

Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall Donegal County Council

Guthán / Telephone: 074 9172222 Facs / Fax: 074 9141205
Ríomhphost / Email: info@donegalcoco.ie Suíomh Idirlín / Web: www.donegalcoco.ie

13th October, 2011

To: Each Local Authority

A Chara,

I write to inform you that at a recent meeting of Donegal County Council the following motions were adopted: -

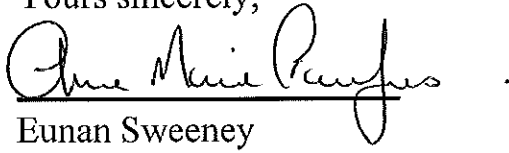
- *"That Donegal County Council refrain from collecting any charge that may be imposed on owners of Septic Tanks that are working properly, as this is a discriminative form of collecting revenue."*
- *"That this Council recognises the need to upgrade many septic tank systems in Ireland in order to meet the 1975 and 1991 European Directives on waste water but affirms that the Directives should not be used as a mechanism to raise revenue from struggling home owners in rural communities and calls for:*
 - *The costs of works on septic tanks which need to be upgraded, to be grant aided from central Government funds such as waste water capital programmes.*
 - *A system, similar to that in the north of Ireland, where a desludging service is provided yearly, free of charge to homeowners financed by the Department of Environment.*
 - *A programme to be put in place to protect our ground water and surface water, based on the information gathered in the recent River Basin Management Plans and that a hierarchy*

of threats to our ground water and surface water status be put in place, including threats posed by septic tanks"

- *"That Donegal County Council address the issue of EU regulations of Septic Tanks in our County, also all Sewage Treatment Plants and Waste disposal."*

It was further agreed to circulate the motions to all Local Authorities for their support.

Yours sincerely,

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Ful Eunan Sweeney
Meetings Administrator