



Roof is a "hotch-potch" of colours - councillor

Is this an eye-sore?



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Part of an award-winning public building in Letterkenny has been called an "eye-sore" by a local councillor.

The "famous roof" on the Public Services Centre on the Neil T. Blaney Road is a "hotch-potch of red, yellow and brown," according to Cllr. Dessie Shiels (Ind).

Speaking at the monthly meeting of Letterkenny Municipal District Council, he said: "I do be a wee bit embarrassed at times that this is a public sector and

council building."

He says that a lot of visitors coming into the town get directed towards the tourist office and ask what the building is.

He tabled a motion calling on the Council to "either replace or remedy the eye-sore that is the discoloured and untidy grass/moss part of the roof" and contended that it would assist in the ongoing efforts to retain the National Tidy Towns Award.

He added that it looked as if the moss "had taken over" the roof and this made it "untidy for main public services building."

However, Cllr. Gerry McMon-

agle expressed his opposition to any changing of the roof and maintained that the tidy towns adjudicators had made positive comments in the past while Cllr. Michael McBride wondered if the architects could be contacted to see if it is the way it was planned to be.

"The reality is that there could have been a better job done on this roof," retorted Cllr. Shiels.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh felt that the building got "as much positive comment as it does negative"

The meeting, held in the building concerned, also heard that it

was "the home of grass roof (sic) politics in Letterkenny!"

It was decided, at the request of Cllr. Liam Blaney, to defer the motion as this was "the sensible thing to do."

The Letterkenny Public Services Centre has been the subject of much critical acclaim. It was designed by Letterkenny's MacGabhann Architects and was a winner a **Royal Institute of Architects** of Ireland, Irish Architecture Awards winner in 2003, and an

Architectural Association of Ireland award winner, also in 2003.