permitting non-essential constructing activity to resume.

264.04 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. F McBrearty:

Question: *“Any updates on Beltany Stone Circle.”*

Reply:

Beltany Stone Circle has been highlighted in a number of tourism marketing activities under taken by the Council’s Tourism Unit including the following:

- The ‘Spirit of Ireland’ publication which is a quarterly magazine celebrating all things Irish and which is distributed across the US and Canada will feature Beltany Stone Circle along with other East Donegal offerings in 2021. This piece will also include information on Exploring the Trails of Drumboe Woods, Angling, Golf, Parks & Gardens, Fintown Railway, Cycling, Language & Heritage, a list of hotels with website links, Link to McElhinney’s Store and the link to the donegaleast.ie website. Images of Barnesmore Gap, Beltany Stone Circle, Fintown Railway and Oakfield Park will also feature as part of this editorial piece.
- The Lonely Planet online destination guide included an image of Beltany Stone Circle in the welcome section in Q1 of 2020 along with information on Things to Do including: Walking in the Drumboe Natural Trail, Golf in Ballybofey & Stranorlar GC, Scenic Route section cover Donegal East under Scenic Route 4
- PBS Travel Programme which will air in the US and will target this market for 2022 visited Donegal in early December and Beltany Stone Circle was identified as a filming location.
- Beltany Stone Circle is also a key attraction in the Donegal East Scenic Route which is featured prominently in the Donegal Tourism brochure and govisitdonegal.com
- Similarly this route also features in the newly developed online itinerary publication ‘Make A Break For Donegal’ which has been developed in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland and which will be launched when Covid 19 restrictions are lifted. This is a dynamic online brochure with content updated on a quarterly basis.
- In addition to the above the Donegal East Group attended the Holiday World Show event as part of the Donegal Tourism offering in 2018, 2019 and 2020 as well as the Balmoral Show in 2018 and 2019.

In addition to the above marketing activities, the Council will be delivering a funding programme focusing on Minor Related Tourism works in each MD as agreed at the 2021 Revenue Budget and this will present opportunities for small scale works at key tourism

attractions such as Beltany Stone Circle. The Terms of Reference for this scheme is currently being prepared and the Tourism Unit will be engaging with elected members in the coming weeks in relation to this.

264.05 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. F McBrearty:

Question: *“Any updates on the progress of Town & Village Renewal for Raphoe and what stage are we at.”*

Reply:

An update on the progress of Town and Village Renewal Scheme for Raphoe is included in the Community Development Report circulated for Stranolar MD Meeting.

The current position in relation to the project is as follows:-

Letter of Offer has issued to all groups associated with the project. Each group are progressing their element of the project.

Raphoe Community in Action Group have procured an architect/designer to progress the design and to prepare tender documents for a number of element of the scheme.

Donegal County Council are currently Progressing survey, design works and preparing contract documents for proposed street works.

264.06 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. P McGowan:

Question: *“Can this MD write to the National Broadband company asking for details when rural Donegal and in particular this MD will get survey and connected to the rural fibre network as we appear to be lagging behind other area and other Counties and can we ask for the rationale and criteria fir how these other areas were selected ahead of the Lifford-Stranorlar MD.”*

Reply:

National Broadband Ireland presented to Donegal County Council virtually, 1st December 2020, on the implementation of the National Broadband Plan in County Donegal. At that presentation, the strategy for NBP rollout was outlined. The rollout is not designed on Municipal District boundaries but on what are called Deployment Areas. These Deployment Areas are based around available Telecom Exchanges / Backhaul Connection Points.

Subsequent to the meeting, the presentation was circulated to all Elected Members on the 2nd December.

NBI will accept any request to present to Municipal District meetings online as part of their Communications and Marketing Plan.

264.07 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. P McGowan:

Question: *“Can the Council consider extending the salting programme to cover school roads*

and areas with steep hills across the Lifford-Stranorlar MD.”

Reply:

The Winter Maintenance gritting programme has been agreed at Full Council including routes to be gritted (Fig. 1). The programme aims to try and ensure that all major traffic routes in the County are kept in a passable condition, in as far as possible, taking into account the limited resources available. Most routes are at capacity therefore if additional routes are to be added then either additional resources are made available or existing routes are curtailed. These changes need to be agreed at Full Council. Any requests in relation to a specific location can in the first instance be made to the MD who will send it to Roads Central for further consideration.

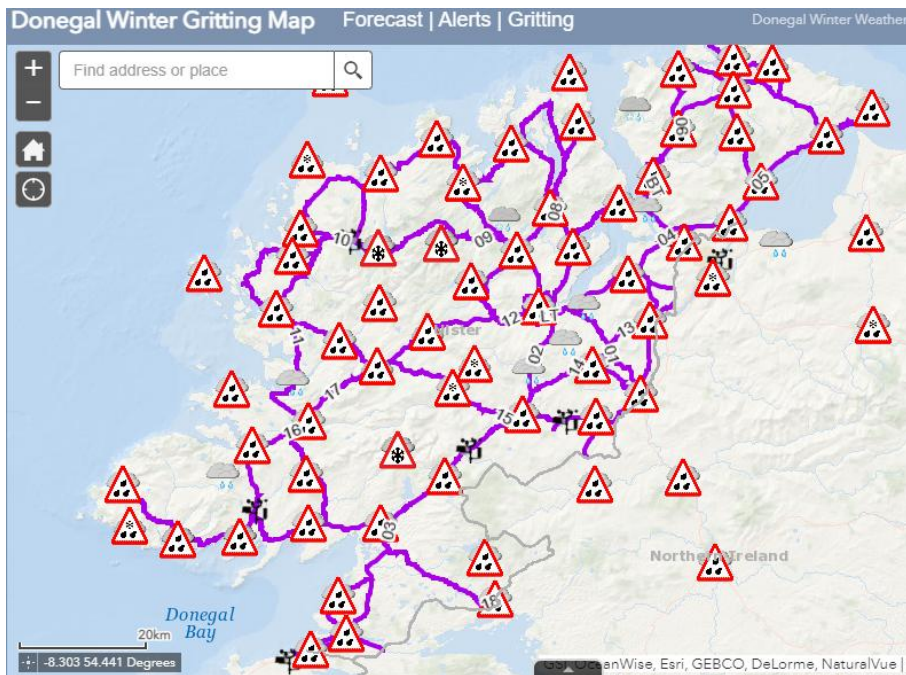


Fig. 1 Donegal gritting routes

In addition to the routes already agreed, the Council does provide grit heaps on busy Local Primary and Regional Roads on steep hills.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

**Cathaoirleach
Municipal District of Lifford-Stranorlar**

As agreed at the Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District Meeting held 30th March 2021