

**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON
10th SEPTEMBER 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Michael McClafferty
Cllr. Anthony Molloy
Cllr. Micheál Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig
Cllr. Denis McGee
Cllr. Brian Carr

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Michael McGarvey - Director of Water & Environment Service
Michael Rowsome, A/Area Manager, Corporate & Housing
Brendan McFadden, SEE/Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Jim Boner, SEE, Housing Capital
Eugene Allen - Asst. Engineer, Marine & Harbours
Kevin McCloskey - Coastal Officer
Claire McCallan, Architect - Community & Development
John McCarron, SEE, Water & Environment
Lorna Ramsey - Executive Planner
Breid Neely, S.S.O., Information Systems
Mary Boyle, A/SSO, Housing & Corporate
Róise Ní Laifearthaigh - Aistriúcháin Comhuaineach

APOLOGIES: Anne Marie McCole, S.O. Community Development

GMD 46/24

Confirmation of Minutes of Glenties Municipal District Meeting

On the proposal of Cllr. Molloy, seconded by Cllr. McGee, the Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting held on the 9th July 2024, were confirmed.

HOUSING & CORPORATE

47.1

The Senior Executive Engineer informed the Committee of the following work in progress in various locations in the municipal district -

- Chapel Rd., Dungloe - 43 units - John O'Donnell, Construction Ltd., has commenced site clearance and mobilization works
- Massinass, Creeslough - 3 units - tenders have issued for specialist contractors to carry out detailed ground investigations. The appointed engineers are preparing an application to Uisce Eireann Infrastructure for the scheme
- Glenties Fire Station - 3 units - a quantity surveyor has been appointed to progress the scheme
- Gweedore - 29 units - the developer has confirmed his agreement to progress this project and it is anticipated that works will commence on site in Quarter 4 2024
- Creeslough - 11 units - the Council is working with the developer to reach agreement on costs
- Status of land acquisition offers in Fintown, Falcarragh and Gweedore

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig expressed disappointment at the absence of a playground in the Dungloe scheme.

In response to a query from Cllr. Carr regarding the length of time taken from site acquisition to construction, the Senior Executive Engineer outlined in detail the various stages involved in project delivery. Cllr. McGee highlighted issues in relation to block certification in quarry selection and the necessity for due diligence in terms of testing to avoid futural defective block issues in the County.

The Senior Executive Engineer undertook to revert to Cllr. McGee regarding these issues and also his concerns in relation to geologist reports.

The Housing Manager responded to the Committee regarding the following issues;

- Údaras lands (Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig)
- Shanaghan House (Cllr. Molloy)
- Specific Instance Cottages (Cllr. Ó Fearraigh)

47.2 Section 183 Disposal

On the proposal of Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, Seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Committee agreed the transfer of Folio DL79090F into the ownership of the original owners whose S.I. application did not proceed. It was noted that this Section 183 will be discussed at the Plenary Council meeting in September.

47.3 Best Kept Estates Competition 2024

The Housing Manager informed Members of the results of this competition;

Category 1 1 - 20 Houses Clós Naoimh Dúigh, Annagry

Category 2 21 - 50 Houses Ard Cróine, Dungloe

Category 3 51+ Houses Ballina, Falcarragh

47.4 Massiness, Creeslough

On the proposal of Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Committee agreed to adopt 'An Loinnir' as the name for the 3 new Social Housing units in Creeslough. In response to Cllr. McClafferty's recommendation for dual placename signage, Róise Ní Laifeartaigh informed Members

that the current policy of the Placenames Committee is that all placenames are in Irish only.

GMD 48/24

Housing Workshops/Meetings

The Committee agreed the following dates for Workshops -

- 08/10/'24 - 10.00 a.m. - Budget Workshop
- 08/10/'24 - 12.00 noon - Social Housing Remediation Team Workshop
- 08/10/'24 - 1.30 p.m. - Clós Naomh Chonail Residents Committee Workshop
- 25/10/'24 - 10.00 a.m. - Budget Meeting (Online)

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig advised that the Gleann Bheatha Manager would like to present to the Committee in advance of public consultation connected to their facility. A date was not agreed for this proposal and Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig took to revert to the Cathaoirleach in this regard.

Cllr McClafferty also requested that a delegation from the Office of Public Works be invited to a future Municipal District meeting to discuss inadequate fencing of lands under their control.

GMD 49/24

Heritage Forum

Members noted that a vacancy for one Member from the Glenties Municipal District remains available.

GMD 50/20

Glenties Town Team

On the proposal of Cllr. Molloy, seconded by Cllr McClafferty, the Committee elected Cllr. Carr to represent the Glenties Municipal District on the Glenties Town Team. On the proposal of Cllr. Carr, seconded by Cllr. McClafferty, the Committee elected Cllr. Molloy to represent the Glenties Municipal District on the Glenties Town Team.

GMD 51/24

Palestinian Ambassador

On the proposal of Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, seconded by Cllr. Carr, the Committee agreed to invite the Palestinian Ambassador to the next meeting of the Municipal District to update Members on the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Palestine. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig also expressed his solidarity with the Palestinian resistance groups.

GMD 52/24

Monthly Housing Reports

The Committee welcomed the Report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Housing Manager.

Cllr. Carr raised housing maintenance issues at The Rock Housing Estate in Glenties for the attention of the housing service.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig recommended the provision of additional funding to facilitate an expansion of the Deep Retrofitting Programme, in the interest of the fuel poverty reductions.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig also welcomed recent correspondence from the Roads Service of the availability of funding in the sum of €70,000 for road repairs within housing estates in Meenlaragh and Ard Connell, Glenties.

GMD 53/24

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Committee welcomed the Report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Senior Staff Officer in relation to the following upcoming events;

- #lovedonegal day on September 25th
- Disrupt by the Sea on September 26th
- Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Awards on September 27th

Cllr. Carr mentioned the 6 no. groups that were selected to take part in the Dragons Den-style event and welcomed the potential financial opportunities arising from this initiative.

Cllr Molloy requested that the three seats/benches at Glengesh be repaired.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr, John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh expressed his concerns regarding the parking of vehicles along both sides of the main road passing Errigal Mountain and queried if the works in question could be carried out under Forbairt Pobail.

Cllr. Micheál Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig again expressed his frustration regarding the issue of campervans parked in undesignated areas, and in particular at Magheraroarty and Port Arthur in Gweedore. He also repeated previous requests to convene a Workshop regarding the tourism related issues. Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig expressed concern in relation to the inadequate Fire Brigade service on Aranmore and Tory Islands and requested that a blue light service, as is provided on the mainland, be put in place on the islands, instead of the current red-light system.

GMD 54/24

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

The Committee noted the Report circulated with the Agenda.

54.1

N 56

Cllr. McClafferty requested that the policy pertaining to the N56 be revisited in the near future. Cllr. Carr agreed with this proposal.

54.2

Planning Clinics

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the reinstatement of Planning Clinics at Dungloe Public Services Centre. He added that it would be a necessity for the Executive Planner in attendance at future clinics to be fluent in the Irish language.

The Executive Planner advised that she was unsure if there were any plans to reinstate Planning Clinics going forward and that Planners can be contacted by telephone once a week by the public.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh queried if planning permission was a requirement for caravans that are in situ for a period of 3 months or longer. The Executive Planner advised that planning permission is required for a temporary fixture such as a caravan and that if there are any concerns that the Enforcement Team should be contacted.

GMD 55/24

ENVIRONMENT

The Committee noted the Reports circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Senior Executive Engineer.

55.1

Campervans

Cllr McClafferty highlighted waste disposal concerns in relation to campervan owners.

The Senior Executive Engineer acknowledged the issue with illegal dumping throughout the Municipal District and it was agreed that the provision of more cameras will aid enforcement.

55.2

Signage at beaches

Cllr McClafferty highlighted several issues on beaches due to inadequate control of dogs and the Senior Executive Engineer responded to same;

55.3

Recycling Centres

In response to queries from (i) Cllr McGee regarding a lack of directional signage and from (ii) Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig regarding the necessity for a recycling facility in Falcarragh, the Senior Executive Engineer advised of ongoing funding constraints.

55.4 Septic Tanks

Cllr. Carr recommended a programme to increase the inspection of domestic septic tanks.

GMD 56/24 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Committee Welcomed the reports circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Community Development Manager and Architect in relation to;

- (1) Community Development Activity
- (2) Walks & Trails
- (3) Leader
- (4) Peace Plus
- (5) Donegal Youth Council
- (6) Social Inclusion
- (7) Healthy Ireland

The Committee also welcomed the update in relation to the town centre project funding announcement for Dungloe, Ardara and Dunlewey. Members were advised that a Rural Funding Workshop will be scheduled at the end of October.

Cllr. Molloy thanked Claire McCallan, Architect and her team for their ongoing assistance. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested an update on the Poll a' tSnámh project.

GMD 57/24 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

57.1 NRDO Update - N56 Schemes

The Roads Manager updated the Committee on the upgrade of the cycleway between Dungloe and Glenties and advised that same should be completed towards the end of the year.

He further advised that a Marketing Brochure on the cycleway is currently being prepared.

57.2 **Proposed works to the N56**

It was reported by the Roads Manager that the public consultation events held in both Falcarragh and Gortahork in late July had a good attendance.

The Roads Manager advised the Committee that the Tii have approved circa a €5m budget for the Kilrairie section and it is hoped to have this section of road finished within the timeline.

57.3 **New Restoration Improvement programme**

The Roads Manager agreed to have a meeting in November with the Members as the previous 3 year Restoration Programme was now finished.

57.4 **Local Improvement Schemes**

The Roads Manager advised that the current L.I.S. form that is available online could now be distributed within the community.

Cllr McGee questioned how many names were on the L.I.S. list and expressed his frustration at the L.I.S. system and said that the current system isn't working. He added that the current system should be scrapped, and a new system introduced as soon as possible. Cllrs. Molloy and Carr both concurred with Cllr. McGee on this matter.

The Roads Manager advised that there were currently 1,400 live LIS applications in the County and approximately 300/400 of those are in the Glenties Municipal District. The Roads Manager added that approximately 8-10 LIS's are completed every year in the Glenties Municipal District and that he would circulate the exact numbers to Members.

57.5 **Speed Limit Review**

Cllr. Carr requested that speed limits on local roads be reviewed and also asked that funding be provided for Currin Bridge.

The Roads Manager advised that he had discussed Currin Bridge with Road Design and was advised that substantial preliminary design would be required to progress this project and that there is no funding for same in the current budget.

He also advised that the speed limit revisions are in line with National criteria.

57.6

Miscellaneous

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested;

- that the policy regarding hedge-cutting be changed
- that more money for Bunbeg Bridge be sought from the Department
- that funding for Glasserchoo Bridge be sought
- that a one-way traffic system be put in place for Dungloe
- that the road at new traffic lights on the Carnmore Road, Dungloe be raised, as traffic is failing to stop - raise problem with the Tii
- that signs required at Tubberkeen to slow speeding traffic down
- that the Gritting Programme needs to be extended

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig thanked the Roads Manager for the great work carried out at the reed beds on Cruit Island and welcomed the provision of a specialised electric bicycle, one each for Glenveagh, Dunlewey and Ardara. These bicycles can connect onto wheelchairs to transport their users.

Cllr. McClafferty requested that;

- hedge-cutting be carried out at Lower Fanaboy/Cashelnogore
- the broken sea-gate at the bridge at Doe Castle be repaired/replaced
- the flooding issue at Ballyconnell gate be addressed

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh raised the following matters;

- Takeover of Ballyconnell House, Falcarragh
- Dangerous crossing for children at Gallagher's Supermarket in Derrybeg
- Bridge repairs needed at Cashelnagore
- Workshop to be organised for the taking over of roads

The Roads Manager advised the Committee that they have dealt with any overgrown hedges reported by Members and the public in accordance with the current policy. All data will hopefully be ready to present to the Members at the next Municipal District meeting in November. He also mentioned that Roads Staff had been talking to landowners and highlighted their responsibilities to them in relation to hedge-cutting.

It was noted that the installation of traffic lights at Bunbeg footbridge was not supported by the Members. The Roads Manager expressed confidence that NTA funding would be available for the traffic light/priority system and these works could progress if Member agreement was available.

In relation to the proposed one-way system for Dungloe, the Roads Manager advised that Road Design staff have been asked to collate previous data on same.

The Roads Manager also responded to Members in relation to the takeover of roads, bridge repairs, public lighting and gritting programme.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING