

Glenties Municipal District Meeting
held in Dungloe Public Services Centre
On 9th July 2024

Members Present: Cllr. John Sheamuis Ó Fearraigh (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Michael McClafferty (Leas Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Anthony Molloy
Cllr. Micheál Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig
Cllr. Brian Carr
Cllr. Denis McGee

Officials Present: Michael McGarvey, Director, Water & Environment
Brendan McFadden, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Michael Rowsome, A/Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services
John Gallagher, A/Snr. Engineer, Housing Capital
Victor Cooney, Executive Engineer, NRO
Kevin McCloskey, Coastal Officer
Olivia Gallen, Administrative Officer, Economic Development
Anne Marie McCole, Staff Officer, Community Development
Mary Boyle, A/Senior Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services

Apologies: Ciara Condon, Executive Planner

Aistriúcháin

Comhuaineach: Róise Ní Laifeartaigh

GMD 37/24

Confirmation of Minutes of Glenties Municipal District Committee Meetings

On the proposal of Cllr. Molloy, seconded by Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, the Minutes of the Municipal District Meetings held on the 14th May 2024 and the AGM held on the 28th June 2024, were confirmed.

GMD 38/24

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig welcomed the Senior Housing Engineer to the meeting and expressed his dissatisfaction at the construction of six social housing units in the Glenties Municipal District during the term of the previous Council. He recommended the scheduling of an emergency Housing Meeting regarding the unprecedented housing crisis in the Glenties Municipal District and requested the attendance of the Chief Executive, Director of Housing and Senior Housing Engineers.

John Gallagher, A/Senior Engineer discussed the report circulated previously and updated Members in relation to the following projects;

- Chapel Road, Dungloe – 43 Units – formal contractor appointment scheduled for August 2024
- Massiness, Creeslough – 3 Units – completion of site clearance works to facilitate boundary agreements
- Glenties Fire Station – 3 Units – ongoing engagement with adjoining landowners regarding boundary treatment
- Gweedore – 29 Units – Council awaiting the signing of Contracts by the Developer
- Creeslough – 11 Units – Council are working with the Developer seeking final agreement on costs and programme delivery
- Countywide Turnkey acquisition process open until 30/09/2026 and positive engagement with Developers to date

The A/Senior Engineer updated the Committee in relation to the Council's active pursuit of developable lands suitable for housing,

Members were advised of the onerous due diligence responsibilities in respect of each potential land acquisition in terms of the following – zoning, easements for connections to utilities and vision lines, Uisce Eireann connections, settlement boundary, sewer connectivity, flood risk assessment and surface water discharge facilities. Offers to acquire lands have been agreed (subject to contract) in Fintown, Falcarragh and Gweedore.

Cllr Carr indicated his willingness to assist Housing Construction staff in their identification of suitable lands.

Cllr Molloy queried the status of proposals for Shanaghan House developments in Ardara.

Cllr McGee predicted the emergence of a tsunami of defective block issues in relation to childcare facilities, schools, community centres, agricultural sheds and requested the provision of a Hub facility and facilitators.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh recommended that the Council liaise with the Contractor to expedite a resolution of obstacles to proposed developments in Gweedore and Annagry.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig raised the following issues;

- Amendment of restrictive S.I. policy
- Over reliance on AHB delivery
- Recruitment of Occupational Therapist/Social Worker
- Utilition of CPO powers, Group Homes, Development of lands at Údaras Gweedore, Doochary and Burtonport

Cllr. McClafferty highlighted (i) the increasing number of Notices of Termination that are issuing to renters and the lack of housing options to address this need (ii) provision of Group Home and social housing units in Chapel Road, Falcarragh

The Senior Housing Engineer responded to Members queries and outlined the challenges and constraints in the Glenties Municipal District arising from inadequate sewer treatment infrastructure, lack of footpath connectivity to towns and flood risk zones.

The A/Housing Manager updated the Committee on the status of; (i) AHB development in Dungloe (ii) proposed Social Housing/Group Home development in Falcarragh and (iii) serviced site initiatives.

The Director clarified the role of the Council in the administration of the Enhanced Defective Concrete Block grant scheme.

Cllr McClafferty requested the attendance of Senior Uisce Eireann Management at the Emergency Housing meeting in light of deficient local infrastructure. Cllr. Carr seconded this proposal. Cllr. McClafferty stressed the necessity for the availability of Uisce Eireann officials, bearing in mind the major electoral mandate afforded to the recently elected Committee of the Glenties Municipal District.

GMD 39/24

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Committee welcomed the Report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the administrative Officer in relation to the following programmes;

- Economic Development
- Local Enterprise Office
- Information Systems
- ERNACT
- Emergency Services

The Administrative Officer provided further information to the Committee regarding the press launch for the Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Awards and #LoveDonegalDay

Members welcomed the announcement that Donegal has been named as the host destination for TBEX (travel Blog Exchange) 2025, the World's largest conference and community of travel creators and influencers.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig reiterated his requests for (i) the provision of a Fire Service on Arranmore and Tory, similar to that available on the mainland (ii) Arrange a workshop to discuss the challenges impacting on the environment and housing, as a result of over-tourism (iii) promotion of the co-operative enterprise model.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig recommended that the Council offer support to the organisers of a new festival to be held in Gweedore from the 27th to the 29th September to celebrate the life and legacy of Rónán Mac Aodha Bhuí. He also requested the restoration of the food/marketing project in conjunction with Údaras and commended Máirín Uí Fhearraigh for all her endeavours during her term as Project Officer.

Cllr. Molloy and Cllr. McClafferty requested the provision of bins and toilet facilities to enhance the tourist experience.

Cllr. McGee requested the provision of defibrillators on all of the off-shore islands.

Cllr. McClafferty also requested the Council's I.S. Services to liaise with relevant companies regarding directional issues on Google Maps.

GMD 40/24

ENVIRONMENT

The Committee noted the Reports circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Environmental Officer.

- Public Service Announcements – pesticides and sheep dipping
- Domestic Waste-Water Treatment inspections
- Bathing Waters 2024

40.1

Public Conveniences

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the lack of public conveniences on beaches and tourist locations throughout the Municipal District. Cllr. McClafferty requested the provision of toilet facilities on a pilot basis for our major beaches throughout the year.

Cllr. McGee expressed disappointment at the inability of authorities to resolve the lack of adequate toilet facilities in Magheraroarty notwithstanding the increasing number of people utilising beaches and ferry services to Inishboffin and Tory.

The Director agreed to expedite the provision of a modular toilet facility to resolve ongoing issues at Magheraroarty and this proposal was universally welcomed by the Committee.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the Council to maintain all toilet facilities.

40.2 Portalooos

Cllr. Molloy requested the increased availability of Portalooos and particularly to assist competition and festival organisers.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested the Council to expedite the provision of Portalooos at Muckish in light of the increasing visitor footfall at this location.

40.3 Magheraroarty Masterplan

Cllr. MacGiolla Easbuig requested the Council to progress previous recommendations for the development of a Masterplan in Magheraroarty in the pier/beach area. The proposal was supported by all Councillors.

The Environmental Officer acknowledged Member's concerns regarding off-road vehicles damaging sand dunes and advised Members that An Taisce are aware of concerns in this regard.

40.4 Rural Water Programme

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig commended ongoing work by Pauric Feely, Executive Engineer and Hugh B. Kerr, A/Assistant Engineer, to develop the Rural Water Infrastructure in the Municipal District and on the Islands. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig criticized the slow response from Uisce Eireann to ongoing water shortages on Gola Island.

40.5

Dog Wardens

Cllr. McClafferty recommended that the Council employ additional Dog Wardens to address the increasing incidents of uncontrolled dogs in public areas and dog fouling incidents. He also recommended the provision of additional dog fouling disposal bins. The Director advised that the Environment Service are not responsible for the operation of the Dog Warden Service, but that correspondence will issue to the Chief Veterinary Officer regarding same.

40.6

Recycling Facilities

Cllr. Carr requested a meeting with Environment Staff regarding Bottle Bank provision in Glenties, Lettermacaward and Doochary. Cllr. Carr also requested assistance from the Environment Service to support volunteers involved in festival clean-ups.

The Director advised of current arrangements with the Road Service regarding the emptying of bins and the budgetary implications for enhancing this service.

40.7

Water Safety Ireland Bravery Awards

In response to a query from Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, the Environmental Officer confirmed that he had made a number of nominations to the above body following a major sea rescue of students during August 2019.

GMD 41/24

PLANNING

The Committee noted the Report circulated with the Agenda and the apologies submitted by the local Planners.

GMD 42/24

COMMUNNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Committee welcomed the following Reports circulated with the Agenda;

- Community Development
- Walks and Trails
- Rural Development Programme/Leader
- Community Recognition Fund
- Social Inclusion
- Healthy Ireland

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested an update on the Poll a' tSnámh Ranafast Project.

The Community Development Officer undertook to revert to Cllr. Molloy in response to his queries regarding the Community Recognition Fund and to liaise with the Tourism Unit in respect of Dolmen Centre funding under the Minor Tourism Fund.

GMD 43/24 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

N56 – Falcarragh to Gortahork Scheme

Victor Cooney, Executive Engineer, NRO, made a presentation to Members in relation to this proposed new road scheme. The proposed scheme is approximately 3 km in length and will also consider the implementation of an Active Travel facility.

The Council has appointed Fehily Timoney Consulting Engineers and Clondillon Civil Consulting (FTC) as technical advisors for consideration of options, selection of preferred improvement option, statutory processes and the development of a detailed design.

Members welcomed public consultation events to be held in the Sean Bheiric in Falcarragh on the 24th July and in Ostán Loch Altán on the 25th July. Further public consultations will be held later in the year on the emerging preferred option.

43.1 Restoration Improvement Allocation

The Roads Manager informed the Committee that additional supplementary restoration improvement funding, in the sum of €358,911 to repair infrastructural damage caused by the prolonged period of persistent rainfall, has been allocated to the Glenties Municipal District.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, seconded by Cllr. McClafferty, the Committee agreed the following RII Programme;

<u>Road ID.</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>RSS Area</u>
R251-14	€30,000	Falcarragh
L-1103-2	€59,728	Falcarragh
L-1363-1	€24,000	Gweedore
L-1393-2	€65,728	Gweedore
L-1543-2	€89,728	Dungloe
R261-4	€30,000	Glenties
R230-12	€34,728	Glenties
L-7773-1	€25,000	Glenties

43.2 Road Maintenance

In response to concerns expressed by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh and Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, the Roads Manager undertook to seek a contribution from Uisce Eireann towards the repair of the Meenanillar Road.

Cllr. McClafferty highlighted the necessity for crash barriers on a road section past the grotto in proximity to Muckish.

The Roads Manager informed the committee of the exorbitant cost of crash barrier installation and that the only source of funding available is from the maintenance budget.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig raised issues in relation to hedge cutting, Crolly T-junction realignment, lighting at Dore and Knockastoller, footpath in Glasserchoo and Ranafast.

43.3 Bridges

Cllr. Carr discussed the history of tragic accidents at Currien Bridge and recommended that this location be prioritised for urgent funding.

Cllr. McGee and Cllr. Ó Fearraigh highlighted the poor condition of the bridge at Glasserchoo.

43.4 Island Roads

The Roads Manager informed the committee of the recent allocation of €450,000 for road improvements on Arranmore and Tory island and that this allocation will facilitate completion of all road upgrades on both islands. The Committee welcomed the intention of the Road Service to submit departmental application for road improvements on smaller islands. In response to a query from Cllr. McGee, the Corporate Manager outlined the process involved in the submission of applications for funding to the Department of Rural and Community Development.

GMD 44/24 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

Members discussed the Reports circulated with the Agenda and presented by the A/Area Manager regarding Grants, Casual Vacancies, housing need HAP/RAS/LTL, Tenant Purchase and Loans.

Members welcomed the update regarding;

1. energy efficiency retrofitting programme
2. painting programme
3. serviced sites initiative
4. emergency accommodation EOI

In response to queries from Cllr. Carr and Cllr. McGee, the A/Area Manager for Housing undertook to request the Social Housing Remediation Team attend the next Municipal District meeting regarding defective block issues.

Cllr. Molloy requested the council to investigate a blocked manhole at Ard Patrick housing estate in Glenties. Cllr. Ó Fearraigh and Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the Council to provide additional parking at An Róisín estate in Gortahork.

The A/Area Manager for housing responded to Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig's queries regarding homeless presentations and recruitment of social worker and occupational therapist within the Housing Service.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the council to liaise with the Fishing Minister regarding confiscation of fish from salmon fishermen by Inland Fisheries Ireland.

GMD 45/24

Next Meeting of the Island and Municipal District Committees

Members agreed to hold the Islands Meeting on the 10th of September at 10a.m. in the Dungloe Public Service Centre, prior to the Municipal District Meeting.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING