

Minutes of of Municipal District of Stranorlar Meeting held on Thursday 14th April 2016 in the Council Chamber, County House, Lifford, commencing at 11.00am.

Members Present:

CLlr Frank McBrearty. (Cathaoirleach)
CLlr Gary Doherty
CLlr Patrick McGowan
CLlr Gerry Crawford
CLlr Liam Doherty
CLlr. Martin Harley.

Officials Present:

Joe Peoples, Director of Service, Senior Management Team
Lynda Mc Gavigan, A/Area Manager, Housing/Corporate.
Paul Christy, Sen. Executive Planner, Planning Services.
Paddy Doherty, Divisonal Manager, Community, Enterrise & Planning Services.
Adrian Mc Cool, Assistant Engineer, Stranorlar Area, Roads.
Martina Morris, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

102.00 Corporate Services.

102.01. Votes of Sympathy.

Members passed a vote of sympathy on the passing of:

- **The Family of Ms. Louise James** (her partner, two sons, younger sister and mother) who died following a tragic accident at Bunrana Pier.
- **Malachy Keeney, Fiesta, Port Rd, L'kenney**, - brother of Gerry Keeney, Ex. Engineer, Water Services, Letterkenny.
- **James Mc Brearty, Bogagh, Carrick**, -former Member of Donegal County Council.
- **Kathleen Cannon, Carnamuggagh, L'kenney** - mother of Charlie Cannon, Roads, Letterkenny and wife of retired colleague John Cannon.
- **John (Scobie) Harte, Ballyduff, Lifford** - uncle of Jane Toland, C & E, Lifford and brother-in-law of retired colleague Patsy Toland.
- **Mary (Mamie) Melly, Lettermacaward** - mother of Anne Melley, Planning Dept, Lifford and mother-in-law of retired colleague Eugene Bonnar.

- **Charlie O' Donnell, 331 St. Eunans Tce, Raphoe** – father of Christy O' Donnell, Foreman, Roads, Letterkenny, and father of our former colleague Breidge Stewart.
- **Brendan Mc Cafferty, Crievesmith, L'keny** – brother of Maria Mc Cafferty , Roads Central.
- **Mrs. Mary Quinn, Main Street, Lifford** – mother in law of Martin Burke, Litter Warden, Donegal E.A.
- **Colm Gallagher, Currin, Termon** – father of Jamie Gallagher, Roads, Dungloe PSC.
- **Paddy Mc Elchar, Drumdoit, Castlefin** – father of former colleague, Marie Guthrie.
- **Pat Mc Donough, Sandyford, Dublin 16** – father of Daragh Mc Donough, I.S. Section.

102.02. Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Stranorlar Workshop held on 12th January 2016.

On the proposal of Cllr. Martin Harley and seconded by Cllr. Liam Doherty the minutes of the Workshop Meeting held on 12th January 2016 were confirmed.

102.03. Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Stranorlar Meeting held on 12th January 2016.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gary Doherty and seconded by Cllr. Gerry Crawford the minutes of the Stranorlar Municipal District Meeting held on 12th January 2016 were confirmed.

102.04. Confirmation of Minutes of Roads & Transportation Workshop held on 1st February 2016.

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Doherty and seconded by Cllr. Martin Harley the minutes of the roads & Transportation Workshop Meeting held on 1st February 2016 were confirmed.

102.05. Confirmation of Minutes of Schedule of Municipal District Works 2016 Meeting held on 31st March 2016.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gary Doherty and seconded by Cllr. Martin Harley the minutes of the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2016 Meeting held on 31st March 2016 were confirmed.

102.06. Confirmation of date and venue for next Meeting.

Members confirmed that the next meeting of Stranorlar Municipal District will be held on *Wednesday 18th May 2016 @11.00 a.m. in the Regional Training Centre, Stranorlar. This will be the A.G.M. meeting for the Stranorlar Municipal District.*

It was also agreed that a Workshop meeting would take place that day at 10.00a.m., prior to the Municipal District Meeting.

103.00 Planning & Economic Development.

Members noted the content of the report circulated with the Agenda

103.01. Unfinished Estates.

Paul Christy gave a brief outline of the current situation in relation to the following estates:

- *Cathedral Hill, Raphoe* - significant piece of work finished here, but, there remains more major works to be done - funding is available for these works.
- *Blue Cedars, Ballybofey* - there seems to be a resolution in sight in relation to the issue of the 'open space' at this development, which will enable the Council to proceed with the 'taking in charge' of this estate. In fact a 'Public Notice' was published in the local papers on Monday 11th April 2016 for the proposed Taking in Charge of the estate.

Members acknowledged that the monies already spent on the works done at *Cathedral Hill* have made a great difference to the Estate, and welcomed the fact that the funding was available to carry out further works.

2. Taking in Charge of Residential Housing Developments.

Members were advised that, Donegal County Council was now progressing applications for Take Over in respect of, 8 Schemes, in the Stranorlar Municipal Area:

- 7 no. Schemes as advertised in January 2016.
 1. Caislean Court, Castlefin,
 2. Admiran (Gildea)
 3. Carrick Crescent, Ballybofey,
 4. Manor Court, Townparks, Convoy
 5. Townview Heights, Ballybofey
 6. Blackrock Drive, Ballybofey,
 7. An Clairin, Killygordon

- & 1 no. as advertised in April 2016.
8. Blue Cedars, Ballybofey.

3. Planning Applications - Meterological Masts.

It was noted by the Members that, 3 no. applications for the retention of 80m high Meterological Masts at various locations in the District have been received by the Planning Dept recently. Members queried whether or not the same regulations/restrictions applied to the erection of this type of mast (distance from public roads etc) as applied to other masts.

104.00 Housing Services.

104.01. Social Housing Reports.

Members noted the contents of the reports circulated with the Agenda and presented by Ms. Lynda Mc Gavigan, Acting Area Manager, Housing /Corporate.

Ms. Mc Gavigan stated that she would like to proceed to offer for sale the following 2 no. properties identified as 'for sale in Tranche 2 of the Casual Vacancies report:

- S.I. cottage at Gortgrannagh, Lifford.
- No. 332 St. Eunans Tce, Raphoe

Members queried if the S.I. at Gortgrannagh could be adapted to suit the needs of someone with a disability, as there are a number of such applicants with special needs on the Housing waiting list. It was acknowledged that such a proposition would depend on the costs involved and whether or not it was a suitable dwelling for conversion.

104.02 - Energy Efficiency Programme - Phases 1 & 2.

Members requested that, a programme of works should be put in place, to ensure that the houses, which had air- vents installed as part of Phase 1 of the Energy Efficiency Programme (Attic and Wall Insulation), would be prioritised for Phase 2 of the Programme - the upgrade/replacement of Windows and Doors.

104.03 – Anti-Social Behaviour.

Members proposed that the Council look at piloting a 'scheme' (in one or two of the problem estates in the Area) which would offer a pro-active approach to dealing with the issue of anti-social behaviour.

This 'scheme' should be a joint venture among all the relevant groups - Council Staff, Council Members, An Garda Síochána, Resident Associations, Tenants and Community Groups etc.

105.00 Community, Enterprise and Cultural Services.

Members noted the content of the report as circulated and presented by Mr. Paddy Doherty.

105.01 Donegal Local Economic and Community Plan (L.E.C.P)

The L.E.C.P. was formally approved at the January Meeting of Donegal County Council and is due to be launched formally by the L.C.D.C. (Local and Community Development Committee) in the coming months.

105.02 . Drumboe Walkway.

Discussions are ongoing with the E.T.B. regarding the drafting of a revised Deed of Dedication and it is expected that following receipt of this, the matter may be finalised within a number of weeks.

105.03 – Peace IV.

Donegal County Council has received an allocation of €5,552,691 under the Peace IV Programme, which runs until 2020.

The Council will be developing a Peace IV Partnership and Peace IV Action Plan over the coming months which will involve a public consultation in each Municipal District.

105.04 – Peace IV – Shared Spaces Capital

A total allocation of €52.9m for Capital Development to create new Shared Spaces is provided for under The Shared Space and Services objective of the Peace IV Programme. It is expected that 8 no. Capital developments within the Peace IV area will be supported under this measure.

The Members were advised that, Donegal County Council and Derry City and Strabane Council, are currently in discussions regarding the development of a shared space proposal for the Lifford/Strabane Area based on the Riverine

Project and it is hoped that a draft proposal may be brought forward before both Councils in the coming weeks.

105.05 Rural Development Programme - LEADER.

The Local Development Strategy was approved at the LCDC meeting in January and has been submitted to the Department for approval.

Following discussions with the Dept it is hoped that the Leader Programme could be open for applications in July/August.

A total of €12.9 m in funding is available for the County under The 'LEADER' Programme

105.06 Ballybofey/Stranorlar Development Hub.

Members welcomed the progress made in securing an agreement with LYIT to provide a level 7 Sports Coaching Course (under the supervision of LYIT) to the Finn Valley Sports Centre.

This 2- year Course will start in the Finn Valley Centre in the Autumn of 2016.

105.07 - Playgrounds - Annual Maintenance.

Maintenance works have commenced at the following locations and these works are due for completion in April 2016.

- Stranorlar SHS
- Railway Road, Stranorlar.
- St. Johnston SHS.
- Killygordon.
- Porthall.
- Castlefin.
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105.08 - Misc - Finn Harps

It was agreed by the Members that a letter should be sent, on behalf of the Municipal District, to the Dept seeking the reasons for the apparent delay in responding to the application submitted by Finn Harps Football Club for funding for the provision of a new pitch, etc in Ballybofey.

Members acknowledged the contribution made by the Finn Harps Club to the the social and sporting life of the County, and, welcomed the fact that Donegal County Council will honour this contribution by hosting a public reception in May 2016 for Finn Harps Football Club.

106.00 Environmental Services.

Members noted the content of the report circulated with the Agenda, but, expressed their disappointment that there was no staff member from the Environment Section present at the meeting, and, requested that a letter be sent to the Director of Services, for Water & Environment expressing their frustration that no-one was available to cover the meeting.

However, the Members did wish to acknowledge the great work being done by various groups, community organisations etc and D.C.C. staff on the **Big Donegal Clean Up '16** campaign which was launched recently, and, the awarding of **Designated Bathing Area** status by the EPA to a further two beaches (Dooley & Magheroarty) in Donegal.

106.01 - Recycling and refuse Charges.

The issue of charges at the recycling sites within the County was raised by the Members, who pointed out that there should be a consistency in charging across the County, and that the charges applicable on-site, should be more transparent particularly for 'mixed' loads (recycling and other waste).

Members suggested that the issuing of receipts for monies received (on site) should be standard practice across all the sites being operated on behalf of D.C.C throughout the County.

106.02 - Bottle Banks

It was acknowledged that there is a problem with access to the existing location in Stranorlar, but, the Members were advised that D.C.C, is actively looking for new sites for bottle banks in all areas and would welcome any suggestions for alternative locations.

107.00 Roads & Transportation.

Members noted the contents of the report circulated with the Agenda.

107.01 - 2016 Restoration Improvement Programme.

Members were advised that due to the proposed laying of a new water main from Convoy to Raphoe, the planned road-works for the stretch of road from Mannies (pub) towards Raphoe (736 m on R263-3) are being postponed, and, a different stretch of this road from Convoy towards Kilross will be done instead.

Members agreed to a proposal that a public statement should issue to the local press advising of:

- the change to the proposed road works programme
- reasons why this change is being made.

107.02 - Severe Weather Funding Allocation.

Members acknowledged the effort and work done by the Stranorlar MD Roads office staff to secure almost € 2.2m of additional monies from the national fund made available by The DTTAS to address the damage to Regional and Local Roads arising from recent severe weather conditions.

Members stressed that they wanted to see the programme of works identified being completed without undue delay and requested that the Council maintain a sense of urgency in having these works completed.

107.03. Bridges.

Castlefin Bridge.

It was agreed by the Members that the current annual funding mechanism in relation to the proposed widening of Castlefin Bridge is unfeasible given the substantial amount of works required on the Northern side of the bridge and the estimated construction costs of same, and, that an alternative source of funding will have to be sought to complete this project. With this in mind it was further agreed that correspondence would be sent to DTTAS outlining the importance of this project and seeking funding for completion.

Logue's Bridge.

Members agreed that it would be more economically advantageous to seek funding for the completion of an 'off-line' replacement of the existing bridge, rather than, for a single carriageway deck replacement, and, that correspondence would be sent to DTTAS outlining the importance of this project and seeking funding for the proposed 'off-line' replacement of the existing bridge.

The need to identify a source of funding for the preparation of the design for the new bridge was identified as a major issue by the Members, and it was queried if it is intended that the actual design work would be done by D.C.C. Roads Dept.

Blackburn Bridge/Ballybofey_Stranorlar Bypass

Members requested that an update on Phase 2 of the Blackburn Bridge Project as well as an update in relation to any progress on the proposed Ballybofey/Stranorlar Bypass and how the two projects interrelate.

Members expressed concern in relation to the potential higher speeds past the Cappry Junction/ Goland Junction when phase one of the Blackburn Bridge Project is complete.

Proposed Resurfacing & Watermain Installation Works at Cappry

Members requested that they be provided with the proposed start and end points for this scheme.

2016 Bridge Maintenance Programme.

Members had previously agreed a list of the top 10 Bridge maintenance priorities within the Stranorlar Municipal District and had further agreed that the 2016 Bridge Maintenance Allocation of € 50,000 would be allocated to the following bridges (No. 1 & 2 on the priority list).

1. Bridge No. 105 - Alt Bridge, near Dooneyloop.
2. Bridge No. 183.2 Trentamucklagh

However, as the Roads office was subsequently successful in being allocated monies from the Severe Weather Fund to repair Bridge 183.2 - Trentamucklagh, this will now allow an additional bridge within the Municipal District to receive maintenance under the 2016 Bridge Maintenance Programme.

107.04. Pot-hole Repairs/ Road Maintenance.

It was noted by the Members that the public is becoming increasingly critical of the number of times Council roads staff are seen to be repairing the same pot-holes over and over again.

They queried if there is an issue with the way the pot-holes are being repaired and the fact that 'cold-mix tar' was being used.

Members sought clarification on whether or not a 'hot-box' mix would be more suitable for pot-hole repairs in the winter period, and, queried if such a system could be provided in the Stranorlar Municipal Area.

The Members agreed that, a comprehensive report on exactly **why** the roads in the Area are in such a bad state in comparison to the rest of the County, should be presented by the Roads Dept to the Members at the next meeting.

107.05- Misc.

The following issues were also raised by the Members:

- **Meenglass Road** - the condition of the road continues to deteriorate due to the volume and weight of traffic transporting materials to the road works at Blackburn Bridge - approx. 0.6km of the road is now in very bad condition.
- **Liscooley** - members stated that local residents have expressed concerns regarding 'safety' in relation to the speed of traffic travelling through Liscooley since the completion of the pavement strengthening works here. They highlighted the possible danger of traffic being rear-ended, when trying to turn right into the garage at Liscooley, and also when trying to turn left or right at the road junction just beyond the garage. The Members requested that Donegal County Council keep the situation here under review, and, it was felt that the possibility of erecting some sort of **traffic calming measures** at this location should be examined, (similar to the existing Pelican Crossing near Dromore N.S. in Killygordon) as a matter of urgency.

- **Regional Road Status** - Members requested a report on the possible upgrade to Regional Road Status for the following roads:
 1. Back road from Ballybofey to Clady (via Dooneyloop)
 2. Back road from Castlefin to Convoy

The members felt that these two road sections had more traffic than a lot of the other existing regional roads around the county.

- **Bus Stop at Main St, Stranorlar** - members requested a report on the lack of progress on this issue.
- **Footpath from 'the Weavers' to Sessiaghoneill** - members requested that this item be kept on the Agenda for progress reports.

108.00 Notice of Motions.

108.01 - CO2 Alarms.

The following motion was submitted and proposed by Cllr. Gerry Crawford and seconded by Cllr. Paddy Mc Gowan.

'That we discuss what level of progress has there been in the last 2 years in having CO2 alarms installed in council opened homes and the protocol existing following activation of such alarms in terms of tenant return'.

The Members were informed that: The Council have been fitting CO2 alarms under the Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Works Programme over the last 3 years. At present we have approximately 230 properties completed under these contracts within the Stranorlar Municipal District, with a further 75 ongoing at present.

If a call is received regarding the CO2 alarm going off in a property, the tenant is advised to ventilate the property immediately and not to use any suspected heating source. The Council would call to the property and discuss same with the tenant to try and ascertain what happened/caused the alarm to go off, for example, when and where did it go off; what was the tenant doing at that time; was the fire lit and which fire if there are two in the property etc.

The Council would check the range, the fire place etc for faults - seals, fire rope, fore bricks, fire back seal, etc, check chimney for faults-dirty chimney, cracked flues, blockages, etc. and revert back to the tenant if it was found to be their own responsibility. If, found to be the Council's responsibility, we would then, proceed to repair the item.

Cllr. Crawford explained that the reason he had put forward this Motion was to highlight the dangers of CO2, and to alert people to the fact that **CO2 is lethal**.

Therefore, while he welcomed the response given by the Council, he felt that rather than the Council advising tenants to ventilate the property if the CO2 alarm goes off, they should be instructed **to vacate** the property and not to return to the property until it had been established that it was safe to do so.

He pointed out that there is also a danger to Council staff being asked to check these properties.

Cllr. Crawford then proposed that the Housing Dept and the Emergency Services Dept should come together to develop a *County- Wide Policy* for both Tenants and Council staff outlining the procedures to be adopted in the event of a CO2 alarm going off, and, the responsibilities of each (Tenant and Council)

in relation to the installation of alarms, prevention, maintenance of appliances, cleaning of flues, fires etc.

This policy should then be included in the Tenants Handbook.

All Members agreed with this proposal.

109.00. Members Written Questions.

109.01. The following question was submitted by Cllr. Gerry Crawford.

In view of the recently obtained additional funding (flood damage initiative) to enable works to be carried out on some of the dreadful roads in this MD taken together with our agreed roads works programme when will these works begin and what does this council plan to do within its remit to prevent flooding to areas within the Stranorlar MD so severely affected in recent floods

Cllr. Crawford was informed that: The Stranorlar MD has secured additional Storm Related Funding to deal with damage that was caused by the recent Flooding. A 2nd Round of Contracts has now been prepared as it due to be tendered during the week commencing Monday 11th April 2016. The Contracts will be due back 2 - 3 weeks later and will then be assessed. It would be expected that Contracts will be awarded in early May. The Bitmac works will be undertaken between May and July and these will then be surface dressed by Donegal County Council's own direct labour crews.

As part of the surfacing works on these affected roads, the existing drains will be scoured and cleaned out and any damaged culverts replaced where needed. Additional Funding was also secured to replace a Bridge at Treantamucklagh in the St. Johnston Area.

109.02 The following question was submitted by Cllr. Gerry Crawford

When will the ongoing sewerage treatment works in St. Johnston be completed?

Cllr. Crawford was informed that: The Civil Works are substantially completed and M&E installations have commenced.

The Contractors current programme shows commissioning, testing, and taking over of works to be completed in Q3 2016.

110.00. Other Business- Adoption of the Development Fund Initiative - 2016

The meeting was then adjourned to allow the Members to go into a Workshop Meeting to consider the applications received from various groups for funding from the Development Fund Initiative 2016.

When the meeting was re-convened it was unanimously agreed that the Development Fund Initiative for 2016 be allocated as follows:

	Organisation / Group	Amount
	Drumkeen Utd Football Club	€ 3,000.00
	Sessiaghoneill Residents Group	€ 5,000.00
	Raphoe Boxing Club	€ 20,000.00
	Raphoe Tidy Towns	€ 4,000.00
	Raphoe Seniors Friday Club	€ 2,500.00
	Convoy Arsenal FC	€ 8,000.00
	Planet Youth	€ 5,500.00
	Naomh Pdraig Leifear GAA Club	€ 4,500.00
	Lifford Celtic Football Club	€ 4,000.00
	Convoy Community & Environmental Committee	€ 4,000.00
	Ballybofey & Stranorlar Integrated Community Company	€ 14,000.00
	CLG Gleann Fhinne	€ 4,000.00
	Castlefin Partnership Initiative Ltd	€ 9,000.00
	Lifford Tidy Towns	€ 4,000.00
	Ulster Dancing Championships	€ 3,000.00
	Kildrum Tigers FC	€ 5,500.00
	Robert Emmetts GAA	€ 6,000.00
	Balor Developmental Community Arts (DCA) Group Ltd	€ 5,000.00
	Butt Drama Circle Company Limited	€ 9,000.00
	TOTAL FUND ALLOCATION	€ 120,000.00

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Area Manager,

Cathaoirleach,
Municipal District of Stranorlar.