



ÉIRE COMMUNITÉ Council and Co-Op

Date:	Tuesday 9th February '26 Sat. 7th Feb. 2026	
Central Hotel, Donegal Town, Donegal, Éire		
Attendees		
John-Declan F (Chair)	Colm-Mary G. (V.C.)	Howard-Michael H (Sec.)
John G. B. (Treas.)	John-Brian C. (PRO)	Maria-Louise P.
Orla M.	Tom W.	Caroline B.
Samantha B.	Liam-John C.	Veronica-Mary F.
Colin-Declan H.	Anna-Marie S.R.	Barra-Séamus dR

The Secretary, Howard M. Hughes and P.R.O., John B. Caulfield attend via Zoom.

Proxies Ana-Marie Stack-Rivas to Louise Price, Veronica M. Flanagan to John D. Flanagan, Liam Costello and Colin D. Hall to John G Barrett, Barra S. de Roiste to Colm M Granahan, Caroline Burke to Tom Walsh.

Proxies Crossmolina: Kevin Kearns, Mary Coyle and Geraldine Walsh to Colm Granahan, Cailín Barrett and Abbey Sweeney to John G. Barrett,

Meeting ends 13:35 IRT/14:00 GMT

1. Opening: Administrative Matters

The group confirmed the meeting date as Tuesday, February 9th in the Faodhla Féilre calendar (Saturday, February 7th, 2026 in the standard calendar) and reviewed a calendar tracking system being developed by Tom.

The meeting confirmed quorum for three councils: Éire Community Council, Crossmolina Community Council, and Donegal County Supreme Council. The agenda was set to address Crossmolina matters first (as attendees needed to catch a ferry), followed by Donegal-specific issues and Q&A.

2. Donegal County Supreme Council

New Members Appointed

Two new members were formally added to the Donegal County Supreme Council to achieve quorum:

- **Samantha Boyle:** Nominated by Howard-Michael Hughes, seconded by John Barrett
- **Bridget:** Nominated by John Caulfield, seconded by Louise Price



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Both appointments were approved without objection.

The Chair addresses the adjournment of the meeting from Ballyshannon for the establishment of the Donegal County Court which had been adjourned to 22nd November 2026. This meeting was subject to receiving paperwork from the former ex-Secretary, Edward McNulty inter alia demonstrating that critical mass has been reached with membership. As the Éire Community Council has not received this nor anyone assembled, the meeting is further adjourned until further notice.

3. Crossmolina Hotel: Community Facility Converted to Social Accommodation

Jason, representing the Crossmolina Community Co-op, presented urgent concerns about the Dolphin Hotel conversion:

The Situation

- **Loss of Community Facilities:** The only hotel in Crossmolina is being converted to "temporary social residential accommodation," eliminating the function room used for weddings, communions, confirmations, birthdays, anniversaries, and funeral gatherings
- **No Tourist Accommodation:** The town will have no hotel for visitors, tourists, or family occasions
- **Security Concerns:** The hotel has effectively become a "halfway house" with reports of Garda (police) calls 3-10 times per week for disturbances
- **Assault Incident:** A woman at the post office was assaulted by a hotel resident when asking people not to loiter while waiting for buses
- **Infrastructure Strain:** Schools are at capacity, doctor appointments are unavailable, and no additional services are being provided
- **Unsuitable Accommodation:** The hotel is in the middle of town with no green spaces or gardens—not suitable for families

Planning Process Timeline

- **Initial Application:** Planning permission sought for the conversion over a year ago
- **Mayo County Council:** Initially refused the application
- **Community Objections:** Approximately 40-50 objections submitted to Mayo County Council, with 10+ coming from co-op members; some objections continued to An Bord Pleanála
- **Crossmolina Community Council:** Wrote to An Bord Pleanála highlighting the Planning and Development Act disqualification for the mapped community area
- **An Bord Pleanála Decision:** Overturned Mayo County Council's refusal and granted permission on January 14, 2026, giving the developer 3 months to satisfy conditions

Planning Permission Ambiguities

The board identified problematic vague language in Condition 2 of the An Bord Pleanála order:

- "Temporary" social residential accommodation—but no time limit is defined



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- "Social residential accommodation"—undefined and open to interpretation
- Community members expressed strong opposition, with Jason noting people are "willing to voice it" though follow-through commitment remains to be tested

Legal Strategy: Indigenous Rights Challenge

The Board developed a comprehensive legal strategy to challenge the planning permission:

Why Not Judicial Review?

The Chair, (John D. Flanagan) explained that judicial review would be ineffective because:

- Submitting objections in the planning process means "you're already ceding control" to a higher authority
- By paying the €20 objection fee, you're playing by their rules and accepting their jurisdiction
- The notice stating challenges "must be by judicial review only" represents their terms and conditions
- Judicial review keeps the matter within their system and framework

The Indigenous Rights Approach

The board agreed to use the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People as the legal foundation:

- The Crossmolina Community Council had previously communicated with Mayo County Council about their disqualification of the Planning and Development Act
- However, they had not yet invoked the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People with any local corporate council
- This approach challenges the planning order outside the conventional planning law framework
- The Department of Local Government and Heritage had been notified of the UN Declaration position and the definition of Indigenous Irish

Legal Action Structure

The board approved filing a **plenary summons** (not judicial review) that will:

- **Defendants:** The individual(s) from An Bord Pleanála who signed the order (signed by a living woman on January 14, 2026) and the hotel owner/applicant
- **Relief Sought:** A declaratory order stating that the An Bord Pleanála permission does NOT usurp the community's position under:
 - The Planning and Development Act disqualification
 - Crossmolina community bylaws
 - The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People
- **Approach:** Described as "non-confrontational"—simply asking the system to "show us how what you have here trumps what we have here"
- **Stamp:** Will carry the 21-1-19 sovereign stamp confirming reservation of rights for the individual for final determination at trial by jury in the Éire Supreme Court



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- **Timeline:** Must be filed and served within the 3-month window from January 14, 2026; defendants must respond within 8 days of receiving notice

Executive Restructuring to Enable Legal Action

To enable Colm Granahan to take the legal action as a non-executive community member, the Crossmolina Community Council board restructured:

Original Executive Structure

- Chair: John D. Flanagan
- Vice Chair: Colm Granahan
- Secretary: Howard Hughes
- Treasurer: John Barrett
- PRO: John Caulfield
- Ordinary Members: Abby, Cailín, Mary Coyle, Martin Conroy, Geraldine Walsh, Kevin Kearns (6 members)

Restructured Executive

- Colm Granahan stepped down as Vice Chair to become an ordinary member
- Martin Conroy agreed to step up from ordinary member to Vice Chair
- This maintained the executive structure while allowing Colm to act as an individual community member supported by the council

Board Commitments

- Éire Community Council voted to support the legal action and fund it through the education bank account (€190)
- The action, if necessary, would proceed to the Crossmolina Community Court and eventually to the Éire Supreme Court
- Jason committed to collecting 100 wet ink signatures from community members supporting the action
- Howard and/or John will assist Colm in gathering the planning application file and documentation

The Chair emphasised the importance of the Council being proactive rather than reactive, and that the Community Council must remain impartial on the record while addressing co-op member concerns.

4. Community Banking: Minting Process Milestone Achieved

The meeting conducted extensive minting ceremonies for community bonds, achieving a historic milestone:

Minting Goal and Progress

- **Overall Objective:** Mint for every community in Éire by January 21, 2027



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- **Scope:** 230 community council treasuries across Ireland requiring at least 21 authenticated birth certs each month
- **Milestone Achieved:** At least one mint has now been established in every county in Ireland (all 32 counties)
- **Total Minted to Date:** Over 6.5 million in community bonds visible on the Irish Republic Bank website

Today's Minting Session

The meeting processed minting for 27 communities (some counties had multiple community councils minted). Counties included:

- Longford: Ballymahon
- Louth: Ardee,
- Meath: Ashbourne,
- Offaly: Birr,
- Armagh: Armagh City
- Cavan: Bailieborough-Coothill
- Monaghan: Ballybay-Clones
- Leitrim: Ballinamore
- Sligo: Ballymote-Tubbercurry,
- Mayo: Ballina
- Roscommon: Athlone
- Clare: Ennistymon,
- Cork: Bantry, Carrigaline, Cobh, Cork Central, Cork Central North East
- Kerry: Dingel Peninsula, Kenmare, Killarney
- Limerick: Adare-Rathkeale
- Tipperary: Carrick-on-Suir
- Waterford: Lismore-Cappoquin, Portlaw-Kilmacthomas, Waterford City East, Waterford City South

Administrative Details

- Each minting recorded community reference codes (e.g., "BCC126", "ACC56"), registration numbers, UINs (Unique Identification Numbers), and individual tab references
- John Barrett (Treasurer) and Howard Hughes were confirmed to have standing orders to affix their soul seal and digital signatures to ledgers
- Louise was being trained in the minting process during the meeting
- Sean White signed in for multiple entries as they were verified
- The date was recorded as Tuesday, February 9th (Faodhla Féilre calendar)
- Calculation confirmed: 27 communities × 177,000 = 4,779,000 in new bonds minted
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Member Benefits

- Once Mary completes office processing, individual bonds will be imported onto members' tabs
- Everyone who minted and presented an authentic purchase will receive 17,700 Éire Meitheal Punts

PTSD Bank Tender Update

Brief discussion noted that the tender process for PTSD Bank, initially valued at €2.3 billion (meant to recoup €1.1 billion for the State), was reduced after further due diligence to potentially €1 billion, with possible "suitability" from private equity investors.

Verification Process Details

The minting session involved meticulous verification of reference numbers and identifiers for each community and individual:

Data Elements Verified

- **Community Reference Codes:** Alphanumeric codes like "BCC126" (Ballymahon Community Council), "ACC56" (Ardee Community Council)
- **Registration Numbers:** Six to nine digit numbers like "380-1742", "299-5522"
- **UINs (Unique Identification Numbers):** Format "029-1672", "053-7311", etc.
- **Individual Tab References:** Format "SCB12" (Sean), "SCW4" (Sean White), "SCM27" (Stephanie), etc.

Participants Providing Details

Each individual minting confirmed their respective authenticated birth certificate numbers and tab identifier as the process was methodically conducted and recorded.

Administrative Codes and Council References

Throughout the minting process, various council codes and reference formats were discussed and confirmed:

The systematic review ensured all codes were correctly matched to their respective communities and properly recorded in the ledger.

Entity Registration Verification Details

Howard-Michael and John worked through verifying registration numbers and UINs for multiple entities. The team discussed plans to use a mobile app for future verification tasks to streamline the process. Some entries were flagged as requiring further verification before finalisation.

License Numbers and Code Cross-Referencing

The meeting included detailed review and confirmation of license numbers and codes for various locations and entities. Howard-Michael, John-Brian, and John-Declan systematically went through



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lists, verifying and cross-referencing codes. Key calculations were performed and confirmed, including the multiplication formula ($27 \times 177,000 = 4,779,000$) to determine total bonds minted.

The session concluded with completion of the ledger and brief discussion of licenses at an IRB (Irish Republican Brotherhood) council level, setting the stage for the quarry licensing discussion that followed.

Quarry Operations: Pre-1963 Rights and Community Support

Chair (John Flanagan) raised important matters affecting sovereign claimants facing challenges from local corporate councils regarding quarry operations:

Legal Background: Pre-1963 Rights

Critical legal principle explained: The Planning and Development Act only took effect in November 1963. Any land use established and recorded before 1963 is **immune to Planning and Development Act impositions**. However, councils have pressured quarry owners to:

- Register their quarries (which creates vulnerabilities)
- Apply for planning permission to "regulate" already-established activities

Community Council Role and Board Commitment

Admin emphasised that having sovereign licenses does NOT mean "riding roughshod over the community." The quarries fall between Crossmolina Community Council and Oughterard Community Council territories.

The Chair posed the critical question to the Éire Community Council board: "Are we committed to standing up to any challenge in relation to disqualification of the Planning and Development Act and the UN Declaration of Rights for Indigenous people when licenses are accepted by the community at large?"

The board unanimously agreed: **Yes**. All members present confirmed their commitment to supporting these challenges when the community stands with the licenses.

Next Steps for Quarry Matters

- Colum will prepare maps showing where each quarry sits within the community areas
- These maps will demonstrate community jurisdiction and support
- The strategy mirrors the Crossmolina hotel approach: bring matters to the Community Court and eventually to a court of record
- This presents an opportunity to comprehensively challenge the planning system and assert pre-1963 rights and indigenous sovereignty

The Chair stressed this requires courage and sets precedents for other Communities to follow. The Board has a duty to bring these matters through the right way with family farms and family businesses protected.



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Éire Meitheal Punts Distribution

Separately, the meeting confirmed that once Mary completes processing in the office, individual bonds will be imported onto members' tabs. Everyone who minted by January 21, 2027 will receive 17,700 Éire Meitheal Punts. The Bonds are embossed bringing the "paper to life" and adding another dimension to the two-dimensional documents.

Meeting ends 15:38 IRT/16:03 GMT