

Ceantar Bardais Inis Eoghain

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
Leifear
08ú Aibreán 2021

FOGRA CRUINNITHE

Beidh Cruinniú de Ceantar Bardais Inis Eoghain ar siúl Dé Máirt 13ú Aibreán 2021,
ag 1.00 r.n.

DO GACH BHALL DEN CEANTAR BARDAS INIS EOGHAIN

A Chara,

Iarrtar ort bheith i lathair ag an gcruinniú seo do Ceantar Bardais Inis Eoghain. Tá Clar an Cruinnithe le seo.

Mise, le meas

Aideen Ni Dhocharthaigh

Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Municipal District of Inishowen

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford
8th April 2021

NOTICE OF MEETING

A "cisco wevex" Meeting of the Municipal District of Inishowen will be held on Tuesday 13th April 2021 **at 1.00p.m.**

TO EACH MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF INISHOWEN

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend this meeting of the Municipal District of Inishowen. The Agenda is attached.

Yours sincerely

Aideen Doherty

Meetings Administrator

AGENDA

1. Consideration of the Minutes of the Municipal District of Inishowen Meeting held on 9th March 2021
2. Community & Enterprise
3. Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services
4. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services
5. Planning
6. Environment
7. Roads & Transportation
8. Correspondence

MINUTES/RECORD OF THE INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT 'GOTOMEETING' HELD ON TUESDAY 9th March 2021 at 1.00pm

Councillors Present:

Cllrs Paul Canning, Nicholas Crossan, Terry Crossan, Albert Doherty, Rena Donaghey, Martin Farren, Martin Mc Dermott, Bernard Mc Guinness and Jack Murray.

Officials Present:

Aideen Doherty, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate, Una Cresswell, A/Senior Staff Officer ,Housing & Corporate Services, Seamus Hopkins, Area Manager, Roads and Transportation, Killian Smith , Executive Planner, Mathew Byrne, Waste Regulation Officer Edward Gallagher, Assistant Chief Fire Officer Paddy Doherty, Divisional Manager , Community Development and Leona Finlay, Assistant Planner.

21.16 Adjournment of Meeting

Cllr Albert Doherty opened the meeting. On the proposal of Cllr Rena Doherty and seconded by Cllr Martin Farren it was agreed to adjourn the meeting until 1.15pm.

21.17 Consideration of the minutes of the Inishowen Municipal District "GoToMeeting" held on 9th February 2021

On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey and seconded by Cllr Nicholas Crossan, the minutes of the Inishowen Municipal District Meeting held 9th February 2021 were agreed.

21.18 Minutes Correction

Re February Meeting Minute 21.15.01

It was noted that in minute referring to minute 21.15.01 that Cllr Rena Donaghey had suggested that Ned's Point should be also developed to promote visitors to the area.

Re February Minute 21.14.01 Mica Redress Scheme

Cllr Albert Doherty said that he had proposed and that it had been agreed that the Minister for Finance be asked to contact the banks in relation to issues being faced by owners who had mica.

Re February Minute 21.15- Roads

Seamus Hopkins, Senior Engineer, Roads and Transportation, agreed to provide update on the items listed in 21.15

21.19 Expression of Sympathy

Cllr Albert Doherty said that he wished to express his sympathy over the recent passing of Hugo Boyce, Clonmany who was a very influential community activist involved in music, radio and community events. The members collectively expressed their sympathy to Lucy, and all the family and friends of Hugo Boyce. They paid huge tribute to him recognising his efforts and commitment in promoting Inishowen and particularly, the very successful annual and long running Clonmany festival.

21.20 PLANNING

Cllr Albert Doherty welcomed Killian Smyth, Executive Planner and Leona Finlay, Assistant Planner to the meeting. The Planning Report was taken as read by Killian Smith, Executive Planner.

21.21.01 Planning Clinics

Killian Smith advised the members of the dates of the planning clinics.

21.21.02 Carndonagh Tús Nua Regeneration Project

The update on the Carndonagh Tús Nua Regeneration Project, provided in the planning report was welcomed by the members. It was requested that a workshop be organised to discuss the project in depth with Paul Kelly, Senior Executive Planner, Regeneration and Development Team, Donegal County Council.

21.21.03 Mica Redress Scheme Planning Requirements

In relation to a query at the last Inishowen Municipal District meeting seeking clarification on whether homeowners affected by mica are exempt from building regulations, it was agreed that a workshop with Paddy Mullan, Senior Executive Engineer, and Building Control should take place so that matters may be clarified.

21.21.04 Planning Applications in Coastal Areas

Cllr Jack Murray expressed his concerns over planning restrictions for residential properties in coastal areas around the environs of Bunrana. He said that he understood that applications are being rejected even in cases where the land is family owned, and where other family members have obtained planning in the past. He said he believed the planning and coastal protection policies need to be reviewed.

Cllr Nicholas Crossan and Cllr Rena Donaghey both concurred with Cllr Murray. Cllr Nicholas Crossan said that there were pockets of land around Bunrana where it is very difficult to get residential planning. Cllr Paul Canning also agreed and said that these issues need to be looked at seriously for the future. He added that the policy documents were extensive and environmental considerations were a huge part of it. The consensus was that a new impetus must be injected into updating the Bunrana Local Area Plan particularly recognising the needs of local people who wish to build in these areas around the environs of Bunrana.

Killian Smith, Executive planner said that rules were there for the protection of the landscape. In addition he added that work is ongoing to review the policy and all these issues and concerns of the members can be discussed and addressed at the workshops that will be held in the future to discuss the plan. He said that he will convey to the Central Planning Unit, that the Inishowen Municipal District members wish to have the Bunrana Local Area plan reviewed. He added and it was noted that the Letterkenny Local Plan will be dealt with first.

21.22 ENVIRONMENT

Mathew Byrne, Waste Regulation Officer presented the Environment report to the members.

21.22.01 Environment Grants for Community Groups

Mathew Byrne advised that the Environment Section administers a number of Environment grants for community and Tidy Towns groups and that the application pack is currently being updated. All groups will be sent an application pack by email or hardcopy and are invited to apply.

21.22.02 Climate Action Workshop

Mathew Byrne advised that a successful Climate Action workshop took place over two days on 17th & 19th February with nineteen groups registering. Cllr Albert Doherty requested that the names of the nineteen groups could be given to the members

21.22.03 Quad Bikes

Mathew Byrne referred to David Friel's (Coastal Officer) report on quad bikes which highlights the destruction and serious degradation of the environment and de-stabilising of the fragile dune systems which is resulting in increased levels of erosion and habitat loss.

Cllr Martin Farren reiterated his concerns expressed at the previous Inishowen Municipal District meeting over the use of quads on beaches and the difficulty in apprehending and fining offenders. Mathew Byrne advised that the Minister for Transport, Eamonn Ryan has announced new legislative measures to give An Garda Síochána additional powers to help tackle the anti-social use of scrambler bikes, quad bikes, and similar off-road machines. Cllr Farren said that he understood that An Garda Síochána have not yet got the necessary powers and that he was extremely concerned and wanted the matter dealt with before the next meeting.

21.22.04 Camping, Caravan and Campervan Study

Mathew Byrne said that he looked forward to the report on the Camping, Caravan and Campervan study for the county which is being currently undertaken by KPMG Future Analytics as mentioned in the Environment report. He said this tourism sector has seen significant growth in recent years and the study would identify issues and opportunities in further developing this sector.

Cllr Albert Doherty welcomed the study but sought clarification on what was the design brief for the study and also what the costs are for the study. He also stated that he believed consultation with local community groups and residents is necessary and that it should be acknowledged that some areas are not suitable for camping and caravanning,

21.22 05 Metal Theft

The members were advised that there was an increase of metal theft throughout the county recently.

21.22.06 Waste Collection

Mathew Byrne advised that anybody collecting waste is required by law to have a Waste Collection Permit to do so.

21.22.07 Seaweed Harvesting Licences

Following on from a request at the last Inishowen Municipal District meeting, it was noted that an update would be provided by the Environment Section on Seaweed Harvesting Licences. Mathew Byrne said legislation is due to change giving more powers to Local Authorities in this regard.

21.22.08 Foyle View Estate, Quigley's Point

Cllr Terry Crossan expressed his gratitude for the prompt action in replacing a man hole cover at the treatment plant near Foyle View Estate outside Quigley's Point. However, he mentioned that a second man hole cover now requires replacing.

21.22.09 Public Conveniences in Moville

Cllr Martin Farren reiterated his request from previous meetings that the Public Conveniences in Moville be refurbished before the summer season. He said that he understood that this had been agreed by the Director of Service.

21.22.10 Dog Fouling

Cllr Martin Farren expressed his concerns over the level of dog fouling and the lack of responsibility of some dog owners in managing dog fouling in public places. He said that the message needed to get out to the public that they need to use bags to collect the waste and dispose of it appropriately. Cllr Rena Donaghey agreed with Cllr. Farren and said that this had become more of a problem with the increased numbers of the public outside during the pandemic.

The consensus of the members was that this matter needs to be addressed and more stringent measures taken to try and combat the problem. Also it was agreed more signage and bin provision was necessary throughout the peninsula.

21.22.11 Litter Management Issues

A discussion took place on litter issues with particular reference to areas where there are pop up coffee and take away food outlets where there is a lack of bins for disposing of litter. It was agreed that more bins were required. Cllr Nicholas Crossan suggested businesses could sponsor litter bins by advertising on them. He added that the increase of coffee cup and face mask waste has significantly increased the demand for more bins.

Cllr Terry Crossan praised the efforts of the litter wardens for the work they do in investigating and dealing with illegal dumping. However he said that more stringent efforts were necessary and proposed that more stringent measures be taken to combat illegal dumping, this was seconded by Cllr Jack Murray.

21.22.12 Westbrook Pumping Station

Cllr Rena Donaghey said she was very disappointed that works had not started on the upgrade at Westbrook Pumping Station and that this needed to be addressed as the project is shovel ready and is necessary to address the long standing problems with overflow.

21.22.13 Blue Flag Status for Lisfannon Beach

Cllr Rena Donaghey stated that every effort should be made to have the Blue Flag status restored at Lisfannon. She says there are only twelve weeks until the start of summer and that this should be progressed urgently. She commended the council for maintaining the high number of Blue Flag beaches that Donegal have, the highest for a county in Ireland.

21.22.14 Buncrana Public Conveniences

Cllr Donaghey said that a new block of public conveniences is necessary in Buncrana as the Shore front toilets are over forty years old and outdated. She said that the play park, beaches and green areas are extremely busy and that it was of paramount importance that adequate public conveniences be provided for tourists, locals and visitors alike. Cllr Murray agreed and said that the playpark has never been busier. He suggested that a counter be placed which would provide statistics on the level of footfall. Cllr Donaghey said that she understood that there was a foot counter at the Angling centre.

The consensus was that tourism should be encouraged and adequate services provided to keep visitors returning. Cllr Murray suggested large scale tourism development in Buncrana as it is a large seaside town with huge potential in capturing the staycations market as well as the wider tourism market. Areas such as Ned's Point could be developed he added. He further suggested that there should be a strategic plan for the whole shore front area involving all services. Cllr Nicholas Crossan said that as mentioned earlier all these proposals and suggestions should be considered at the workshops proposed for Buncrana Local Area Plan.

21.22.15 Culdaff Beach

Cllr Bernard McGuinness acknowledged the landscaping works completed at Culdaff beach, organised by David Friel, Coastal Officer. Access to the beach was now restored, he added; however he expressed his concerns over the level of erosion in recent times. He also requested that an extension to the car park at Culdaff beach be considered.

Cllr McGuinness suggested that soft options in addressing erosion would not be costly. He referred to the study on erosion carried out twenty five years ago and suggested soft options may be a solution and should be reconsidered for beaches including Ballyliffin and Lagg.

21.22.16 Septic Tanks Culdaff

Cllr McGuinness requested that issues with septic tanks running into the river be raised with Irish Water. He said that towns across the county were experiencing the same problem, including Merville in Inishowen.

21.22.17 Irish Water

Cllr Martin McDermott proposed and Cllr Martin Farren seconded that a meeting with Irish water should be requested to seek clarification on when Irish Water are going to repair roads at Malin, Malin Head, Cloontagh and Urris which have been left in a poor state after Irish Water carried out pipe laying. They proposed that the resurfacing should take place before the summer.

Mathew Byrne reminded the members of the protocol for contacting Irish Water by email.

21.22.18 Removal of Sand from Beaches

Cllr Albert Doherty suggested that signage is erected to advise that sand should not be removed from beaches.

21.23 COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE

The report was taken as read by Paddy Doherty, Divisional Manager, Community and Planning

21.23.01 Date for Workshop re Malin Head Visitor Management Plan

Paddy Doherty reminded the members that the Workshop on the Malin Head Visitor Management Plan is scheduled for 11th March at 12.00noon.

21.23.02 Town and Village Renewal Schemes

Paddy Doherty advised that Town and Village Renewal schemes will recommence once the HSE Covid-19 Health restrictions permit construction to recommence.

21.23.03 Dunree Fort

Paddy Doherty advised that a decision on the third stage of the application submitted under Fáilte Irelands Platform for Growth, '*A programme for Tourism Investment 2019-2022, Platform 1 Immersive Heritage and Cultural Attractions*', for Dunree Fort is due in May.

21.23.04 LEADER Funding

Paddy Doherty advised the members that over €1 million in additional funding has been allocated to Donegal under the Transitional LEADER programme to support locally lead rural development. This will come into effect in April 2021. This will bridge the gap between the current 2014-2020 LEADER programme and the start of the next EU programme, which is not likely to commence until 2023 due to delays at EU level.

Cllr Martin McDermott stated that he thought it was unfair that community groups had to provide 25% match funding the same amount as businesses. Cllr McDermott said that LCDC are going to make a submission to the Department to increase the grant for community groups from 75% to 90% as community groups struggle to raise the 25% particularly during the current pandemic.

21.23.05 Development Fund Initiative Workshop and Rural Programme Review Workshop

A date for a workshop to consider the allocation of the DFI funding was agreed for 25th March 2021 at 12.00pm. followed by Rural Programme workshop at 1.00pm

21.23.06 Inishowen Ferry Service

Cllr Martin Farren expressed his gratitude for Donegal County Council funding the return of the ferry services in Inishowen for ten weeks.

21.23.07 Slí na Sláinte Walking Route

Cllr Martin Farren said that he would like to see the Slí na Sláinte Walking Route Merville to Greencastle extended and requested a meeting with relevant officials.

21.23.08 Merville Play Park

Cllr Martin Farren referred to his request at the previous meeting for the repair of the broken Zip line equipment at Merville Play Park. He advised that one of the columns at side of the zip line is very uneven.

Paddy Doherty advised that he hoped to progress works on playgrounds once restrictions are eased.

21.23.09 Ned's Point

Cllr Rena Donaghey suggested that the RNLI could relocate to the pier at Bunrana and would be happy to do so and also that Ned's Point should be refurbished and public conveniences provided.

21.23.10 An Grianán of Aileach Fort

Cllr Jack Murray asked if there was any update on the proposed meeting with the OPW to discuss matters with members and stakeholders. The general consensus was that discussions should take place before the plan is implemented. It was agreed that a workshop with the Office of Public Works should be organised so that all of the members concerns be considered. Paddy Doherty advised that a meeting would be organised.

21.23.11 Walkway in Bunrana Mill River – Railway Road Bunrana

Cllr Rena Donaghey requested an update on the consideration of a walk between Bunrana Mill River and Railway Road Bunrana (past the GAA pitch) as discussed at a previous meeting.

21.23.12 Bunrana School Campus

Cllr Nicholas requested an update on the status of the new Bunrana School Campus project.

21.23.13 Barrack Hill Town Parks

Cllr Albert Doherty requested an update on matters relating to Barrack Hill Town Park including the erection of signage and the activity wall. Paddy Doherty advised that discussions are ongoing with the Road's service regarding a possible solution for the activity wall. Seamus Hopkins advised that it may be necessary to reduce the size of the wall. Cllr Albert Doherty proposed and Cllr Bernard McGuinness seconded that steps be taken as soon as possible to resolve the issue.

21.23.14 Walks and Trails

Cllr Albert Doherty referred to his previous request for meeting with Darryl Connor, Outdoor Recreational Development Officer, regarding walks and trails in Inishowen, particularly in Carndonagh. Paddy Doherty said on site meetings would be arranged with Darryl.

21.24 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION SYSTEMS & EMERGENCY SERVICES

The report was taken as read by Edward Gallagher, Assistant Chief Fire Officer

21.24.01 Donegal Place Brand initiative:

Edward Gallagher advised that work on the development of the Donegal Place Brand was ongoing with engagement over the last few months with a wide range of stakeholders including elected members.

21.24.02 Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

The members were advised that over twenty events took place over the Local Enterprise Week which took place last week. The event was a virtual event with a full programme of online events designed to help Donegal businesses “Spring Back” into action. There was an excellent response and it was well supported.

Cllr Nicholas Crossan expressed his concerns and frustration that within the local Enterprise Office “Spring Back” brochure in relating to Enterprise week, there was very little mention of Donegal County Council and he believed that this was unfair. He added that there was not one single mention of the Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council either. He said it felt like local democracy was being ignored and sought clarification on the role of the elected members. He asked for details of the cost of the brochure. He acknowledged the excellent work of the Local Enterprise Office but was very disappointed in councilors not being included.

A discussion ensued and both Cllrs Paul Canning and Cllrs Martin McDermott concurred with Cllr Crossan. Cllr Jack Murray also agreed with the previous comments and said there was a broader issue. He said that the local Enterprise Office was brought into Donegal County Council over six years ago but he believed there was no change and that decisions have been taken away from the members. It was agreed that clarification also is sought on the makeup of the Local Enterprise Office staff and a full breakdown given of all costs of Enterprise week.

21.24.03 Brexit Stimulus Package

Cllr Martin Farren said that it is vital that the Inishowen Municipal District gets its fair share of funding under the Brexit Stimulus Package and that members should be kept informed of the plans for the distribution of the funds.

21.25.04 -Fisheries North West -Brexit Issues

Cllr Albert Doherty said he would like an update on the recent meeting attended by Cllr Niamh Kennedy who is on the Donegal County Fisheries Committee, regarding difficult issues that North West Fisheries are facing as a result of Brexit changes.

21.24.03 National Broadband Ireland.

It was noted that the website www.NBI.ie shows plan of areas where broadband will be rolled out

21.24.04 Water Tanker for Inishowen

Cllr Martin McDermott referred to the water tanker requirement for Inishowen as mentioned at previous Municipal District meetings .He advised that motion for an additional fire tanker was for Inishowen and that he was still very unhappy that the new water tanker had gone to the west of the county. He said that he will keep raising this matter. He added that he felt very strongly as do other members of Inishowen Municipal District. Cllr Martin Farren concurred with Cllr McDermott.

21.24.05 Tourism Strategy 2021-2025

Cllr Albert Doherty stated that he was impressed with the workshop on yesterday (Monday 8th March) which outlined the five year tourism strategy 2021 -2025 plan which will be finalised by June 2021. He referred to the northwest rural cross-border product programme and the range of marketing and money that is available. He said excellent work is being carried out but is anxious that the Northwest City Region is promoted as a whole and that there is no animosity between North and South tourism. It was noted that a Donegal/ Derry Marketing Campaign – (from North West Regional Development Fund) tender has been drawn up to engage a company to create a vibrant and creative marketing campaign that will increase visitor numbers and spend in the region post-Covid.

Edward Gallagher said he would relay all the issues and concerns presented to him to the relevant section officials.

21.25 HOUSING and CORPORATE SERVICES

21.25.01 Schedule of Municipal District Works

The Schedule of Municipal District Works 2021 had been submitted to the members prior to the meeting for their consideration and approval.

Cllr Martin McDermott proposed and Cllr Martin Farren seconded and it was resolved that the “Inishowen Municipal District hereby adopts for the financial year ended 31st December 2021, the Schedule of Municipal District Works as set out in the schedules presented at the Municipal District Meeting of the 9th March 2021 as required by Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 as (amended) and in line of the requirements of Circular LG27/2014/Fin/2014”

21.25.02 Bank of Ireland Closures

Cllr Martin Farren referred to the proposed closures of Bank of Ireland branches. He said that he believed the response from Bank of Ireland was not satisfactory when concerns about the closures were raised. He said leaving people without a bank in towns like Moville, was disgraceful.

Cllr Martin Farren proposed and council Albert Doherty seconded that the Inishowen Municipal District members write to John McLaughlin, Chief Executive Officer of Donegal County Council and request that he writes to the Central Bank, the Finance Minister, Paschal Donahue and Bank of Ireland requesting they review their decision.

Cllr Albert Doherty advised that he chaired a meeting with the Bank of Ireland last evening and the decision was made to close the branches due to the reduction in footfall to banks due to on line banking facilities and the way business is now conducted. Cllr Martin Farren suggested Bank of Ireland should consider an extension of time to September to reconsider matters. Cllr McGuinness, McDermott and Cllr Nicholas Crossan concurred with Cllr Farren.

21.25.03 Housing Workshops

It was proposed by Cllr Martin McDermott and seconded by Cllr Jack Murray that a workshop on the Mica Redress Scheme and associated issues should take place. Some discussion took place regarding both council owned properties and privately owned properties affected by defective blocks

21.25.04 Mica issues-Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme.

It was welcomed by the members that so many people have applied for the Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme. The level of council owned properties affected by defective blocks in County Donegal, mainly in the Inishowen Municipal Districts was noted. Cllr McGuinness stated that it seems unfair that on the one hand you may have a homeowner who purchased their house from the council who is not covered in full by the Mica Redress Scheme to restore their property yet we are expecting 100% grant for council owned properties towards restoration or rebuild. Similarly, all other private owned properties cannot claim the full cost. He argued that anybody suffering from Mica should be able to avail of a 100% scheme and not be out of pocket.

Cllr Martin McDermott sought clarification on assistance available to private homeowners affected by Mica in terms of supports for alternative accommodation. Cllr Bernard McGuinness referred to the costs faced by homeowners affected by mica and brought these matters to attention at the recent SPC meeting in Lifford. He referred to the costs of under the Mica redress scheme where people may have to take out another mortgage to address the issues. The consensus was that the banks could be doing more to help such as offering interest-free mortgages to their customers who have found themselves in this situation.

Further discussion took place and the consensus was that nobody is at fault for having Mica in their properties and the 100% grant is the only way forward as many families do not have the money to bridge the financial gap, repair their homes and pay for alternative accommodation as well. Cllr Donaghey referred to instances where homeowners do not qualify for the grant which she believed was unfair.

Cllr McDermott acknowledged the work of Mica redress team who are working at headquarters in Lifford.

21.25.05 New Council Houses in Malin

Cllr Martin McDermott expressed his gratitude for the eight new houses recently allocated in Malin town. However, he said he was surprised that some of these well finished houses had been refused in the first instance and would hope that they would have had extremely valid reasons for doing so. Council Bernard McGuinness said that he also welcomed the allocations of houses in Malin and found that the fact that some were refused shocking.

21.25.06 Retrofit Grants for Fixing Council Owned Properties

Cllr McGuinness said that at the Housing SPC last week he was advised that the 2021 allocation for retrofitting would only cover retrofitting 45 houses in the whole of the County. He said that the committee should be asked to consider windows and doors again as it is a huge issue for home householders he found it inconceivable that a decision to be taken to choose only 45 houses

Cllr McGuinness said that as chair of the Housing SPC he requested that the Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien, be written to, requesting a meeting on this issue and that An Taoiseach and all Oireachtas members be ccd into the correspondence.

21.25.07 Long-Term Leasing

Cllr Jack Murray asked why Long-Term Leased properties cannot be purchased by the council.

21.25.08 Sheltered Housing

Aideen Doherty advised that options for sheltered housing will be considered by the council.

21.25.09 Workshop on Building Control and Take over of Estates

It was agreed that a workshop on Building Control and Take over of Estates with Paddy Mullen, Senior Executive Engineer will take place on Thursday 25th March 2021 at 1.30pm

21.26 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

The Road's report was taken as read by Seamus Hopkins, Senior Engineer He updated the members on the works carried out to date and referred to the recent workshops where the programmes of work in each category was discussed. A date for a further workshop was agreed for 12.00noon on 13th April prior to the April meeting of Inishowen Municipal District at 1.00pm. He said that a report on the entire programme of works would be presented at the April meeting.

21.26.01 Roads Programme 2021

The Roads Programme 2021 was proposed by Cllr Bernard McGuinness and seconded by Cllr Nicholas Crossan.

The members expressed their gratitude to the Road's team for their work throughout the last year.

Seamus Hopkins thanked the members for their support in what was a difficult year for all.

21.26.02 Miscellaneous Issues raised and noted

The following items were raised and Seamus Hopkins agreed to follow up on all matters.

- Lights in Buncrana that have not been functioning for some time
- Clar Corner, Redcastle
- Extension of footpath at Carnegarve, Moville
- Funding acknowledged for Admiralty House and Coastguard Station
- White Wall, Greencastle
- Decorative lights in Carndonagh
- Battery Brae, Greencastle
- Church of Ireland Clock in Buncrana Main Street
- Request for Boulders for crossing streams at Stragill and Lisfannon

Seamus Hopkins said he noted items raised and some were ongoing issues that are being addressed. He said lights were always an issue and suggested that the members make a note of the light numbers, locations and record details on the website or give the information to the Road's staff. He said some decorative lights do not have numbers. Cllr Rena Donaghey added that members had contributed to lighting.

21.26.03 North West Greenways

In response to a query from Cllr Albert Doherty regarding extending the Greenways, Seamus Hopkins advised that a Greenway team is being set up within the Roads Service. He added that the Greenway projects were still at the feasibility stage and not at part 8 stage yet. He added that hopefully the Greenways will be extended

21.26.04 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of Inishowen Municipal District is to be held on Tuesday 13th April 2021 at 1.00pm.

Certified: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____

Area Manager

Date: _____

**Community Development & Planning Directorate
Community Development Division**



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

**Municipal District of Inishowen
Meeting Tuesday, 13th April, 2021**

1. Malin Head Visitor Management Plan
2. An Grianán of Aileach Fort
3. 2017 Newtoncunningham Town and Village Renewal Scheme
4. 2018 Muff Town and Village Renewal Scheme
5. 2018 Bunrana Town and Village Renewal Scheme
6. 2019 Killea Town and Village Renewal Scheme
7. 2019 Clonmany Town and Village Renewal Scheme
8. Donegal Walks and Trails
9. Rural Development Programme/LEADER
10. Playground Maintenance
11. Donegal Walks and Trails
12. Bunrana School Campus
13. Clár Funding Measure 2 Portaleen, Glengad



Municipal District: Inishowen Activity / Project Update: April 2021

Activity / Project Title	Malin Head
Activity / Project Description	Malin Head Access & Amenity Improvement Project.
Progress to date within the last two months/quarter* - inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<p><u>Visitor Management Plan for Malin Head Signature Discovery Point Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Donegal County Council following consultation with Fáilte Ireland has completed the tendering competition for the procurement of multi-disciplinary services for the delivery of a visitor management plan for Malin Head Signatory point.• Keys and Monaghan Architects together with Cooney Architects have been appointed to Design the Malin Head Visitor Management Plan and Concept design.• Keys and Monaghan Architects together with Cooney Architects , a multi-disciplinary team have been appointed to provide a Visitor Management Plan and concept design for Malin Head.• There were four successful Stakeholder Engagement workshops held on the 8th May in Malin Head Community Centre, 9th May McGrorys Hotel Culdaff, Tuesday 14th May in the Colgan Hall, Carndonagh and Malin Village hall on the 15th May with over 310 people in attendance over the four evenings.• A workshop presentation by Keys and Monaghan Architects together with Cooney Architects on the concept ideas for the Malin Head Visitor Management Plan took place on Tuesday 10th December, 2019.• Public information events on the design concepts took place on Tuesday 10th December 2019 at St. Mary's Community Hall, Malin Head St Patrick's Parochial Hall, Malin Village and on Wednesday 11th December 2019 at The Colgan Hall, Carndonagh and McGrorys Hotel, Culdaff.• 110 attendees at the Public Information events on the 10th and 11th December, 2019. A questionnaire was circulated at the event and feedback was invited. Submission deadline Friday 10th January, 2020• Various stakeholder meetings have taken place.• Meetings took place with Elected Members on the 19th October, 2020 and the 14th December, 2020.• A meeting took place on the 27th January with the project team.• A meeting took place with the Electe4d Members on the 11th March 2021
Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<p><u>Current Status April 2021</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A meeting took place with the Elected Members on the 11th March and provided an update on the progress of the project.
Contact Person <i>(to include telephone number & e-mail address)</i>	James Kelly at 087 2236923 or Fiona Doherty, 087 367 8954



Municipal District: Inishowen

Activity / Project Update: April 2021

Activity / Project Title	An Grianán of Aileach Fort
Project Description/Activity	Development /Improvement of Visitor facilities
Progress to date within the last quarter - inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A meeting took place on Tuesday 7th February 2017 with Mr. Frank Shalvey and Mr. Eoghan Moyla, senior OPW officials, Fáilte Ireland, Council Officials and various stakeholders. Mr. Shalvey agreed to initiate the process for a Conservation and Management Plan of the entire site. The timeframe for completion of the plan is early 2018. The Council will work in collaboration with the OPW, Fáilte Ireland and the stakeholders in relation to the development of the site.• The Office of Public Works have given a commitment to commission a Conservation and Management Plan . This is on the way to being achieved currently and this will set out the options for the future management of the Grianán an Aileach site.• In June 2019, the OPW officially appointed Blackwood Associates Architects to provide a Conservation and Management plan. The consultants will be in contact with Donegal County Council as part of this process over the next few months. The Members will be kept updated on the progress.• Alice Bentley of Blackwood Associate Architects, Claire Cotter, Archaeologist, Jackie Hunt, Ecologist and Michele O’ Dea from the Office of Public Works attended a workshop meeting regarding the Conservation and Management report with the Members on Monday 18th November, 2019. Contributions from the Councillors was documented by the consultations and will be addressed in the plan.• A copy of the completed Conservation and Management plan was circulated to the Elected Members in January 2021.• This plan sets out the implementation strategy and Action Plan for the conservation and protection of the monument.• The OPW have indicated that the list of Actions contained in the plan will guide the way forward for servicing the tourism potential of the site achieved collaboratively with the OPW and other partners and official agencies such as Donegal County Council and Fáilte Ireland
Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period	<u>April 2021</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Elected Members have sought a virtual meeting with the OPW regarding the report and this request has been made to the body.
Contact Person <i>(to include telephone number & e-mail address)</i>	Fiona Doherty, fdoherty@donegalcoco.ie 087 367 8954



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

Municipal District: Inishowen

Activity / Project Update: April 2021

Activity / Project Title File 622/P&ED/422 (8)	2017 Town & Village Renewal Scheme – Newtoncunningham
Project Description/Activity	Tourist Information Kiosk
Budget (if applicable)	€100,000 – Department of Arts, Heritage & Gaeltacht Affairs € 25,000 – Own Resources
Progress to date within the last quarter - inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	Works consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Installation of a Tourist Information Kiosk and associated works. <u>Current Status:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Various meetings have taken place regarding the project elements and a letter of offer should issue shortly to the group.• Planning permission has been agreed.• The Tendering process will be initiated within the next few weeks.• Procurement of the fit out of the Kiosk is currently been progressed.• The tendering process for a contractor has been completed. Capital works have begun on site.• All works to be completed by December, 2019.• The tender is been finalised for the software/app development and operating system for the Interactive Tourist and local Business information point.• The group have appointed a company for the software/app development and operating system for the Interactive Tourist and local Business information point and this work is progressing.
Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period	<u>Current status April 2021</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phase 1 - The construction element of the unit is completed.• Phase 2 – The Electrical fit out is completed• The Interactive Touch Screen and technology is installed• The design and development of an App is completed.• The 4m x 2m Led Light box tourism map showing heritage and activities in Inishowen and Donegal is installed.• Work relating to mapping, signage and internal fit out of the tourism kiosk will be completed in 2nd quarter 2021.
Contact Person (to include telephone number & e-mail address)	Fiona Doherty 087 367 8954 E-mail: fdoherty@donegalcoco.ie or Mark Gallagher, Executive Engineer 087 228 9811



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

Municipal District: Inishowen

Activity / Project Update: April 2021

Activity / Project Title File 622/P&ED/422 (8)	2018 Town & Village Renewal Scheme – Muff
Project Description/Activity	Village Health Check and Improvement Works to the village and Playground.
Budget (if applicable)	€100,000 – Department of Arts, Heritage & Gaeltacht Affairs € 25,000 – Own Resources
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<p>Works to be agreed consist of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Village Health Check. 2. Streetscape and Environmental enhancements 3. Information panels, signage, print. 4. Visitor information point 5. Works to Muff Community Park. 6. Footpath 7. Off street Car Parking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter of Offer has issued to the Muff Community Development Forum. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is progressing on the plans for the village • The group are in the process of appointing a consultant for the Village Health Check • Tenders have been received for a site manager of the works . • The group have appointed a consultant for the Village Health Check and plan, a public engagement evening took place and feedback from this meeting is taking place on Thursday 12th December, 2019 in Muff Community Hall.
Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period	<p><u>Current status April 2021</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Village Health Check is complete. • The toilet facilities at the play park has been installed • The multi-functional Cabin/ Tourist information point within the playpark has been installed. • The remainder of the works will be installed and completed in 2nd Quarter 2021
Contact Person (to include telephone number & e-mail address)	Mark Gallagher, 087 228 9811 mark.gallagher@donegalcoco.ie Fiona Doherty 087 367 8954 fdoherty@donegalcoco.ie or



Municipal District: Inishowen

Activity / Project Update: April 2021

Activity / Project Title File 622/P&ED/422 (8)	2018 Town & Village Renewal Scheme – Bunrana
Project Description/Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbishment of the tourist office in collaboration with Explore Inishowen (govisitinishowen) • Information signage, enhancement of the area around the pier.
Budget (if applicable)	€100,000 – Department of Arts, Heritage & Gaeltacht Affairs € 25,000 – Own Resources €39,996 – 2020 T&V Acceleration measure 2 fund
Progress to date within the last quarter - inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<p>Works consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Web site development promotion and Branding ➤ Office refurbishment ➤ Finger Post Signage ➤ Enhancement of the area around the pier <p><u>progress works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Meetings have taken place with the group regarding the proposed works. • Procurement for a website developer has commenced. • Tenders were received, assessed. Website developer has been appointed • The tender documents are been finalised for the procurement of an architect for the refurbishment of the tourist office and outside space. • An architect has been appointed for the refurbishment works associated with the project. • The website design is now complete. • Under the 2020 Town and Village Renewal Scheme Accelerated Measure funding granted of €39,996 for improvement and modifications to the tourist office building. Measures to allow for safe entry and exit in compliance with Covid-19 regulations will also be incorporated into the plans under the 2018 Town & Village Renewal Scheme.
Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period	<p><u>Current status April 2021</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The govisitinishowen.ie website is complete. • Information Technology equipment installed • Branding and marketing work completed • The appointed Architect is working on a revised design to incorporate the works associated with the 2018 T&V funding and also the additional funding allocated under the 2020 Town and Village Accelerated measure 2 programme. • These works will be tendered in Quarter 2. • It is anticipated that the extension construction works will commence in the 3rd Quarter 2021
Contact Person (to include telephone number & e-mail address)	Mark Gallagher, , 087 228 9811, James Kelly A/Senior Executive Engineer 087 2236923, Fiona Doherty 087 3678954



Municipal District: Inishowen

Activity / Project Update: April 2021

Activity / Project Title	2019 Town & Village Renewal Scheme – Killea
File 622/P&ED/422 (8)	
Project Description/Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carpark Infrastructure, Recycling facilities, Informative/tourist signage.
Budget (if applicable)	€100,000 – Department of Arts, Heritage & Gaeltacht Affairs € 25,000 – Own Resources
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<p>Works consists of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <u>Installation of Carpark Infrastructure :</u> The carpark infrastructure will provide 20 carparking spaces which will serve the play area and also provide a multi-functional use for the whole community of Killea village. The primary objective is to create a safe environment and access for the outdoor play area users. It will also provide safe parking for the church, School, residents, businesses, community, and visitors. It will encourage more footfall and economic activity in the village. The provision of a car park adjacent to the outdoor play area on Donegal County Council owned lands will facilitate the park comprising of a large obstacle play area, a football area, swings, benches and various outdoor play equipment.2. <u>The provision of Recycling facilities to serve the Village :</u> We will wish to provide recycling facilities at the carpark and we will be working closely with Donegal County Council to link and leverage funding to provide this much needed service in the village.3. <u>Tourist Information Signage:</u> It is intended to provide signage within the carpark advising visitors to the area of the activities and amenities available within Killea and in the surrounding area to encourage them to stay in the area for longer and thus spend more money in the businesses that exist and in the future create the need for additional businesses to set up within the village.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The tendering process is completed.
Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period	<p><u>Current status April 2021</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Contractor has been appointed to carry out the works associated with the carpark infrastructure and also the Playpark funded under the Peace programme.• Works will commence as the HSE Covid-19 Health restrictions permit.
Contact Person (to include telephone number & e-mail address)	Mark Gallagher, Executive Engineer, 087 228 9811. mark.gallagher@donegalcoco.ie or



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

Municipal District: Inishowen

Activity / Project Update: April 2021

Activity / Project Title	2019 Town & Village Renewal Scheme – Clonmany
File 622/P&ED/422 (8)	
Project Description/Activity	Resurfacing of a carpark, installation of public lighting, safety measures, Streetscape enhancement, tourist information maps and signage
Budget (if applicable)	€100,000 – Department of Arts, Heritage & Gaeltacht Affairs € 25,000 – Own Resources
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	Works consists of: 1. Resurfacing of the Carpark at St. Colmcille Community Day Centre and Residential care home Carpark. 2. Installation of Public street Lighting and Ducting at Gaddyduff Bray. 3. Bollards, Railings, Safety measures at St Mary's Church to the building used for the Award winning Tug O' War committee. 4. Enhancement of Streetscape and the Village Environment. 5. Tourism Information Maps and Signage.
Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Current status April 2021</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SSE Airtricity have installed the new public lighting columns. Awaiting ESB Networks to provide power to the new lights• We are working with the Community group regarding the works associated with the enhancement of the village.• A Contractor has been appointed for the resurfacing of the carpark at St Colmcille Day centre and residential care home. Works will commence as the HSE Covid-19 Health restrictions permit.
Contact Person (to include telephone number & e-mail address)	Mark Gallagher, Executive Engineer, 087 228 9811 mark.gallagher@donegalcoco.ie or Fiona Doherty 087 367 8954 fdoherty@donegalcoco.ie



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

Municipal District: Countywide

Activity / Project Update- April 2021

Activity / Project Title	Rural Development Programme/LEADER
Activity / Project Description	Donegal Local Community and Development Committee are the Local Action Group for County Donegal, with responsibility for the LEADER/Rural Development Programme 2014-2020
Budget	€13,413,875 (Additional funding received 2019) <i>Note: Project costs €10,063,586, administration and animation costs €3,350,289</i>
Transitional Programme	€1,597,929
Progress to date within the last two months-inclusive of current status	<p>There are 4 Implementing Partners within the county; Donegal Local Development Company (DLDC), Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP), Údarás Na Gaeltachta and Comhar na nOileán, who are rolling out the LEADER programme on behalf of the LAG (Local Action Group). 230 projects in Donegal are now approved by Pobal and Letters of Offer have issued/are pending granting LEADER funding to a value of €10,059,950.</p> <p>The Department of Rural & Community Development has advised that the LEADER Programme will be extended until 31st March 2021. A transitional LEADER programme will then begin on 1st April 2021 and run until 31st December 2022.</p>
Project Targets for the next bi-monthly reporting period	<p>The next LCDC/LAG meeting will be held on 20th April 2021, with further projects coming forward for approval.</p> <p>Monthly Evaluation Committee meetings will continue to be held to progress projects to LCDC/LAG stage and the LDCs will continue to engage with promoters on the ground to develop and assess potential applications and to promote the LEADER programme.</p>
Contact Person	Seamus Canning 074 9172597 seamusc@donegalcoco.ie



Municipal District: Inishowen

Activity / Project Update: April 2021

Activity / Project Title	PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE 2020/2021
Project Description/Activity	List of Playgrounds <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Culdaff Playground2. Merville Playground.3. Festival Park, Bunrana.4. Chlois Phadraig, Carndonagh.5. Ballyliffin Playground.6. Barrack Hill Town Park, Carndonagh7. Barrack Hill Outdoor Gym. Carndonagh8. Bunrana MUGA, Bunrana.
Budget (if applicable)	€6,444.79 incl. VAT
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Works consists of:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replacement of broken and damaged equipment.• Replace worn safety tiles and remove trip hazards.• Grease all equipment that contains bushes, bearings , shackles, etc.• Carry out repairs along edges of safety surfaces. <p><u>Current Status:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual Rospa Inspection Reports have been completed with necessary repairs identified.• Quick Quotes tender requests issued on 10th December 2019 with a closing date of 10th January 2020.• Tenders assessed January 2020.• Annual Maintenance Tender awarded to Murphy Playground Services Ltd.• Contractor has commenced works on the various playgrounds.
Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<u>Update at April 2021</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The appointed contractor for maintenance has been tasked with dealing with the replenishment of the Playground in Culdaff• Repair work to the Zip line at Merville playpark has been referred to the maintenance contractor.• A solution is to be sought regarding the Activity wall at Barrack Hill Town Park
Contact Person <i>(to include telephone number & e-mail address)</i>	Mark Gallagher, Executive Engineer Tel: 074-9172493 E-mail: mark.gallagher@donegalcoco.ie



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

Municipal District: Inishowen

Activity / Project Update April 2021

Activity / Project Title	Donegal Walks and Trails
File:	
Project Description/Activity	Maintenance, development and promotion of walks & trails in Donegal including cycle routes and Greenways.
Budget (if applicable)	€20,000 ORIS funding for Tip O' Neill Trail / Urris Loops
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Donegal County Council have been recently awarded funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS).• The North West Community Development group have been awarded €20,000 under this scheme to carry out remedial work to the Tip O' Neill/Urris Loops trail.• Carndonagh riverside walk will be reviewed when restrictions are eased to allow meeting of a few interested members.• No construction works are allowed to proceed until advised further.
Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A tender package for remedial works to the Tip O' Neill/Urris Loops trail was prepared and issued to local contractors.• Priced tender documents are been assessed in line with funding body requirements.• Carndonagh walks and Trails. I propose to visit Carndonagh and meet all interested parties when Covid-19 HSE restrictions permit.
Contact Person <i>(to include telephone number & e-mail address)</i>	Darryl Connor (Outdoor Recreational Development Officer) 0873613811 dconnor@donegalcoco.ie



Activity / Project Update: April 2021

Activity / Project Title	Buncrana School Campus
Project Description/Activity	Assisting the Department of Education & Skills in identifying a suitable site in the Buncrana Environs to accommodate a three school campus ideally measuring between 15 – 20 acres.
Budget (if applicable)	As per Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Education & Skills and CCMA.
Progress to date within the last quarter - inclusive of current status <i>*Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<p>Work has been on-going over the past few years and Donegal County Council are currently reviewing additional sites in Buncrana environs on behalf of the Department of Education and skills</p> <p>Given the sensitive nature of such discussions, in particular in relation to land acquisition, it has been agreed with the Department of Education and Skills that any further requests for updates or progress reports would be handled directly by the Department.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Donegal County Council are working on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills in securing the preferred identified site for the Buncrana School Campus.• The Compulsory Purchase Order process was instigated on the 4th December 2020. Public notices were published in the local newspapers.• Copies of the Public Notice and maps relating to the CPO was available for inspection at the Public Services Centre in Carndonagh, the Buncrana office and DCC headquarters in Lifford.
Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period	<p><u>April 2021 Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The CPO for the Buncrana School campus site is being progressed.
Contact person	Eamon Boyle, Executive Engineer, 087 178 8623 eamonb@donegalcoco.ie



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

Municipal District: Inishowen

Activity / Project Update: April 2021

Activity / Project Title	2020 Clár Funding 2020. Measure 2: Community Recreation Areas – Portaleen, Glengad, Co. Donegal
Project Description/Activity	To create a Community Viewing Platform at the top of Portaleen Brae providing unobstructed views over and across the coastal landscape of Portaleen Pier and the Atlantic Ocean. This work will be done in collaboration with Glengad Community Centre.
Budget (if applicable)	Funding of €50,000 announced on the 2 nd November by the Department of Rural & Community Development €2,777.50 - Glengad Community Association €2,777.50 - Donegal County Council contribution
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<u>Description of the works</u> 1. Re-surfacing of existing uneven ground surface 2. Enhanced boundary condition and associated landscaping 3. The provision of picnic benches and seating overlooking Portaleen Pier 4. Wayfinding and Interpretation Panel 5. Creating the infrastructure for an outdoor cinema event.
Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period	<u>April 2021</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Executive Roads Engineer has tendered for the overlay works. A contractor will be appointed thereafter to complete these works • Work with the Glengad Community Association to progress and delivery item no's 3 and 4. • The target is to have all works completed for the 2021 Summer season.
Contact Person (to include telephone number & e-mail address)	Fiona Doherty, Development Officer, 087 3678954 and Mark Gallagher, Executive Engineer, 087 228 981



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

**Economic Development, Information Systems &
Emergency Services Directorate**

Report to Municipal District of Inishowen

Content

- 1. Economic Development**
 - 1.1 Economic Development Unit**
 - 1.2 Tourism Marketing Unit**
 - 1.3 Trail Gazers Bid Project**
 - 1.4 Strategic Funding Unit**
- 2. Local Enterprise Office**
- 3. Information Systems**
- 4. Emergency Services - Fire Service**
- 5. For Information: Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC)**

1. Division: Economic Development

1.1 Division: Economic Development – Economic Development Unit

Project / Activity Report

Title	Economic Development Unit
Outline of Work	<p>The Economic Development Unit proactively engages in economic development opportunities, supporting job creation and strategic investment in Donegal and is focusing on the following areas of work:</p> <p>Donegal Place Brand initiative: The new Donegal Place Brand will be officially launched virtually on Friday April 30th. All Members should have received a Hold The Date email for this. To coincide with the launch, the website Donegal.ie will be unveiled on the same date. The new place brand strategy will provide an important platform for future marketing campaigns to showcase Donegal as a great place to Live, Work, Invest, Explore and Study.</p> <p>Economic Development Covid-19 Recovery: The Unit is continuing to be proactive in supporting businesses during this Covid-19 pandemic and activities include:</p> <p>Communications on business supports: The EDU is proactively promoting and sharing information on the various supports available to businesses at this time including supports available through LEO, Enterprise Ireland, Failte Ireland and various Councils initiatives on all our platform including Donegal County Council and Invest Donegal platforms.</p> <p>Concierge Service: Existing businesses, potential business start-ups or businesses looking to relocate or wishing to expand and who need advice on accessing a wide range of Council services and supports, can contact the Business Concierge Service by email economicdevelopment@donegalcoco.ie. The EDU are currently promoting the service and contact details through its social media channels.</p> <p>Property Solutions: Involves identification, marketing, option appraisal of Council owned property and land for economic development opportunities including provision of soft landing and second site location opportunities for business. The Unit is progressing 12 queries of property solution opportunities in various locations across the county.</p>

Remote Working: The new Remote Working Strategy for Donegal was adopted by Donegal County Council on Monday 29 March. This strategy focuses on maximising the opportunities arising for the county as a destination of choice for remote working which will form a key part of the COVID-19 recovery plan. Progress is being made on implementing the actions /commitments outlined in this plan.

A key action in the plan includes working with various Innovation and Digital Hubs in Donegal and the Donegal Chapter of Grow Remote, to promote remote working opportunities to the unemployed and underemployed across the county, and to market Donegal as a great place to live and work. EDU participated in an event co-ordinated by Grow Remote during Enterprise Week 2021 on the 5th of March, “Work: Empowering Rural Communities in Donegal”.

Caravan & Camping Study: The EDU have appointed KPMG Future Analytics to assess and evaluate the opportunities and challenges facing the Caravan & Camping sector in Donegal and to make recommendations on the future development of this sector.

The company are now developing the stakeholder engagement plan with the EDU to progress this study. The consultants have commenced the plan for engagement with the Elected Members and will be holding workshops in each Municipal District.

Alpha Innovation Centre: The project will support businesses and early idea entrepreneurs to develop their innovation capability and business resilience post Brexit and post Covid. Pending clarifications from Enterprise Ireland, the recruitment of the innovation team which includes an Innovation Manager and an Assistant Innovation Manager is currently being progressed.

InvestDonegal Communications Update: Latest key stats for the InvestDonegal LinkedIn and Twitter (@DonegalInvest) accounts are as follows;

	Impressions (last 28 days)	Total Followers
Linked In	37,300 (+16%)	1,445 (+117)
Twitter	62,100 (+39%)	1,144 (+52)

	<p>The EDU continue to inform businesses of the range of government supports alongside insightful business and original content features. In addition to the above accounts, the EDU works closely with the Council’s Communications Office to share information on the Councils corporate social media channels.</p> <p>The EDU thanks Elected Members for their continued engagement with InvestDonegal on our social platforms.</p> <p>Global engagement: work is continuing to proactively target potential FDI opportunities in the US market in collaboration with Derry City & Strabane District Council and working to create a Donegal/North West bias for businesses interested in exploring investment opportunities in the EU and UK. This includes the provision of essential baseline data and information for location decision makers.</p> <p>Collaboration: Working with our colleagues in Community Development and Planning Services to progress a range of strategic projects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various Regeneration and Development Proposals under the URDF/RRDF to ensure an economic development focus is derived for the respective locations prioritised. Projects are in locations in all Municipal Districts and were recently submitted as part of the DCCs Regeneration plans. <p>Atlantic Economic Corridor: working with Local Authority partners along the western coast to progress mutually beneficial projects and initiatives.</p> <p>Work is ongoing between the EDU and Western Development Commission, developing a photobank to be used for promotion of the region; showcasing Donegal based companies, the quality of life and co-working spaces. This will compliment the Donegal Place Brand initiative.</p> <p>The Western Development Commission are developing an online booking engine for hubs which is being trialled over the coming months with a small number of hubs, before regional roll out.</p>
Contact Person	<p>Ciaran Martin - ciaran.martin@donegalcoco.ie (086) 8261760</p> <p>Rosita Mahony – rosita.mahony@donegalcoco.ie (087) 2510128</p>

1.2 Division: Economic Development – Tourism Marketing Unit

Project/Activity Report:

Outline of Work	<p>Engagement with the Tourism Trade and Covid/Brexit Supports for Business</p> <p>The Tourism Unit has continued to issue frequent newsletters/direct emails (weekly) to the trade to keep them abreast of supports available from a range of agencies, upcoming events and initiatives that are of benefit to their business etc.</p> <p>Minor Tourism Related Works Grant Scheme</p> <p>Scheme due to be launched in April as per agreed Terms of reference at Plenary Council meeting, A public webinar will be held on 15th April at 11.30 am, to address any questions from community groups on the application process.</p> <p>Donegal Tourism Strategy 2021-2025</p> <p>Tourism Development International has been appointed by Donegal County Council to develop a new 5 year tourism strategy for the county. Engagement is underway including a survey of the tourism trade, workshops with elected members and council staff as well as a range of one to one interviews with various key stakeholders. A new strategy will finalised by June 2021.</p> <p>Donegal Marine Tourism Conference 2021</p> <p>This conference took place virtually on Tuesday 23rd March. Speakers from NUIG, France and Donegal presented on subjects such as sustainable travel, a survey of Domestic Marine and Coastal Tourism Activity in Ireland and Building a sustainable marine tourism trail through community voices (Rathmullan).</p> <p>Donegal Tourism Marketing Campaign – Reset Rediscover and Reconnect - Domestic Campaign</p> <p>The campaign will run for 6 weeks throughout the island of Ireland once restrictions are lifted. This marketing campaign will be instrumental in encouraging people to visit our hotels, restaurants and visitor attractions, with the aim to increase awareness of Donegal across key audiences, encourage action to keep the destination front of mind and position Donegal</p>
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as a safe staycation option.

North West Tourism Product Development Programme

€100,000 has been granted by NWRDG to deliver a crossborder product development programme for tourism businesses in the North West region (Donegal, Derry/Strabane).

This programme will support businesses to work together to develop strong consumer focused products that will be form a key element of the planning tourism marketing campaign in 2021. The programme includes extensive mentoring support for businesses along with a small grant scheme that will allow businesses to undertake activity that will allow them to reopen safely during and post the Covid pandemic. This programme has been procured and it is likely that roll out will commence in the coming weeks.

Donegal/ Derry Marketing Campaign – North West Regional Development Fund

A tender document has been drawn up to engage a company to create a vibrant and creative marketing campaign that will increase visitor numbers and spend in the region post-Covid.

This campaign will focus on the island of Ireland market including Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. On the domestic front, three market segments have been prioritised. This campaign will be closely linked to the NW Tourism Product Development Programme referred to above.

Go Visit Donegal Digital Marketing

Data range: 1st – 22nd March 2021

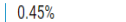
GoVisitDonegal.com

Website performance: Data as of 22nd March 2021

- Page views: 65,724 (up 8.9% on same period in 2020)
- Users: 24,490 (up 11.4% on same period in 2020)

Year to Date website views by country:

- Traffic came from 102 countries in total
- Top Ten Countries include

Country	Users	% Users
1.  Ireland	14,047	 57.96%
2.  United Kingdom	5,714	 23.58%
3.  United States	2,393	 9.87%
4.  Germany	262	 1.08%
5.  Canada	190	 0.78%
6.  China	178	 0.73%
7. (not set)	157	 0.65%
8.  Netherlands	126	 0.52%
9.  Australia	121	 0.50%
10.  France	109	 0.45%

Additional Marketing Updates

- St. Patrick's Day – Donegal Tourism participated in the online activities, sharing local and national content (provided by Tourism Ireland) across social platforms incl. live streamed concert organized by the Regional Cultural Centre in association with Donegal Diaspora and LK Chamber of Commerce; promoting virtual nostalgia parade from Bundoran, sharing images of landmarks that have gone green around the county as part of the **#GlobalGreening campaign rolled out by Tourism Ireland**; sharing ambassadors' videos posted by Donegal Diaspora.
- County by County new TV series Ireland, which has been sponsored by Donegal County Council - aired for American audience during the St. Patrick's Week, starting on Friday, 12th March. This half an hour long episode showcased Donegal and different regions across the county.
- Holiday World Show has promoted Donegal through their online platforms using content that has been submitted in January – screenshot below and link to the post here:
<https://www.holidayworldshow.com/article/go-visit-donegal> This article promotes Donegal as a destination and mentions different regions of the county.



- Cultural Video provided to Donegal Diaspora in preparation of the footage for the online event: North Texas Irish Festival streamed online on 6th March
- *Ireland In Music* was produced by TradFest in association with Donegal County Council and Donegal Tourism - the organizers ran an international campaign to promote 'Ireland in Music' for viewers outside of Ireland this March to mark St. Patrick's Week. It was broadcast online on Sunday March 21st at 8PM Irish Times. This was a great opportunity to promote the fantastic sites that we filmed in County Donegal – music and videos included Clannad who filmed around Poisoned Glen and Errigal Mountain and Rosie Carney who filmed at Malin Head.
- Social media – ongoing promotions across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter promoting Donegal as a county with focus on each of the MD Regions – we aim to promote 2 posts per MD per month across the platforms.

Social Media post examples:



Donegal Tourism @govisitdonegal · Mar 12

We would like to share a peaceful moment with you from this beauty spot called 📍 Cloghan (Irish: An Clochán). This area offers miles of hiking trails in the Bluestack Mountains #Donegal @DonegalEast #WhenWeTravelAgain 🌄

📷 Anderinna Gooch



🗨️ 1 🔄 4 ❤️ 23 📤 📺



Go Visit Donegal

Published by Margaret Storey [?] · March 9 · 🌐

Isle of Doagh or Doagh Island (Oileán na Dumhcha) in Inishowen will not disappoint! A peninsula North of Inishowen once was an island, steeped in history. #lovedonegal #Dúnnangall

A full day can be spent here visiting the Castles – you can take a picture from inside Carrickabrahy Castle and dream of being the Prince or Princess of the Castle! #fillyourheartwithdonegal Tag your Prince Charming!

Stroll along the sandy beaches or jump for joy like this family last week! #with... See More



✔️ **Get More Likes, Comments and Shares**
When you boost this post, you'll show it to more people.

10,315 People Reached 1,019 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

👍❤️😄 Trevor Mc Nully, Libby Doherty and 173 others 8 Comments 52 Shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share ⋮



TIDE – Atlantic Network for Developing Historical Maritime Tourism

The objective is to develop a niche historical maritime tourism package for Atlantic based on connecting & marketing assets from historical period across different regions ie World Wars, Atlantic Migrations, Napoleonic Era & Spanish Armada. Work continues through engagement with the Donegal Stakeholder Group and with the various project Partners.

Website and Social Media

Maintaining a social media presence for the town on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Generating content and repurposing other content, particularly of historical interest.

- Working on a “Historical Timeline” feature for the website which will chart the town’s history.
- Sourcing images for promotion of Bundoran on our Instagram account and scheduling daily.
- “Bundoran Weekly” Podcast continues to be produced and released each Friday across our social media channels – features at the moment include “Bundoran Abroad”. Also promotion of Donegal Tourism strategy.

Other

- Managing Donegal Tourism LinkedIn account
- Investigating sustainable tourism practices to implement with the trade and marketing.
- Advancing plans with Tidy Towns team on plan for this year and collaboration ideas for tourism initiatives.

- Working on outdoor dining solutions with Failte Ireland/Donegal County Council.
- Town Team working with DCC for ongoing Failte Ireland Destination Town project.
- Advancing plans with DCC Beach Manager on various initiatives around the Main Beach and coastal area.
- Promotion of latest Small Business Assistance Scheme to Bundoran/Ballyshannon businesses.

Gaeltacht Tourism Initiative

The Gaeltacht Tourism office continues to engage with tourism businesses located in all Gaeltacht areas of the county. 20 out of 50 of the most recent businesses registered with the Go Visit Donegal website are located within the Gaeltacht.

Laurentic Tourism Sessions – collaboration between Donegal Tourism, Údáras na Gaeltachta, LYIT, the Ulster Canada Initiative and Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. Two sessions taking place in March aimed at hotels in Donegal Gaeltacht/Inishowen and in Newfoundland and Labrador:

1. Driving and facilitating online bookings via a website booking engine
2. Boosting REVPAR through effective Revenue Management

Collaborating with Language Planning Officer in Gaoth Dobhair to run online seminar aimed at Gaeltacht tourism businesses and the importance of using the Irish language to further their businesses.

Engagement with Tourism Ireland & Failte Ireland Campaigns

- Make A Break For Donegal – online organic campaign commenced across our social media platforms and the website on 1st March attracting people to dream and plan their visit to Donegal when it's safe to travel again. This campaign is first of this kind in Ireland and aims to keep Donegal top-of-mind for potential visitors. To maximise the reach, tourism providers have been invited to join in and promote the county – full suite of digital assets and sample content has been provided. This campaign focuses on Donegal as a

	<p>destination with emphasis on six different itineraries covering all areas of the county and this is the message that is emphasized throughout. Itineraries include: Ardara and Bluestack Mountains and Donegal East, Inishowen, South Donegal, Fanad Peninsula to Sheephaven Bay, West Donegal. This project has been developed as part of Donegal Recovery Task Force initiatives and Donegal Tourism continues working closely with Fáilte Ireland on the development and implementation of this campaign throughout the year.</p>
Contact Person	<p>Barney Mc Laughlin Head of Tourism Unit barney.mclaughlin@donegalcoco.ie 074 9724465</p>

1.3. Division: Economic Development Unit – Trail Gazers

Project/Activity Report

Activity / Project Title	Trail Gazers Bid Project
Activity / Project Description	‘To quantify the return to the local economy for every euro invested in walks and recreational trail infrastructure ‘
Budget	€2.6 M
Progress to date within quarter* - inclusive of current status	<p>In 2018, Donegal County Councils Research & Policy Unit successfully led an application to the Atlantic Area Programme under objective 4.2 ‘ Enhancing natural and cultural assets to stimulate economic development’. This transnational project is managed by the Research & Policy Unit (Lead Partner), working with 9 different partners located across Ireland, UK, France, Spain and Portugal.</p> <p>The project sets out to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantify the impact of key strategic investments in walks and recreational trail infrastructure can have on stimulating rural communities, using sensors data, counters, surveys of users, businesses, communities etc. • Develop and trial a range of practical initiatives and interventions such as business to consumer initiatives, digital marketing tools etc to enhance the return. • Work with communities, businesses and other key stakeholders in the area to develop community plans and initiatives around the site. • Develop a range of community trail ambassadors to champion the sites as catalysts for the development of rural economies. • Our site for research purposes is Inch Levels and post project completion it is likely that key learning and methodology can be applied to other sites in the county and region through an extensive capitalisation programme <p>PROGRESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TrailGazers team are currently working on the preparation of the third financial claim and fourth progress report to the Joint Secretariat, Atlantic Area Programme on behalf of Donegal County Council.

- Following deployment of 21 sensors on the Inch Level Wildfowl Reserve, the focus in March has shifted to ensuring the flow of good count data to the Trail Gazers Transatlantic Dashboard. All devices have been configured, registered on the Sigfox network and staged on the Danalto IoT platform. Good “count” coverage across each of the main four segments of the trail has been achieved by ensuring approx. 4-5 sensors are on each segment, with specific emphasis placed on the entry and exit points of the trail. The team are working to ensure that data is being made available to the Wildlife Ranger, NWPS to strengthen their case for funding for particular interventions but also to future proof maintenance plans and environmental strategies for the site.
- A virtual communication and coordination meeting was held with all transnational partners on the 5th March, 2021, these meetings are led by Donegal County Council and provide a great opportunity to ensuring that progress in delivering key project outputs remains on track.
- A virtual transnational Trail Gazers Steering Committee Meeting was held on the 23rd March, 2021. A wide range of initiatives and plans were discussed including joint marketing initiatives such as the *‘International Trail Gazers Challenge’*; new and innovative ways to administer the *‘Trail Gazers Visitor Survey’* during Covid-19; progress made internationally in the deployment of sensors across the 8 international test trail sites and early results; update on calculating the multiplier impact of trails on small rural economies as well as plans to host environmental workshops to determine best practise in using data to protect our array of natural built and cultural assets.
- Ongoing work in identifying other trails sites and catchment areas in Donegal that can benefit from the learning and outputs from Trail Gazers continues.
- Effective trail management, maintenance and protection of environmental destinations require the capture and ongoing evaluation of key performance indicators (KPIs). To this end, the TrailGazers Team, through Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council, are developing a framework on the most appropriate Walks and Trail KPIs to guide and future proof policy development in this area. Amends currently being made to draft paper presented at the transnational workshop on the 26th January, 2021.
- The team are currently working on the final development of our Trail Gazers app. We have our project video completed, along with 4 Trail

	<p>Gazers key promotional messages and 8 Lost Stories captured. When it is safe to do so these stories and messages will engage with our visitor to ‘Welcome them to Inch, where they can explore for miles!’ Our visitors can hear stories of sea faring pirates, fairies to golden treasure all at their fingertips. This app will allow visitors to explore Inch Levels trail site virtually and listen to local stories and folklore associated with key points of interest along the trail site. It will help to build up an affinity with the site that will last long after the visit has ended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation is our key message and this includes protecting and educating visitors on our flora and fauna as well as ensuring our oral history is preserved through our Lost Stories App for future generations to enjoy. These Trail Care packs will be used as a key promotional tool to educate users of the trail site and will also be used in local schools to teach our younger generation on the importance of protecting these sites. • Connecting and collaborating with like-minded agencies across Europe is one of the greatest benefits of EU funding for Irish organisations and over the last month key collaboration have taking place with MAPA – Music and Performing Arts, North West Regional College Derry to development of a music ‘sting’ for unveiling Inche; Recording – Amazing Grace Lost Story at Inch/Grianan of Aileach and the Recording of a Pirate Sea Shanty. • The project is currently in the process of developing merchandise and conservation and protection of our trails is a key promotional message of the project, so everything needs to be as environmentally friendly as possible. This horizontal principle of our project is very important in this procurement and all merchandise must be geared toward the walker/cyclist and outdoor enthusiastic.
<p>Project Targets for the next quarterly* reporting period</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transnational Steering Committee Meeting scheduled for the 24th March, 2021. • Merchandise developed by end March, 2021. • Scoping paper on the ‘International Trail Gazer Challenge’.
<p>Contact Person</p>	<p>Loretta Mc Nicholas 087 9029307 lmcnicho@donegalcoco.ie</p>

1.4. Division: Economic Development Unit - Strategic Funding Unit Report

Project/Activity Report


Title	Strategic Funding Unit – exploring EU and National Funding Opportunities that support the objectives set out in the Donegal County Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024
Outline of Work	<p>CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission Meeting Donegal County Council will participate in the CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions) Political Steering Group of the Atlantic Arc Commission meeting on 23rd March 2021. This will be an opportunity to discuss issues relevant to Donegal including Brexit, the Atlantic Strategy and Action Plan 2.0 as well as the EU Recovery and Resilience Plan. Cllr. Niamh Kennedy, our Political Representative with CPMR will take part in the discussions.</p> <p>AER (Assembly of European Regions) Skills and Innovation Webinar The Strategic Funding Unit has arranged for Donegal ETB to present during a webinar hosted by the AER (Assembly of European Regions) on 25th March 2021. This will be an opportunity for Donegal ETB to showcase our vocational training and education programmes to participants from across Europe.</p> <p>Donegal Town Pier Masterplan Following the deadline for submission of proposals on 26th February 2021, one proposal was received. The price quoted in this proposal was significantly more than the original budget estimate of €20,000. Due to the low volume of proposals and the higher price quoted in the proposal received, it is evident that this project is of a higher value than originally anticipated. A decision was made to go back out on e-tenders and advertise publicly. This will also allow for more time to carry out stakeholder engagement once consultants are appointed and the deadline for completion would be July 2021.</p> <p>Strategic Funding Webinars 2021 A Strategic Funding Unit webinar will take place on 31st March 2021 themed around the Blue Economy and funding opportunities that support its development. Registration for this webinar is open and it will take place via Zoom.</p> <p>Government/Fáilte Ireland Re-imagining our Public Realm Funding On 11th February the Government announced a new funding scheme to help local authorities open up and create public spaces and facilities</p>

	<p>dedicated to the arts, culture and festivals called the Outdoor Public Space Scheme 2021. The Economic Development Directorate is coordinating applications to this funding programme working on a cross-directorate basis with key staff. This funding programme is based on the Tourism Recovery Taskforce report by Fáilte Ireland featuring a number of Destination Towns.</p> <p>EU Programme Consultation The Strategic Funding Unit is currently working on submissions for the Peace Plus, Interreg Europe and Atlantic Area Programme. These funding programmes are currently at public consultation stage with a view to opening up funding calls at the latter end of 2021.</p> <p>Divisional Funding Needs Analysis The Funding Needs Analysis process continues in 2021. The Strategic Funding Unit has circulated the Funding Needs Analysis survey to all Directorates. A number of Funding Needs Analysis meetings have taken place with Divisional Teams. Reports are being produced based on the outcomes of these meetings with a view to informing future plans in relation to funding applications.</p> <p>AMIF Migrant Integration Project Submitted – EU-BELONG Donegal County Council Strategic Funding Unit is working with the Social Inclusion Unit on an EU funded project application around intercultural integration. This project called EU-BELONG (An Intercultural Approach to Migrant Integration in Europe's Regions) has now been submitted to the European Commission for evaluation.</p> <p>Strategic Funding Unit Newsletters Donegal County Council Strategic Funding Unit continues its targeted e-mail campaign. E-mail newsletters are being sent weekly to the team members in the various Divisions regarding funding opportunities, project development and events that are relevant to the work they are doing in line with the strategic objectives set out in the corporate plan. To date 14 targeted e-mail newsletters have been sent.</p> <p>Funding Call Alerts & Reviews In addition to the e-mail newsletters, direct e-mails are sent to staff when a relevant funding opportunity arises that suits their work plan.</p>
Contact Person	<p>Joy Harron Acting Staff Officer +353 (87) 0619360 joyharron@donegalcoco.ie</p>

2. Local Enterprise Office

Project / Activity Report:

Title	The Local Enterprise Office (LEO)
	The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) as part of the Economic Development, IS & Emergency Services Directorate, is the “first stop shop” for anyone planning, starting or growing a small business in Donegal. The LEO plays a major role in offering expertise, know-how and financial support to local small businesses, enabling them to grow and thrive. Supports available can be categorised under 4 core pillars, notably Financial, Capability Development, Enterprise Promotion and Economic & Other initiatives.

Outline of Work	<p>A range of COVID 19 supports in addition to the regular LEO supports are on offer and a summary of the supports and the uptake is detailed below.</p>  <p>Expert Mentoring</p> <p>Up to 12 hours of free online/telephone mentoring is available to any business seeking assistance in addressing COVID -19 issues including developing their cash flow projections, managing cashflow, drafting loan applications, HR advice, Risk Assessment, etc and developing short action plans to address the identified actions. Mentoring application forms are available to download here.</p> <p>Progress: To date in 2021, 26 COVID - Mentoring applications have been received. In 2020, 136 mentoring supports were approved.</p>
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Trading Online Voucher Scheme

The Trading Online Voucher (TOV) Scheme offers assistance for businesses looking to build an online presence. 50% Financial assistance up to €2500 is available to small businesses that have been trading for more than 6 months with less than 10 employees. Participation in the Trading Online Workshop is compulsory for approval for this scheme. Completed applications submitted in advance of 31 December 2020 deadline were considered for the 90% support rate and all subsequent applications can be considered for the 50% support rate.

Progress: 27 TOV applications have been received by the Local Enterprise Office in 2021 with 76 applications awarded €172,404.15. Previously in 2020, 462 applications were awarded €1,116,165 funding in line with the approved budget.



Microfinance Ireland Supports for COVID-19

The **COVID 19 Business Loan** from Microfinance Ireland (MFI) in association with the Local Enterprise Office is a government funded initiative to support small businesses through the current period of uncertainty and protect job creation/sustainment in Ireland. If any micro-enterprise is impacted or may be impacted negatively by COVID-19 resulting in a reduction of 15% or more in turnover or profit, AND they are having difficulty in accessing Bank finance, the **MFI COVID-19 Business Loan** may be an alternative funding solution for them. Loans

up to €25,000 are available with a reduced interest fee of 4.5% as opposed to 5.5% available, if the application is submitted via the Local Enterprise Office. Interest Free and Repayment Fee for 6 months is available. For more information, click [here](#).

Progress: During 2020 25 applications were submitted to MFI via the Local Enterprise Office of which 15 were approved. In 2021 five applications have been received and 3 submitted to MFI.

In addition, there is a **COVID-19 Working Capital Loan available from SBCI**. This is for eligible businesses impacted by COVID-19. Loans from €25,000 up to €1.5m will be available at reduced rates (max 4%), with up to the first €500,000 unsecured. Applications can be made through the SBCI website <https://sbci.gov.ie/>.

Other Supports

New Stimulus Package



Brexit Stimulus Package

The Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation has announced an additional budget allocation of €8 -10m across the six border LEOs in 2020 as a stimulus measure to mitigate any Brexit related slowdown.

The programmes of support will include a Scaling Programme, a Green Energy Programme, a Retail Programme, an Export Programme, an Innovation Programme and a Scaling Programme.

A number of the programmes have commenced or are open for applications notably, Retail, Exporting, Financial Management and Green for Micro. Details on each are outlined below;



The programme has commenced with 36 retail businesses participating have a range of activity including;

- Retail Health Check Diagnostic: an assessment of current business performance, with growth opportunities identified
- 8 x Interactive Webinars to help refocus the business
- 2 x Mystery Shopper Surveys
- 2 x (1/2 day) 1-2-1 Mentoring Sessions
- 3 x Specialist Masterclass Webinars - learn from those who have walked in your shoes.
- Retail programme with 36 participants.

Green for Micro Programme



The Green for Micro programme with 13 applications to date of which 11 have been approved, helps identify cost savings and improve the green credentials of a business by looking at a business from an environmental perspective. Projects may include a review of energy, water & waste costs, guidance with environmental management system, to the greening of a product or business to adapt to the changing market place. The programme will help participants to make more informed decisions to reduce business costs, lower its carbon footprint, and improve the environmental profile of the business in the marketplace.

The programme outline:

Part 1

1. Two days free mentoring will be awarded to each business (open to all businesses – not just LEO clients). An appropriate consultant is identified and engaged to carry out a Green audit of the business. This audit will identify issues and opportunities within the business.

Part 2 (Optional)

2. Following this initial audit – a business may wish to further progress with opportunities identified within the audit - an additional three days mentoring can be applied for **or** a Green voucher to the value of €2500 at a maximum rate of 50% (Voucher restricted to less than 10 employees – existing eligible LEO clients).

The Financial management programme has commenced with 17 participants and the Export programme with a cohort of 10 businesses. The Innovation programme to commence May 2021.

Measure 1: Financial Supports

- Start Up/Business Expansion

For existing companies and potential start-ups that meet eligibility criteria (such as manufacturing/added value/ internationally traded services, employing 10 or fewer people with the potential for growth and job creation), the Local Enterprise Office offer three types of financial supports:

- Feasibility/Innovation Funding

Up to 60% of the cost of undertaking a feasibility study on an innovative new product or service may be considered subject to a maximum of €20,000.

- Priming (Start Up) Grant Aid

Our Priming Funding is designed to assist a micro-enterprise within the first 18 months of start-up. It covers 50% of eligible costs, subject to a maximum contribution of €80,000.

- Business Expansion Grant

Our Business Expansion Funding is designed to assist a micro-enterprise that has been trading for over 18 months. It covers 50% of eligible costs, subject to a maximum contribution of €80,000.

Progress: To date in 2021, 16 applications have been approved €397,754 in funding. The next meeting of the Evaluation Committee is scheduled for 27th May 2021.

Previously in 2020, 32 grants were approved €769,630 in funding creating a projected 81 jobs over the 3 year period.

Donegal Stories



A new Website <https://donegalstories.ie/> showcasing some of the Small Businesses supported by the Local Enterprise Office has been developed and launched on 2nd February 2021.

BREXIT

With the UK exiting the EU on 1 January 2021, the Local Enterprise Office has expert advice, information and practical supports available to help local businesses manage their Brexit response through the following supports;

Scorecards and Checklists

Scorecards and checklists are available to assess how a business may be impacted by Brexit.

Mentoring

One-to-one advice and guidance from an experienced mentor to deal with Brexit Related issues.

Ready for Customs Grant

Ready for Customs grant will assist businesses increase its capacity to manage the customs process after 1st January 2021. Up to €9,000 is available for each new Full Time employee engaged in Customs work.

Brexit Readiness Checker

The Brexit Readiness Checker develops a personalised report to help businesses prepare for Brexit.

Customs Training

Customs change is here and the workshops help businesses adapt. Hundreds of local businesses have participated in the workshops in 2020 with further Workshops scheduled monthly, the next scheduled for April 2021.

Measure 2: Capability Development

The Local Enterprise Office provides a broad suite of training, management development, mentoring and peer-learning programmes all aimed at increasing the capability of owner managers and their key internal staff. During COVID 19 many of these Programmes have moved online and are in huge demand.

These include:

Profitnet

Profitnet is a highly successful business development and support programme which has benefited 180 Donegal businesses to date. The programme runs for a period of up to 18 months and involves monthly group meetings with peer business owners, which are facilitated to ensure there is an exchange of innovative and creative business solutions. The Engineering Profitnet meeting has hosted 8 online meetings since the COVID -19 restrictions have been put in place.

A new Food Coast Profitnet group has been established.

Training

Over 2,800 people attended a range of tailored training programmes in 2020 including online courses on Preparing for the Return to Work Post COVID 19-Key Considerations for Business, Start your Own Business, Preparing for Brexit, Getting your Business Online.

To date, 1,162 people have attended a range of training programmes in 2021 including;

- The second of seven Start Your Own Business Programmes with 17 participants;

- Lean for Micro Workshop with 18 participants;
- A range of Digital Marketing workshops including Developing a Digital Strategy with 80 Participants and Developing an E Commerce Website with 69 Participants;
- Cash Flow Management for Business with 19 participants.

Gateway to Growth International Export Programme – Led by Derry City and Strabane District Council and Donegal County Council, the programme comprises of export workshops, one to one reviews and a North West Trade Mission financed by The Executive Office and the Irish Government. Three programmes were delivered to a range of businesses in the region..

Technical Study for Marine Development Works at Killybegs Harbour-
The Final Report has been received.

AMBITION- Pre Accelerator for Women

AMBITION is an exciting pre-accelerator programme run by Local Enterprise Office Donegal, in partnership with NDRC, which sources and builds digital startups to invest in and work with. The AMBITION programme was open to female founders, entrepreneurs, or those with a strong start-up idea, who have links to Donegal. Demand for this exciting programme, the first of its kind outside an Urban setting was high, with 41 applications received. 11 Female led teams, 3 of which were Donegal Diaspora participated on the 6 week pilot programme. A further programme is planned for Autumn 2021.

3.0 Enterprise Promotion

Under the Service Level Agreement between Enterprise Ireland on behalf of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, a key area of activity of the local Authority/Local Enterprise Office is the promotion of an enterprise culture and entrepreneurship within the county. Activities under this include:

- **Local Enterprise Week**



Local Enterprise Week went virtual this year with a full programme of online events designed to help Donegal businesses spring back into action. The week-long series of events is a collaboration between Local Enterprise Office Donegal and its Enterprise Partners including the Digital Hubs, Udaras, LYIT and Co Lab. Over 1000 people joined in to the the 23 events organised by the LEO Team and their Enterprise Partners for Local Enterprise Week 2021 in Donegal.

Business Information Session

A Monthly Information Session/Grant Aid Workshop is held online monthly on the last Friday of each month.

- **Student Enterprise Awards**

County Final of Student Enterprise Programme to be held online on March 26th with 19 schools and over 500 students in the County taking part in the programme. 35 businesses and 150 students from 15 schools will take part in the county final. Two county winners to go through to virtual national final on May 14th.

- **Enterprise Awards**

The National Enterprise Awards Final took place virtually on February 11th. **O'Donnell's Bakery** represented Local Enterprise Office Donegal.

4.0 Economic & Other Initiatives

The LEO is engaged in a wide range of other initiatives, including;

- **Enterprise Europe Network**

Enterprise Europe Network led up by Donegal County Council and the Local Enterprise Office is providing unique opportunities to businesses all over Ireland to make connections and meet internationally in ways we never thought possible until 2020. Last year almost 650 business people attended 9 events across Europe. Businesses also have access to market information in almost 70 countries around the world and an online database of over 5000 opportunities across business, technology and Research & Development internationally. Two Meet the Buyer events are planned for 2021 , [EENginex on 15th April](#) for the engineering sector and [Food eirEEN on 9th June](#) for the food sector.

Queries to Eileen Kelly, Enterprise Europe Network Coordinator eileen.kelly@leo.donegalcoco.ie

- **Donegal Diaspora**

The Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Awards nomination process is now open for 2021. The award is presented to a chosen member/s of the Irish diaspora in recognition of their achievements. Nominations are welcome from across the globe and across a range of sectors, including business, commerce, industry, education, politics, finance, sport to name but a few. The Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Awards not only recognise and honour people who have excelled in their field, it also gives us the opportunity to highlight to our diaspora the ongoing opportunities and developments in the county.

The awards ceremony is an initiative of the broader Donegal Diaspora project and has become a highlight of Donegal County Council's calendar of events.

Nominations forms can be had by contacting the Donegal Diaspora project executive joanne.kilmartin@leo.donegalcoco.ie and the closing date for nominations is **31st May 2021**

- **The Food Coast – Donegal’s Good Food Initiative,**

The Food Coast is engaged in a wide range of initiatives to promote Donegal Food. A new Food Coast Donegal Producer Directory has been developed and launched online on February 4th 2021.



- **The Creative Coast**

New website for the creative sector to be launched April 22nd. This will be followed by a skills audit.

- **Clusters**

Funding secured for Donegal Engineering Cluster for three year period and to be launched within next two months. Confirmed commitments to support and engage from LYIT, ETB, Údarás na Gaeltachta and IDA Ireland.

- **Enterprise Plan**

Work is on-going on new County Enterprise Plan through OCO Global. Stakeholder meeting to be held in April.

Contact Person

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Local Enterprise Office
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brenda.hegarty@leo.donegalcoco.ie

LEO Donegal - Performance Metrics

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE SUPPORTS 2020				
Supports	Applications Submitted	No of Approvals	Value of Approvals	Uplift from 2019 (applications)
Business Continuity Vouchers	678	574	€917,560	+678
Trading Online Vouchers	563	462	€1,116,165	+518
Mentoring	217	199	€137,294	+187
Measure 1 Grant Supports	38	32	€529,685	-
Micro Enterprise Assistance Fund	12	7	€6,750	+12
TOTAL	1,508	1,274	€2,707,454	1,395

3. Information Services

Project/ Activity Report:

Title	WiFi4EU
Activity / Project Description	<p>WiFi4EU is an EU sponsored initiative to create free public WiFi spaces within the Digital Single Market. Municipalities across Europe had the opportunity to apply for a max of 4 Vouchers. DCC were successful in winning 4 vouchers to the value of €60,000. The Department of Rural & Community Development will match fund each voucher +€60,000. DCC to invest additional €30,000 to create budget total of €150,000 or €30,000 per Municipal District.</p> <p>Propose to install 75 outdoor public WiFi access points throughout County Donegal to create centres of public connectivity.</p>
Budget	€150,000
Progress to date within the last month- inclusive of current status	<p>Inishowen MD</p> <p>WiFi installed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clonmany – McFeelys Bar 2. Bunrana – David Henry Solicitors 3. Bunrana – Huttons Bar 4. Culdaff – McGuinnesses Bar 5. Malin – Malin Hotel 6. Newtoncunningham – Credit Union 7. Manorcunningham – Community Centre 8. Merville – Library 9. Bunrana – Porter Computers 10. Carrigans – The Village Shop 11. Burnfoot – Aileach Youth Club <p>Line instaled but not WiFi Enabled:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Greencastle – McLaughlins shop <p>Line yet to be installed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Carndonagh – Neal Doherty Jewellers 14. Muff – Squealin Pig 15. Ballyliffin – in discussions with Nancy’s Barn

Project Targets for the next monthly reporting period	<p>To conclude line installations where possible and continue installing WiFi access points.</p> <p>Ongoing lockdown restrictions making scheduling installation appointments difficult.</p>
Contact Person	<p>Daragh McDonough – Broadband Officer dmcdonough@donegalcoco.ie 074 9172450</p>

4. Emergency Services – Fire Service

Activity	Number of: (February)*	Total for year
Fire Brigade incidents within County Donegal**:	46	96
Mobilisations (by Donegal Fire Service Brigades)**:	46	96
Mobilisations into Donegal (by NI Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS))**:	8	16
Fire Safety Certificate applications received:	19	24
Fire Safety Certificates waiting to be assessed:	15	N/A
Fire Safety Certificate applications assessed by Fire Officer and waiting for Further Information from Applicant / Agent:	46	N/A
Fire Safety Certificate decisions made:	08	17
Applications for Dangerous Substance Licences received:	0	0
Dangerous Substance Licences issued:	0	0
Form of notice received under the Explosives Act, 1875:	0	0
Inspections and Auditing carried out (Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003, Annual Licensing, DSA 1972, Explosive Stores, Pyrotechnics, BCA 1992 & 2007):	5	5
Fire Safety Complaints received:	0	0
Fire Safety Complaints dealt with:	0	0
During Performance Inspections carried out:	0	0
Fire Safety awareness presentations delivered:	0	0

* Current data only available up to end of February 2021.

** Provisional Figures.

5. For Information: Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC)

The Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC) is open until **21 April 2021**.

Eligible businesses will receive a payment of €4,000 for Quarter 1 of 2021. There will be a second payment of €4,000 for businesses continuing to meet the criteria.

The scheme is available to companies, self-employed, sole traders or partnerships, with a minimum turnover of €50,000 that employ less than 250 and with current turnover of less than €25m.

More information is available from Donegal County Council at:
<https://www.donegalcoco.ie/smallbusinessassistancescheme/>

Tel: +353 74 9153900 **Email:** sbasc@donegalcoco.ie



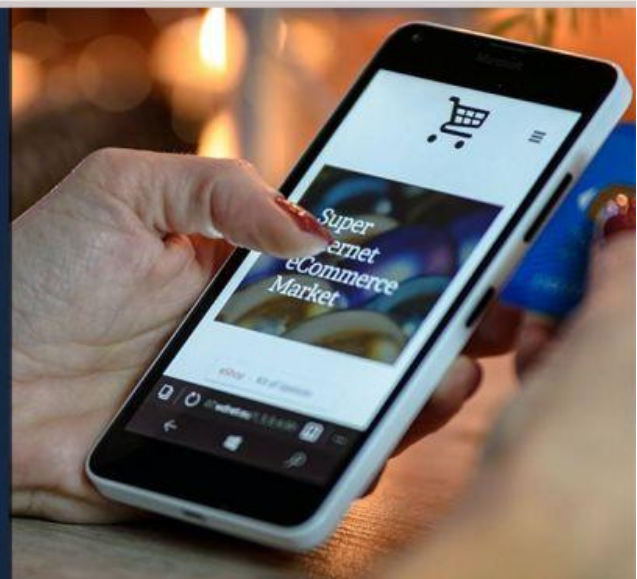
SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR COVID

Applications for the **SBASC** scheme are now open.

Eligible applicants will be entitled to an initial payment of **€4,000** for the period of **1 January to 31 March**.

Closing date for applications is **21 April 2021**.

Visit www.donegalcoco.ie to find out more and apply.



HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT
Municipal District of Inishowen
13th April 2021

Corporate Services

- Consider date for Housing Workshop

Housing Services

- Progress Reports

Summary of Casual Vacancies Inishowen MD as at 14 th April 2021	
Properties Refurbished and at Offer Stage	3
Properties being refurbished	8
Properties to be refurbished	10

Summary of DCC Housing Offers and Tenancies

Offers issued from 01/01/2021	Offers refused from 01/01/2021	Tenancies created from 01/01/2021	Tenancies Terminated from 01/01/2021
21	6	15	3

Summary of DCC Nominations to AHBs

Area	AHB	Nominated	Vacancy	Allocated
Buncrana	Steer	4	1	Allocated
Carndonagh	Apex	6	1	Allocated
Muff	Muff Housing	1	1	Allocated
Buncrana	SVP	3	1	Pending

Inishowen MD Housing Waiting List as 9 th March 2021	
Gross Number of Approved Applicants on Social Housing Waiting List	628
Applicants currently accommodated with HAP assistance but who have remained on the Council Social Housing list	447
Tenants currently accommodated in Council Social Housing and who are approved for a Transfer	37
Net Social Housing Waiting List	144

Housing Grants Report at 1st April 2021

Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability

YEAR	TOTAL RECEIVED	APPROVED	REFUSED	WITHDRAWN /CANCELLED/ INVALID	FURTHER INFO.	PENDING
2019	51	34	3	5	9	0
2020	47	34	1	6	3	3
2021	8	6	0	1	1	0

Mobility Aids Grant

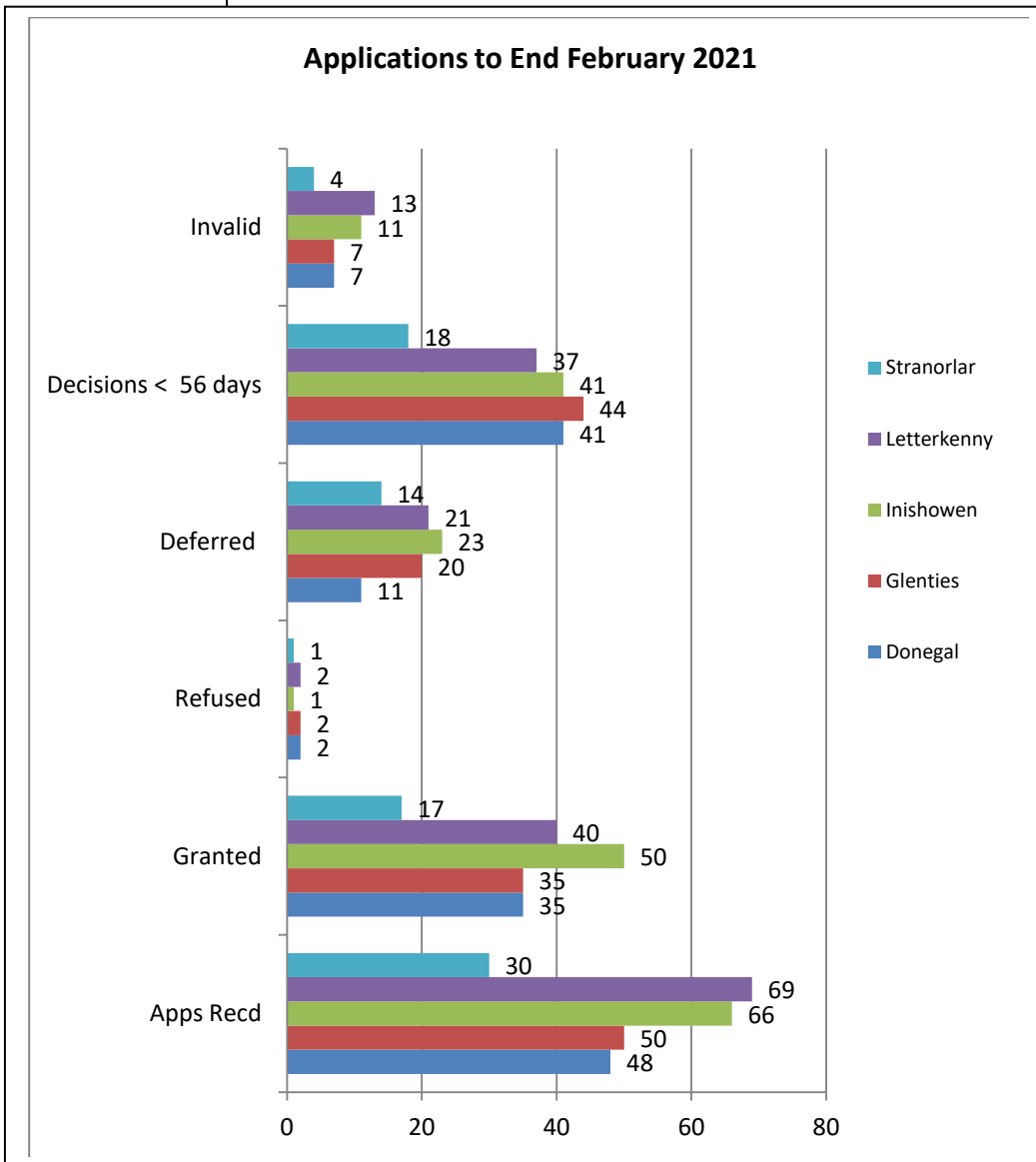
YEAR	TOTAL RECEIVED	APPROVED	REFUSED	WITHDRAWN /CANCELLED/ INVALID	FURTHER INFO.	PENDING
2019	51	25	1	14	11	0
2020	39	20	0	12	6	1
2021	15	9	0	2	0	4

Housing Aid for Older People Grant

YEAR	TOTAL RECEIVED	APPROVED	REFUSED	WITHDRAWN /CANCELLED/ INVALID	FURTHER INFO.	PENDING
2019	36	34	1	1	0	0
2020	58	42	4	9	1	2
2021	35	17	1	5	0	12

Inishowen MD Meeting
13th April 2021

Item	Update
1 Development Applications	
(1) Statistics	County Totals Year to End February 2021:
Applications received	66
Granted	50
Refused	1
Deferred	23
Decided in under 2 months	41
Invalid	8



2 Enforcement	
----------------------	--

		Inishowen MD	February
		New Cases	6
		Closed Cases	8
		Outstanding cases on record since 2012	278
3	Notes & Monthly Schedule	<p>Please note pre planning clinics during the Corvid-19 restrictions are on a telephone call only basis between 09.30am and 12.30pm on the dates outlined below.</p> <p><u>Planning Clinics:</u> 14th April 28th April 12th May</p> <p>Please see website for further dates. http://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/planningclinics/</p>	
4	Regeneration Report	Appendix A	
5	Building Control & Taking in Charge Community Development & Planning Services	No Report	
6	Central Planning Unit		
	<i>(1) Letterkenny Plan and Local Transport PAn</i>	No further updates other than to note that the programme of workshops with Members is continuing across Q2 of 2021.	
	<i>(2) County Development Plan 2018-2024 (CDP 2018-2024)</i>	<p><u>(a) Policy Interpretation and Implementation</u> Following detailed discussion at the Plenary Workshop of 22nd February, 2021, at the Planning SPC of 24th February, 2021 it was agreed that working groups would be set up to provide a focus to address the issues of continuing concern for Members. The precise details and make-up of the Working Groups are now almost finalised and the Director of Service is seeking to to arrange the first meeting of each of the various Working Groups as early as possible after Easter.</p> <p><u>(b) Proposed Variation on Foot of Adoption of Northern and Western Regional Assembly's Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy</u> A further workshop is being arranged with the CPG.</p>	

	<p><u>Proposed Variation re TEN-T Priority Roads Project</u> The public consultation period closes on 9th April, 2021. A Chief Executive’s Report on submissions received during the public consultation period will be submitted to the May, 2021 Plenary Council meeting.</p> <p><u>Wind Energy Policy and Proposed Variation</u> The new Wind Energy Guidelines had not been published at the time of writing and there are no further updates at this time other than to note that work is continuing on the possible contents of a Proposed Variation in anticipation of publication of the Guidelines.</p>
<p>7 Further Information <i>Click on web links to access information.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly List of applications and decisions: http://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/weeklyplanninglists/ • Planning service email (to be used in correspondence with the planning service): planning@donegalcoco.ie • Planning Webpage: www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/ • Planning Application Online Query – planning reference number required: www.donegalcdb.ie/eplan/internetenquiry/rpt_querybysurforrecloc.asp • File Retrieval Form – to be used for file retrieval and when requesting planning searches: www.donegalcoco.ie/media/donegalcountyc/planning/pdfs/fileretrieval/File%20Retrieval.pdf

APPENDIX A



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council



Rialtas na
hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Regeneration & Development Team
Community Development & Planning Services

April (2021) Municipal District Meetings Report to Elected Members

1.0 RURAL REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (RRDF)

1.1 EXISTING APPROVED CATEGORY 1 RRDF PROJECTS (2019)

1.1.1 Killybegs 2040 – A Town Centre Regeneration Project

This project will formally commence with the detailed design stage in Q1 & 2 of 2021, before progressing to construction.

The Detailed Design phase will be consultative and a stakeholder strategy will be prepared. Workshops will be arranged with Members and the Regeneration Team will make the necessary arrangements directly at a Municipal District level. Whilst construction is currently restricted during the current Level 5 public health measures it is not anticipated that the detailed design phase will be unduly delayed once it has commenced. The build period is currently estimated at 52 weeks.

1.1.2 Burtonport and Aranmore Island – Harbour to Island Regeneration

This project continues to make significant progress towards commencement in Q1/Q2 of 2021.

Throughout 2020 significant work to progress the project towards construction was completed. In respect of the Aranmore Island Shore Front Amenity development a tender report has been submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and pending approval the Council can proceed to award the construction contract. Whilst construction is currently restricted during the current Level 5 public health measures it is hoped that the public health environment will improve to allow construction commence in Q1/2 of 2021. In the interim preparations will continue to be made. A 31 week build period is scheduled once construction commences.

In respect of Burtonport Harbour a Refurbishment, Demolition & Asbestos Survey (RDAS) of the relevant buildings in Burtonport has been completed. Detailed design is also at an advanced stage and is currently completing.

Importantly An Bord Pleanála held an Oral Hearing in respect of the Burtonport Harbour Redevelopment CPO (Case Ref:306336-20) on Tuesday 12th January 2020 at 10am. The Inspector concluded the Hearing by advising that he would prepare his recommendation to the Board and the Council must now await the Board's decision.

1.2 EXISTING APPROVED CATEGORY 2 RRDF PROJECTS (2020)

1.2.1 **Back to Ballyshannon** – A transformational project to re-energise, re-imagine and sustain the social, cultural, historical, physical and economic fabric of Ballyshannon's historic town centre.

Value: €247,500. (RRDF funding approved €185,625)

The development of the project towards a 'shovel ready' Category 1 RRDF project has commenced with early feasibility work in respect of potential end user(s) for the building. This work is ongoing. The Team remains committed to progressing the development of this project to 'shovel ready' status in as timely a manner as possible.

1.2.2 **Ramelton Historic Town Centre** – A Restorative & Transformational Public Realm Scheme.

Value: €249,159 (RRDF funding approved €186,869)

The tender process for fully integrated Architect Led Detailed Design & Supervision Services to bring this project through public consultation, Part VIII planning and detailed design to a contract ready capital project closed on Monday the 18th January 2021. The tender assessment process has commenced and is at an advanced stage. Following completion of the evaluation of tenders a Tender Report will be submitted to the DRCD for consideration. On receipt of DRCD approval the appointment of the Design Team and the formal launch and commencement of the project will take place, which is estimated to start in April 2021 with a completion date for this phase of the project in December 2021.

1.3 THIRD CALL FOR CATEGORY 1 PROJECTS (SHOVEL READY) UNDER THE RURAL REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT FUND (RRDF)

1.3.1. Ballybofey & Stranorlar

The '**SEED**' project – A sustainable, green regeneration project to Strengthen, Engage, Enable and Deliver transformational change in Ballybofey-Stranorlar.

This project was successfully submitted to the DRCD (RRDF) by 1st December 2020 deadline and is now under assessment. The project has a value of €9,756,969 and funding support of €8,781,272 is sought from the RRDF.

1.3.2. Burtonport (Harbour to Island) Regeneration

This project was successfully submitted to the DRCD (RRDF) by 1st December 2020 deadline and is now under assessment. The Project has a value of €2,060,752 and funding support of €1,854,677 is sought from the RRDF.

1.3.3. **Carndonagh Tús Nua Regeneration Project**

This project was successfully submitted to the DRCD (RRDF) by 1st December 2020 deadline and is now under assessment. The Tús Nua project has a value of €9,542,852 and funding support of €8,218,982 is sought from the RRDF.

1.3.4 **Rathmullan RRDF Project Development work**

The Team met with ‘The Way Forward’ Group on Tuesday 5th January 2021 at which it was agreed that fully integrated design team services would now be procured to advance the project through consultation and Part VIII planning. The necessary tender package is now being prepared by the Regeneration Team and it is hoped to open the associated tender process in April 2021. Updates will be provided to the Elected Members of the Letterkenny & Milford Municipal District at an agreed future workshop and through Municipal District Reporting.

1.4 REGENERATION STRATEGIES

The Regeneration & Development Team had undertaken with Members to progress Regeneration Strategies in a number of Tier 2 Strategic Towns as a part of our work programme. This work has been progressing through in house resources and capacities together with consultancy services. An update on this area of the work programme is provided hereinunder:

1.4.1 **Ramelton Action Plan**

The Ramelton Action Plan was formally launched on 3rd July 2020.

The Plan can be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.donegalcoco.ie/media/donegalcountyc/planning/pdfs/rameltonactionplan/Ramelton%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

1.4.2 **Killybegs Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan**

The final Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan was endorsed by the Elected Members of the Donegal MD at a workshop on Tuesday 26th January 2021. The appropriate arrangements for the launch of the Strategy are presently being considered.

1.4.3 **Ballybofey Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan**

A Draft Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan was presented to the Elected Members of the Stranorlar-Lifford MD at a workshop on 1st February 2021, followed by a workshop with BASICC later in the same week.

Following the workshops with the Stranorlar-Lifford MD and BASICC, the Regeneration and consultancy team are processing the feedback received with a view to undertaking further consultation on the draft strategy which will in due course, lead to the finalization of the document and launch.

1.4.4 **Ballyshannon Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan**

Stage 1 of the project is now in the final stages of completion following a period of extensive consultation. A dedicated campaign of public consultation took place online over a period of 3 weeks commencing on Monday 25th January 2021 and concluding on Monday 15th February 2021. The online public engagement centered on the launch of a dedicated project website, facebook page and twitter page, and provided for responses via an online resident/visitor survey, a business survey, a feedback form for individual submissions as well as a kids' page. An online Public Consultation Event was also held on the afternoon of Wednesday 3rd February which was attended by 57 no. participants. On the whole there has been a hugely positive response to the public engagement with 236 no. online surveys completed and 32 no. individual submissions received via the online feedback form.

The consultants, GM Design Associates Limited, are currently in the process of collating, recording and interpreting the findings and results of the public and stakeholder engagement together with the conclusions of the baseline analysis of the town centre including the audit of existing economic activity and the SWOT analysis already undertaken, and this will be presented in a Stage 1 Report entitled 'Ballyshannon Baseline Profile'. This Report will furthermore identify the key emerging priorities for the study area and will directly inform the Draft Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan, the preparation of which will commence directly following review and approval of the Stage 1 Report. A workshop will be arranged with the Members of the Donegal MD in respect of the Stage 1 report in the coming weeks.

The progression of the Ballyshannon Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan has been impacted by the national public health emergency and as a result the timeline for the project has been adjusted in order to ensure that the involvement of all key stakeholders including the local community can be fully included. The adjusted timeline is scheduled to deliver a Draft Regeneration Strategy by the end of April 2021 and a Final Regeneration Strategy by the end of June 2021.

1.4.5 An Clochán Liath (Dungloe) Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan

Stage 1 of the project is ongoing and to date a baseline analysis of An Clochán Liath (Dungloe) Town Centre including an audit of existing economic activity had been undertaken and targeted consultations have taken place.

A public consultation event previously took place (28th January 2020) in respect of the An Clochán Liath (Dungloe) Strategy, therefore Stage 1 of this project includes for follow on public engagement providing for the presentation of the results and findings of the preliminary consultation and an opportunity for feedback in respect of the same, which will thereafter inform the Draft Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan. This consultation was launched on Monday 8th March 2021 through the provision of a dedicated webpage, facebook and twitter pages and closed on 22nd March 2021.

The progression of the An Clochán Liath (Dungloe) Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan has been impacted by the national public health emergency which has affected the ability to engage with the public, stakeholders and to hold meetings and events. As a result the timeline for the project has been adjusted in order to ensure that the involvement of all key stakeholders including the local community can be fully facilitated. The adjusted

timeline is scheduled to deliver a Draft Regeneration Strategy by the end of April 2021 and a Final Regeneration Strategy by the end of June 2021.

2.0 URBAN REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (URDF)

2.1 Application submitted to the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (May 2020)

On Friday 12th March 2021 Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD announced that €13.6m has been awarded under the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF) for the URDF application Letterkenny 2040 (Phase 1) 'Re-energise and Connect the Historic Town Centre'. This application was submitted on 28th May 2020 and is supported by match funding committed by the Council in the sum of €4.5m.

The value of the investment secured at €18.1m builds on the earlier investment of €2.59m secured in 2019 under the first call of the URDF and now brings the total value of planned regeneration investment in Letterkenny town centre to a current total of €20.69m. Specifically this new investment will help to advance five projects to varying stages of development with a focus on the transition of the historic town centre to a vibrant, accessible and livable place.

The projects relate to priority areas for regeneration and development including:

- The further enhancement of the Cathedral Quarter
- The re-purposing of the Courthouse
- Strategic land assembly towards:
 - Regeneration of Lower Main Street
 - Advancement of a Regional Transport Hub
 - Enhancement of 'LK Green Connect,' walking, cycling and parkland infrastructure.

The Regeneration & Development Team has commenced early engagement with the DHLGH in respect of funding drawdown arrangements and due diligence on funding approval conditions and is very much looking forward to working with the Elected Members and stakeholders in the delivery of these exciting projects.

2.2 Existing approved URDF project in Letterkenny (application submitted 2018; final approval to proceed received September 2019)

This first application secured €1.9m in URDF monies, match funded by €600,000 for three sub-projects, the detail and progress of which is set out below:

(i) Preparation of a Regeneration Strategy for Letterkenny Town Centre.

The process to prepare Letterkenny 2040 Regeneration Strategy commenced on 14th January 2021 by means of a workshop with Letterkenny-Milford MD facilitated by the lead consultant for the project, The Paul Hogarth Company.

The MD workshop was followed by launch of the first phase of public engagement on 8th February 2021 which closed on the 7th March 2021. Stakeholders and the wider public had the opportunity to engage with the first phase of public engagement in a number of ways through:

- Promotion of the project through a project website www.letterkenny2040.ie
- Circulation and promotion of a short survey via the project website.
- Circulation and promotion of a short children's survey via the project website and via direct communication with schools.
- A series of cross-directorate workshops
- A series of stakeholder workshops around key thematic areas (both statutory and community stakeholders)
- An engagement with representatives of the Youth Council
- An engagement with representatives of the Older Peoples Council
- Radio advertisements and engagement via the Gregg Hughes Show on Highland Radio.
- Continuous social media posts to encourage engagement.

Following the close of the 1st phase of consultation, the consultancy team is now analysing the findings. At a workshop on Tuesday 30th March 2021 the consultants presented the findings of the consultation process to the elected Members.

(ii) Acquisition of key town centre regeneration site.

Works to progress interests in the key regeneration site approved by DoHLG for acquisition continues with intent. Progress has been affected by the National public health emergency and negotiations are subject to Covid related restrictions. The Elected Members of Letterkenny-Milford MD were briefed on the current position at a workshop the 8th March 2021.

(iii) Public realm in the area of the Public Services Centre and Joe Bonnar Rd

Detailed design of the public realm approved is being carried out using in-house architectural resources and is now completing. The Elected Members of Letterkenny-Milford MD were fully briefed on the detailed design proposals at a workshop on the 8th March 2021 prior to initiating a procurement process in respect of a construction contractor.

2.3 Update in relation to an Architectural Competition to Re-imagine Market Square, Letterkenny.

The Evaluation Team has now completed the process to assess the submissions received. At a workshop of Letterkenny-Milford MD on Tuesday 30th March 2021 the Elected Members were briefed on the shortlisted submissions and arrangements for consultation. The Evaluation Team will determine the winning submissions taking account of the feedback from public consultation.

2.4 Letterkenny Cultural Corridor project

Letterkenny's cultural partners (Donegal County Museum, the Regional Cultural Centre and An Grianan Theatre) secured funding from the Irish Architectural Foundations 'Re-imagine' project to undertake the Letterkenny Cultural Corridor project in 2020.

To date, the project architects have developed a number of short term and temporary sign posting interventions which have been installed to improve and enhance the existing physical connection between the three institutions.

The more long term aspirations of the project to provide a new and more direct physical link between the three cultural institutions was presented to a workshop of Letterkenny-Milford MD on 8th October 2020. Following this, the team engaged further with the local stakeholders with particular reference to Letterkenny Tennis Club to explore the potential to coordinate the project with the objectives and aspirations of the Tennis Club. To facilitate this engagement, a detailed topographical survey has been carried out of the area, prior to Christmas 2020 and the architects are now exploring access arrangements further. In parallel, there are ongoing discussions in relation to site boundaries which are required to be closed out. Once these discussions are closed out and the explorative work is complete, a full options briefing will be brought to Letterkenny-Milford MD together with clarity on a recommended pathway to part VIII in respect of the Cultural Corridor.

2.5. Letterkenny Parklets (Town & Village Renewal)

Following separate workshops with Letterkenny-Milford MD and the partners on the project (Letterkenny Tidy Towns/Letterkenny Chamber), work is progressing well to identify a number of recommended locations for installation of parklets on Main Street. The Members of the Letterkenny-Milford MD were updated at a workshop on Tuesday 30th March 2021.

**Regeneration & Development Team
April 2021.**



ENVIRONMENT REPORT – April 2021

COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Activity / Project Title	Beach Lifeguard Recruitment
Project Description/ Activity	<p>Donegal County Council is now recruiting for its seasonal team of beach lifeguards to be deployed at a number of beaches across the county. Over forty candidates are required each season which is a considerable annual employment undertaking by our colleagues in HR.</p> <p>Water Safety Ireland (WSI) have recently provided a series of training courses in the County, tailored to comply with Covid19 restrictions, to qualify candidates as beach lifeguards in County Donegal. On March 28th, 59 candidates were independently examined by WSI in the Ballyshannon Leisure Centre for proficiency as Beach Lifeguards for recruitment. Ten volunteers oversaw the running of this examination to whom we are very grateful.</p> <p>Candidates are recruited on condition of holding a valid qualification and suitable performance in the WSI examination. Supporting beach services (lifeguard stations, toilets, uniform, equipment, first aid, etc) are currently being procured for the season. Lifeguard deployment is scheduled for the start of the Bathing Season in June.</p>
Contact Person	David Friel 087 7801596

Activity / Project Title	Beach Works - Culdaff
Project Description/ Activity	<p>Following unseasonable easterly gales, work to retain safe beach access to Culdaff beach has been necessary. In a changing environment, this has been challenging and the patience of those using the beach has been appreciated.</p> <p>The landscaping works at the beach green recreational area is almost complete ahead of the Bathing Season. With the support of colleagues in the Roads section, this has seen a welcome improvement to the Blue Flag Beach.</p>
Contact Person	David Friel 087 7801596



OPEN WATER SWIMMING

**YOUR GUIDE TO
ENJOYING IT SAFELY**



Open water swimming has both physical and mental health benefits for us all. Many people describe the feeling of intense satisfaction after plunging into cold water. It leaves the body tingling all over and helps clear the mind of worries and anxieties.

Year-round swimmers are adamant that the sea has the potential to alleviate the effects of a number of physical ailments including arthritis, chronic pain and lots more. But before you dive in, here's the know how you need to stay safe.



CHECK THE WEATHER FORECAST AND TIDES

Always look at the wind and weather forecasts before swimming, then check the type of tides. Spring tides are more hazardous as they cause stronger rip currents on beaches and increase the risk of stranding. Use local knowledge to identify the location of the rip currents on your beach, or bathing area. It is much safer to swim on a rising tide than on a falling tide. Use an App on your phone, websites online or newspapers for further real time information about tides. E.g. Tides Near Me.

WHEN TO SWIM IN OPEN WATER

Start in the summer when the water temperature in Ireland is somewhere between 14° and 18° degrees Celsius. The sensible way to acclimatise to cold water is to swim in it regularly. Then gradually extend your time in the water with practice. For the beginner or novice swimmer our advice is “Swim within your depth – stay within your depth.

When entering the water, throw some water down the back of your neck to help prepare your body for the cold water immersion; this helps reduce the risk of cold water shock.

WATER TEMPERATURES AND BUOYANCY

Sea water can vary from 5° in the Winter to 25° Celsius in a heat wave. While freshwater can vary from as low as 1° in the Winter to 27° Celsius in a heat wave. The salinity of saltwater gives you approximately 14% extra buoyancy in the water so it is easier to swim there than in fresh water.



SWIMMER OR DIPPER? PUT SAFETY FIRST

Make these rules your mantra whenever you get in the water. If you don't, you're putting your life and the lives of others who may try and rescue you at risk.

1. NEVER SWIM ALONE

Our climate is unpredictable, that means the sea can change very quickly. Heed the advice given by regular swimmers. If they are not getting into the water due to conditions, then do not enter the water. If you do get in to difficulty, remain calm, try and float or tread water, until you can either continue swimming or are rescued.

2. MAKE SURE YOU CAN BE SEEN

It is essential that you wear a brightly coloured swimming cap. Yellow, pink... a colour that stands out in the water so other water users can see you. You should also use a bright coloured tow float for the same reason. Don't be naïve about your vulnerability in the water. Boats and jet skis, depending on their speed, can pose a real threat to you similar to a vehicle on the open road.

3. ALCOHOL AND WATER NEVER MIX

3 in 10 people who drown have consumed alcohol before entering the water. Alcohol severely reduces your ability to swim and respond to risks as it impairs your judgement. Do not consume alcohol before you enter open water and, just as with driving, do not swim in open water the day after drinking alcohol.

4. LISTEN TO YOUR BODY

Do not let yourself get too cold in the water. Your body will react differently to the cold on different days. If you are tired, or developing a cold or flu you can start to feel colder, faster than usual. Always tailor the length of your swim to how you are feeling on a given day.

Get out if you are not feeling comfortable, and never set time goals for staying in the water.

5. WARM UP FAST

Post-swim it is important to warm up as quickly as possible. Once you get out of the water you can continue to cool for approximately 20-30 minutes. This means that your deep body or core temperature will be cooler 20-30 minutes after your swim than when you got out of the water. Get dry and dressed in warm layers of clothing as quickly as possible. Warm drinks are also a great way to bring your body temperature back to normal. Bring a flask of your favourite hot drink with you.



CHECKLIST TO BRING WHEN OPEN WATER SWIMMING

- A silicone cap if dipping all year round, with an additional neoprene cap if distance swimming during the winter months.
- A dry absorbent towel.
- Ear plugs – especially in October to May.
- A tow float, even when swimming close to shore and especially at slipways and piers.
- A standing mat, particularly from October to May to counteract the severity of the cold ground while toggling in and out.
- Floating goggles and a bottle of baby shampoo to rinse them off after each swim. This prevents fogging and increases visibility.
- A thermal flask containing a hot drink to ingest after exiting the water.
- A thermal beanie cap to wear immediately upon exiting the water and good warm clothing.
- Booties or socks.
- Gloves.



GUIDELINES AND ADVICE

A useful rule of thumb for beginner and novice open water swimmers is **“Get in warm – get out warm”**.

More experienced Open Water Swimmers should always remember, 2 minutes per water degree Celsius. So if the water is 14°C the maximum time in the water is 28 minutes; 6°C the maximum time is 12 minutes and only if you are feeling well. During the winter months we recommend that you wear a neoprene cap, gloves, booties or socks and use floating goggles.

SWIMMING AT NIGHT

The dangers of swimming at night far outweigh the benefits. Swimming at night substantially impairs your visibility, as well as your ability to see and appreciate hazards. Night swims should only be undertaken by experienced open water swimmers. Lightsticks and tow floats should be used and there must be surface rescue with lifeguards, kayaks and safety boats appropriate for the number of swimmers in the water.

OTHER DANGERS TO BE AWARE OF

At Low water you are more likely to be stung by a Weever fish sting when entering or leaving the water from beaches, especially on Spring tides. In fresh and salt water, you are also more likely to slip or fall on surfaces with algae on them both.

At High Water during the summer be aware of Jellyfish infestations at your swimming location. Lions Maine Jelly fish and the Portuguese Man of War are potentially dangerous and can inflict severe stings.



FOR LOTS MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:



From: Minister for Finance [<mailto:finance-mo-correspondence@cloud.gov.ie>]
Sent: 01 April 2021 10:47
To: DCCINFO
Subject: FIN-MO-02242-2021

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Donegal County Council. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and are sure that the content is safe.

Our Ref: FIN-MO-02242-2021

Ms Aideen Doherty

(info@donegalcoco.ie)

Dear Ms Doherty

The Minister for Finance, Mr. Paschal Donohoe TD, has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 29-03-2021

As the issue raised is a matter in the first instance for Mr Darragh O'Brien TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, and your correspondence has been forwarded to his Department for attention and direct reply to you.

Yours sincerely

Alex Costello

Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance

A Member of the Minister for Finance's staff. The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015 (details available on www.lobbying.ie).

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Tá an fhaisnéis atá sa ríomhphost seo (agus in aon cheangaltáin) faoi rún agus is don fhaighteoir/do na faighteoirí beartaithe é agus é/iad sin amháin. Mura tusa an faighteoir beartaithe, níor cheart duit an teachtaireacht seo ná aon chuid di a úsáid, a nochtadh, a chóipeáil, a dháileadh ná a choinneáil. Sa chás gur trí earráid a fuair tú an ríomhphost seo, tabhair fógra dom láithreach faoi sin agus scríos gach cóip den ríomhphost seo ó do ríomhchóra(i)s. Tabhair faoi deara go bhféadfaidh an ríomhphost seo agus aon fhreagra air bheith faoi réir iarraidh ar a eisiúint de bhun an Achta um Shaoráil Faisnéise