

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE,  
HELD IN LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE, ON TUESDAY, 20<sup>th</sup>  
NOVEMBER 2007.**

***LEC 52/07***     **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan  
Cllr. Tony McDaid  
Cllr. Gerry Crawford  
Cllr. Jimmy Harte  
Cllr. Jean Crossan, Mayor, Letterkenny Town Council

***LEC 53/07***     **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Clare Cronin, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development  
Aideen Doherty, Area Manager, Community Enterprise & Cultural  
Pat Gillespie, Area Manager /Senior Executive Engineer, Roads  
Jim Hyland, A/Area Manager/ Senior Executive Engineer, WEES  
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate Services,  
James Kelly, Executive Engineer, WEES  
Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager, Housing  
Aidan O'Doherty, Senior Engineer, NRDO  
Rose Patton, Staff Officer, Corporate Services  
Fergus Towey, Senior Resident Engineer, Roads & Transportation

**ALSO PRESENT**

Ally Logue, Donegal Youth Council  
Roisin Friel, Donegal Youth Council

Saoirse McElhinney, Doorway Project  
Seamus McGinty, Doorway Project

**APOLOGIES**

Cllr Dessie Larkin

On the proposal of Cllr Gerry Crawford seconded by Cllr Tony Mc Daid it was agreed that Cllr Ciaran Brogan be appointed Chairman for the Meeting

***LEC 54/07***     **Congratulations**

Cllr Ciaran Brogan, on behalf of the Committee, offered congratulations to Cllr Dessie Larkin and his wife Mary on the recent birth of their baby boy.

**LEC 55/07 CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry Crawford and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Harte the Minutes of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2007 were agreed.

**LEC 56/07 CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry Crawford and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Harte the Minutes of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2007 were agreed.

**LEC 57/07 COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND ENTERPRISE SERVICES**

**57.01 Play Areas**

Aideen Doherty informed the Committee that good progress had been made on developing play areas in the Letterkenny Electoral Area in 2007. Glenwood Park has been officially opened. Manorcunningham is complete and a site has been secured for the playground in Lifford. C&E are working on a lease agreement with Lifford Athletic Club and anticipate going to tender in the New Year. Tenders for Ard na Rí have been received and will be assessed before Christmas.

Ms Doherty stated that they were consulting with a number of Agencies and providers to examine the future role of Donegal County Council in the development of play areas in the county to include a wider range of community open space and amenities.

**57.02 Letterkenny Temple**

The Committee were informed that a meeting had taken place with the Group regarding provision of a site and funding to discuss a way forward.

The Members welcomed this.

**57.03 Youth Council**

Cllr Ciaran Brogan, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed Ally Logue and Roisin Friel from the Letterkenny Electoral Area Youth Council to the Meeting.

Ally and Roisin outlined the various concerns, which they, on behalf of the young people, were actively working on including:

The lack of a consistent approach in schools in dealing with the issue of sexual health.

The Committee suggested that they consider making a presentation on this issue to the VEC

#### Letterkenny Environs Development Plan

They urged that the views of the youth be taken into account in the preparation of the New Development Plan for Letterkenny and Environs.

The Committee suggested that the Youth Council make their submissions on the New Development Plan to the Town Council as soon as possible.

#### Scholar Card Scheme

This has been an issue for previous was set up by the previous Youth Councils. The present Youth Council are now working with Youth Information Centre and Student Travel Card to promote and develop the national card for Secondary and Third Level students.

They had sent letters to the retail businesses in Letterkenny, no replies has as yet been received and asked for the Committees help and support in advancing this scheme.

Cllr Ciaran Brogan on behalf of the Committee thanked the members of the Youth Council for attending the meeting and making their presentation.

**57.04**

#### **FAI Mini-Pitch Scheme**

Aideen Doherty informed the Committee that Contractors visited Ard Bhríde, Carndonagh, Scoil Cholmcille in Newtowncunningham and the New Town Park in Letterkenny they were awaiting quotes. Ciaran Martin, Development Officer with the Town Council is assisting with the development and working in cooperation with Barry Nelis, Technician to progress.

This was welcomed by the Committee as a further step towards providing adequate recreational facilities for the youth.

**57.05**

#### **Community Childcare Subvention Scheme**

Aideen Doherty referred to the recently announced Community Childcare Subvention Scheme and copy of letter sent by Martin Gormley, Chairperson of the Donegal County Childcare Committee Ltd, circulated with the Agenda, in response to it. In the letter Mr Gormley expressed serious concerns about the potential impact the proposed scheme will have on community based childcare and the provision of quality, sustainable, accessible and affordable childcare for children in Donegal. The proposed scheme if implemented will result in the reduction of childcare places, loss of employment and in many cases closure of existing community facilities.

Aideen Doherty advised the Committee that the replacement of the current grant scheme with the proposed Subvention Scheme would effect the provision of childcare in the County more so than any other County as Donegal has the highest proportion at 64% of community based childcare in the country. The Members were urged to exercise their influence in support of the Childcare Committee's views.

**57.06**            **Walking Routes**

The Members requested that Jeremy Smith make a presentation to the next Letterkenny Electoral Committee Meeting on walking routes in and around Letterkenny.

**LEC 58/07**       **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**58.01**            **Ard na Mealla, St Johnston**

Clare Cronin, in a report circulated at the Meeting, (Appendix 1) informed the Committee that Mc Mullins Solicitors have confirmed that the Developers of this estate as insolvent and a letter has issued from the County Solicitors office to the Liquidators and a response is awaited.

A decision in relation to enforcement action is therefore on hold, pending the outcome of this response and the subsequent legal action.

Cllr Crawford expressed his dissatisfaction at the lack of progress as the issues raised are causing major concern to the residents and said that he had submitted a question on this to the next Council meeting and that he expected that a full and comprehensive report be given to him at that stage.

**58.02**            **Cathedral Hill, Raphoe**

The Committee were informed that following several written communications between Donegal County Council and the developer, the developer undertook to carry out Roadwork's to the existing cul de sacs which were not previously completed and further to repair the existing access to the estate from Meeting House Street. The site was re-inspected on 13<sup>th</sup> November and tar was being laid within the estate at the time of inspection.

The Committee were also informed that in relation to the upgrading of the water supply, the developers have stated through their agent that pipe laying is currently underway and a reserve water tank has been ordered. The estimated completion date for this work is July 2008.

**58.03**            **Preparation of a Master Plan for the Big Isle**

Clare Cronin stated that the request for a Master Plan for the Big Isle has been referred to the Central Planning Unit for consideration and the Director of Service has advised that this project is on his work programme but due to current commitments he has been unable to progress it at present.

The Committee urged that the matter be pursued as this area has great potential.

58.04

**Raphoe Flooding**

Clare Cronin circulated a response to the issues raised by the Raphoe Flood Committee and in particular to their concerns in relation to the granting of Planning Permission in boggy areas.

The report stated that the Planning Authority assesses each application on its individual merits having regard to the policies contained in the County Development Plan. In the event that a bog area has a specific designation within the County Development Plan, this will be taken into account in the assessment of the application. It is Council policy as set out in the C.D.P. 2006-2012 that developments should not itself be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding nor should it cause or exacerbate such risk at other locations.

In addition the Planning Authority will liaise with other Council services and where specific instances of non-compliance with planning conditions are identified, these can be investigated by the Enforcement Section and the appropriate action taken.

Cllr McDaid expressed concern at the aspect of the detail in the Report and stated that we need to respond to the Flood Committee in a meaningful way to the issues raised.

The Members requested that developments in Raphoe be inspected to ensure Planning conditions relating to drainage are complied with and also that all future developments above Raphoe take account of drainage and that an up to date response issue to the Raphoe Flood Committee.

58.05

**Glenwood Park**

The Committee asked that works at Glenwood Park to resolve problems with Sewer and storm water in conjunction with the Town Council and Water and Environment be progressed.

58.06

**Consideration of Recent Refusals**

The Committee considered the report on applications refused since the last meeting, which was circulated with the Agenda.

58.07

**Unauthorised Development Report**

The Committee considered the Unauthorised Development Report that was circulated with the Agenda.

58.08

**Planning Policy**

The Committee recommended that the Council ensure that adequate provision be made in all permissions issued in respect of applications for Multiple/Voluntary/Social/Local Authority Housing for future parking to accommodate the increasing number of vehicle ownership.

***LEC 59/07     WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES***

***59.01     Letterkenny Civic Amenity Site***

In an update circulated with the Agenda the Committee were informed that the contractor has been instructed to start and commencement of work on site is imminent and the job should be completed in six months.

The Members welcomed this progress.

***59.02     Letterkenny Boreholes Scheme***

The Committee were informed in the report circulated with the Agenda that the scheme is progressing well and it is expected that snagging and commissioning will run into January.

The Committee welcomed the progress to date.

***59.03     Glenmaquinn Group Water Supply Scheme***

In response to queries regarding the proposed extension to Glenmaquinn Group Water Supply Scheme Jim Hyland informed the Committee that a short portion of the proposed extension is being laid at present and that work on the remainder will commence in the New Year in conjunction with the Labbadish/Drumoghill G.W.S.S.

The Committee welcomed this and they asked to be kept updated on any progress.

***59.04     St Johnston Sewerage Scheme***

The Committee were informed that laying of the sewer network would commence early in the New Year but that connections cannot be made until the Treatment Works is complete.

Due to land being unregistered, it was necessary to lodge a C.P.O. in order to gain legal access to the Treatment Works site. This will be done in the next few weeks. Construction will take 1 year following confirmation of the C.P.O.

Cllr Crawford welcomed this progress.

***59.05     Rahan Road***

Jim Hyland informed the Committee that most of the reinstatement works from the laying of the new watermain has been carried out, with minor areas still needing some attention.

**59.06**            **Glenwood Park**

The Committee asked that works at Glenwood Park to resolve problems with the sewer and storm water be progressed in conjunction with Planning and the Town Council.

**59.07**            **Burst Pipes**

Cllr Gerry Crawford requested that road re-instatement at Porthall following burst pipes be inspected.

The Members asked that a policy be developed in conjunction with Roads on road reinstatement following bursts and that this be circulated to Members and relevant staff.

**LEC 60/07**      **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

**60.01**            **N56 Mountain Top to Illistrin Road Realignment – Phase II**

Fergus Towey updated the Committee on progress being made on Phase II N56 Mountain Top to Illistrin Road Realignment Project. Mr. Towey stated that progress is good and work is nearing completion.

Mr Towey stated that some residents had expressed their concern regarding right turning movement, he does not consider that there is a need and is satisfied that the road is safe. He urged people to wait until it is complete and a road safety audit will be carried out, if their concerns materialise he will deal with the issues.

The Committee commended the work being done with minimal disruption to the public and asked to be kept updated.

**60.02**            **N14/N13 Manorcunningham to Lifford/Strabane**

Aidan O'Doherty, in an update circulated at the Meeting (Appendix 2) informed the Committee that the proposed project involves the design and construction of approximately 19 Km of National Primary Road from Pluck Roundabout to tie into the recently constructed Strabane Bypass. The proposed road type for the Scheme is now a Type II Dual Carriageway. Funding has been provided for this scheme 2007 from INTERREG, which will allow design work for the Scheme to be advanced.

The preliminary design for the scheme is underway at present. The alignment at Drumoghill was amended and has been adopted. An additional geotechnical investigation will commence in the next few weeks. Environmental Impact Studies are ongoing. It is expected that publication of the C.P.O. and the E.I.S. will be in mid – March 2008.

Further advancement of this project will be dependant on NRA approval and funding which may be constrained next year. The earliest the road will be completed will be 2012.

**60.03**      **N56 Letterkenny Inner Relief Road**

Aidan O'Doherty advised the Committee that this scheme involves the construction of a route mainly through green field sites and includes a major crossing of the River Swilly. He briefed the Members on the emerging preferred route, linking the Dry Arch Roundabout to the N56 at the Business Park Road, and stated that the route selection process is now almost complete. Two outstanding issues still remain, a traffic model for Letterkenny is currently being reviewed and when this is completed a Cost benefit Analysis has to be carried out. He also detailed the next steps in the procedure and advised that the NRA have indicated that funding will be an issue next year.

The Members stressed the importance of the advancement of this project to relieve traffic pressure in Letterkenny and Mr O'Doherty urged the Members to make a case to the NRA for various projects including the Inner Relief Road and also the Bluebanks Section of N56.

**60.04**      **Trimragh Junction**

Cllr Jimmy Harte raised the issue of Trimragh Junction that is closed at present due to works ongoing and stated that the old road currently being used is very narrow and dangerous with the volume of traffic using it. Cllr Tony McDaid stated that the underpass currently being used is very dirty and asked when works should be complete.

Mr O'Doherty in reply stated that works should be complete over next few weeks and that while his preferred option is that the junction be closed permanently on road safety grounds a commitment had been given that the junction would re-open on completion of the works. He advised that it was his view that the junction should be closed and that the underpass was not designed for vehicular traffic.

The Members requested that residents be consulted prior to making any decision to close the Dual Carriageway Crossing and that arrangements are made to clean the surface of the underpass.

**60.05**      **Raphoe Flooding**

Pat Gillespie stated that in response to the Deputation from the Raphoe Flood Committee in September 2007, intensive works had since been carried out including drains cleared, pipes replaced and gullies and gratings cleared.

Pat Gillespie stressed that DCC were not responsible for the bigger picture regarding the flooding. In other parts of the country this was the responsibility of the OPW. The OPW had shown a willingness to get involved and the Members would be kept updated on any meetings regarding this issue. The Report from Road Design is not yet complete but will be forwarded to OPW on completion.

Pat Gillespie undertook to forward to the Elected Members a written version of the up-date he had just presented verbally.

**60.06**            **Workshop on Ballymacool Link**

The Members agreed a date for a Workshop on Swilly Diversion and Policy on Ramps/Traffic Calming with Road Design on 17/12/07 at 2.00 p.m.

**60.07**            **Burst Pipes**

Cllr Crawford asked whose responsibility was it to repair the road following a burst water mains and was informed by Pat Gillespie that the responsibility rests with Water and Environment who may in turn ask Roads Service to do final reinstatement.

Cllr Crawford accepted this response but expressed concern that it did not appear to be common knowledge at all levels in the organisation.

**60.08**            **Ballyholey Junction**

Cllr Gerry Crawford was informed that there would be no improvement works carried out at Ballyholey Junction. Cllr Gerry Crawford emphasised the need to have improvement works progressed at Ballyholey Junction, as this has been scene of many accidents.

Pat Gillespie agreed to advise the NRDO of Cllr Crawford's concerns.

**60.09**            **Feddyglass/Tullyrap Road**

Cllr Tony McDaid asked that the surface of this road be examined and resurfaced, as it is very slippery.

Pat Gillespie stated that as soon as funding is available and weather conditions are suitable it would be resurfaced.

**60.10**            **Tullyowen Roadwork's/Cashelshanaghan Roadwork's**

Cllr Gerry Crawford congratulated the Roads Section on the job underway at Tullyowen and was pleased to be advised that the new junction was ready to be opened. Pat Gillespie then advised the meeting that the works undertaken at Tullyowen were actually more than had been intended at the start of 2007. It had always been intended to open the new junction but following a meeting with the Department Inspector at the end of September the works now took in the realignment of the bend and the final surface of asphalt.

Pat Gillespie also advised the meeting that similarly in Cashelshanaghan the works done were over and above of what had been expected, as the Department Inspector expected that additional monies would be available from other parts of the county and country.

***LEC 61/07     HOUSING***

***61.01           Affordable Housing***

In a report circulated with the Agenda, the Committee were informed that an Information Evening in relation to Affordable Housing was being held in Letterkenny PSC on Wednesday 28/11/07. Donegal County Council will have approximately 40 units for sale over next number of months, details of which were circulated with the Agenda. These houses are being made available through the application of Part V of the Planning and Development Acts by the County Council and the Town Council. It is expected that houses will be offered for sale in the region of €125,000 to €140,000 depending on size etc.

The Committee welcomed this and Cllr Brogan stated that public awareness needed to be created for this event.

Cllr Harte suggested that all local Estate Agents should also be informed.

***61.01.01       Car Parking in all Housing Estates***

Cllr McDaid asked that the Council ensure that adequate car parking facilities are provided in all Private, Voluntary, Social and Local Authority Housing to accommodate the increasing number of vehicle ownership.

He also requested that consideration be given to making additional car parking available in existing Local Authority Housing Schemes.

***61.02           Disposal of Lands***

Patsy Lafferty circulated correspondence relating to disposal of land at Townparks, Raphoe to St Eunan's Catholic Church in Raphoe.

Members agreed this and Section 183 Notice is to be included on Agenda for next Council Meeting.

***61.03           Replacement of DPG/ERG Schemes***

Patsy Lafferty circulated information (Appendix 3) relating to the replacement of the Disabled Persons Grant and Essential Repair Grant from 01/11/07 with the Housing Adaption Grant Scheme and Mobility Aids Grant Scheme and Housing Aid for the Elderly Scheme.

A detailed account of the new schemes was included in this report that will include an increased workload for Housing Section as Local Authorities take over responsibility from HSE for Housing Aid for the Elderly Scheme.

***61.04           Sheltered Housing***

Cllr Brogan asked that the HSE be contacted again regarding the provision of Sheltered Housing in Letterkenny.

***61.05           Social Housing Allocations***

The Committee were informed that the scheme at Cruach Mor, Letterkenny has been completed and allocated while the scheme at Abbey Park,

Manorcunningham is at an advanced stage with expected completion date late 2007 or early 2008.

**61.06**      **Remedial Works/Regeneration Programme 2007**

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that the contract for windows and doors replacement at Meadowhill, Raphoe is underway and tenders have been sought again for the remaining works under this programme as no suitable tenders were received when initially advertised.

**61.07**      **Central Heating Programme 2007.**

The Committee were informed that works are ongoing in relation to this programme and Ard Baithin, St Johnston has been completed, Meadowhill, Raphoe is substantially completed. It is hoped to have the Programme finished later this month.

**61.08**      **Grant Report**

The Committee considered the Grant Report at 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 that was circulated with the Agenda.

**61.09**      **Loan Report**

The Committee considered the Loan Report at 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 that was circulated with the Agenda.

**61.10**      **Casual Vacancy Report**

The Committee considered the Casual Vacancy Report at 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 that was circulated with the Agenda.

Cllr Crawford asked the reason for the delay in reoffering vacant houses and was informed by Mr Lafferty that there was a difficulty in reallocating one bed roomed houses.

**61.11**      **Affordable Housing, Manorcunningham**

Patsy Lafferty advised the Committee that it is hoped to be in a position to advertise this scheme in a number of months as it nears completion.

**LEC 62/07**      **DEPUTATION FROM DOORWAY PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Ciaran Brogan welcomed Saoirse McElhinney and Seamus McGinty from the Doorway Project Management Committee, to the Meeting and invited them to make their Presentation.

Ms McElhinney thanked the Council for all it's assistance over the years stated that funding had ceased from December 2005 for the Project and asked that Donegal County Council consider assisting them to secure lease on the building by allocating a grant of €12,500, as they needed help urgently to

ensure they continue to remain open. Up to 100 people use the facility every day and rely on them for Childcare Facilities etc.

Aideen Doherty, Community and Enterprise, stated that funding had not yet been announced and the Council is awaiting calls for funding but it was always difficult to secure funding for day-to-day running costs and that it is easier to get funding for something with added value like equipment. It may be possible to secure funding from Development Fund, however there is only €90,000 available for the Electoral Area.

Ms Doherty requested that the project prepare an overview of what is proposed and forward it to the C&E Department and it will be considered in New Year along with all other proposals submitted. It is at the Members discretion as to how the money will be allocated.

Cllr Ciaran Brogan agreed that there was no funding available at present but that there may be funding available in the New Year. He advised the project to circulate details of their proposals to all the members prior to the Budget Meeting.

***LEC 63/07      DATE FOR NEXT MEETING***

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee on 22nd January, 2008, commencing at **9.30 am** in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

## APPENDIX 1

### PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### Follow-ups to Issues Raised at Letterkenny Electoral Area Meeting September 24<sup>th</sup> 2007

##### **Progress preparation of a Master Plan for Big Isle, Letterkenny**

The Director of Services has advised that this project is on his work programme but that due to current commitments he has been unable to progress it at present.

##### **Follow Up on Warning Letters issued in respect of Cathedral Hill, Raphoe**

Following several written communications between Donegal County Council and the developer, Coalport Ltd., the developer undertook to carry out roadworks to the existing cul de sacs which were not previously completed and further to repair the existing access to the estate from Meeting House St. The site was re-inspected by the Executive Planner on Tuesday 13th November, and tar was being laid within the estate at the time of inspection.

In relation to the upgrading of the water supply, the developers have stated through their agent that pipe laying is currently underway, and a reserve water tank has been ordered. However the estimated completion date for this work is July 2008. The EE (WEES) has indicated that there does not appear to be a problem currently with water supply to the existing households within the estate, as a leak in the trunk main serving this area had been uncovered, and repaired.

#### Follow Up on Ard na Meala, St. Johnston

Through investigation carried out by McMullin Solicitors on behalf of Donegal County Council, the developers of this estate have been confirmed as insolvent. A letter has issued from the County Solicitor's office to the liquidators and a response is awaited. A decision in relation to enforcement action is therefore on hold, pending the outcome of this response and the subsequent legal advice.

##### **Response to issue raised by Raphoe Flood Committee Deputation**

The issues raised by the representatives of the Raphoe Flood Committee who attended as a deputation to the September Electoral Area Meeting are noted.

With regard to concerns expressed in relation to the granting of permission in boggy areas in the vicinity of the town, the Planning Authority assesses each application on its individual merits, having specific regard for the policies contained in the County Development Plan. In the event that a bog area has a specific designation within the County Development Plan, this will be taken into account in the assessment of the application.

It is Council Policy as set out in the County Development Plan 2006-2012 that development should not itself be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding nor should it cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations.

To achieve this policy objective, the following provisions apply:

- Development that is sensitive to the effects of flooding will generally not be permitted in flood prone areas.
- Appropriately designed development, which is not sensitive to the effects of flooding, may be permissible in flood plains provided it does not reduce the flood plain area or otherwise restrict flow across floodplains.
- Development must so far as is reasonably practicable incorporate the maximum provision to reduce the rate and quantity of runoff.
  - Hard surface areas (car parks, etc.) should be constructed in permeable or semi-permeable materials.
  - On site storm water ponds to store and/or attenuate additional run off from the development should be provided to include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS).
    - Soak-aways or French drains should be provided to increase infiltration and minimise additional runoff.
- For developments adjacent to watercourses of a significant conveyance capacity any structures (including hard landscaping) must be set back from the edge of the watercourse to allow access for channel clearing/maintenance.
- Development consisting of construction of embankments, wide bridge piers, or similar structures will not normally be permitted in or across flood plains or river channels.
- All new development must be designed and constructed taking consideration of the following minimum flood design standards: -
  - For Urban areas or where developments (existing, proposed or anticipated) are involved - over 100 year flood.
  - For Rural areas or where further developments (existing, proposed or anticipated) are not involved - the 25-year flood.
  - Along the Coast and Estuaries - the 200-year tide level.
  - Where streams open drains or other watercourses are being culverted - the culvert shall be sized to comply with the design standards above and shall be accessible for maintenance.
- A flood impact assessment and proposals for the storage or attenuation of run/of discharges (including foul drains) to ensure the development does not increase the flood risk in the relevant catchment must accompany applications for Planning Permission for development areas exceeding 1 Hectare.

In addition to the above, the Planning Authority will liaise with the other Council services and where specific instances of non-compliance with planning conditions are identified; these can be investigated by the Enforcement Section and the appropriate action taken.

## **Appendix 2**

### Appendix 3

## **Summary Report for Members – November 2007** **Replacement of DPG / ERG Schemes.**

### **Summary of key issues:**

- Changes effective from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007.
- DPG's replaced by Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme and Mobility Aids Grant Scheme.
- ERG's replaced by Housing Aid for Older People Scheme. Local Authorities take over responsibility from HSE for Housing Aid for the Elderly Scheme. Latter to continue until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008.
- Applicants can withdraw current ERG's/DPG's, and re-apply under relevant new scheme. Applicants cannot apply under both.
- Increased Grant levels (to be reviewed annually).
- Standard costings to be introduced to ensure cost stabilising effect.
- Increased recoupment levels.
- Means Testing introduced (to be reviewed annually).
- Local authorities can retain services of private OT's, engage HSE OT's or make any other suitable arrangements. Applicants can retain Private OT's.
- Panels of contractors.
- Appeals Procedure

### **Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.**

- For adaption of accommodation, extensions, downstairs toilets, accessible showers, etc.
- Max Grant - €30,000. (€14,500 for new houses).
- Covers between 30% and 95% of cost of work, depending on means, and standard costings.
- 95% applied where income is less than €30,000. No grant allowable where income exceeds €65,000.
- Potential claw back provision.
- 2 written quotations to be submitted by applicants.

### **Mobility Aids Grant Scheme.**

- For grab rails, access ramps, level access showers, stair lifts, etc.
- Max Grant €6,000.
- Covers 100% of cost, subject to standard costings.
- No grant allowable where income exceeds €30,000.

### **Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.**

- To assist older people living in poor housing conditions.
- Recommended at those aged 60+. Flexibility in hardship cases.
- Similar works to ERG plus other works such as provision of water / sanitary facilities, contract cleaning, painting, radon remediation, etc. if deemed necessary.
- Smoke alarms to be installed subject to applicant's agreement.
- Max Grant - €10,500.
- Covers between 30% and 100% of cost of work, depending on means, and standard costings.
- 100% applied where income is less than €30,000. No grant where income exceeds €65,000.