

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE,
HELD IN THE LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, ON MONDAY, 18th
JULY 2005.**

LEC 33/05* **MEMBERS PRESENT*

Cllr. Gerry Crawford
Cllr. Jimmy Harte
Cllr. Dessie Larkin
Cllr. Tony Mc Daid
Cllr. Ciaran Brogan

LEC 34/05* **OFFICIALS PRESENT*

Charlie Cannon, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Aideen Doherty, Community and Enterprise Development Officer,
Community Enterprise & Cultural Services
Liam Edwards, Executive Engineer, NRDO
Pat Gillespie, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation, Letterkenny &
Inishowen Electoral Areas
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate Services, Letterkenny & Inishowen
Electoral Areas
Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager, Housing, Letterkenny & Inishowen Electoral Areas
Garry Martin, Divisional Manager, Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services
Damien McDermott, Senior Executive Engineer, NRDO
Con McLaughlin, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency Services,
Letterkenny & Inishowen Electoral Areas
Andrew McNulty, Project Officer, Community, Enterprise & Cultural
Services
Tommy McNulty, Clerk of Works, Housing
Rose Patton, Staff Officer, Corporate Services
Ronnie Sayers, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Frank Sweeney, Acting Area Manager, Planning & Development, Letterkenny
& Inishowen Electoral Areas
Suzanne Tinney, Waste Awareness Officer

LEC 35/05* **ALSO PRESENT*

Jackie O'Connell, Youth Council
Ciara Ryan, Youth Council

LEC 36/05 ELECTION OF AREA CHAIRPERSON

On the proposal of Cllr Gerry Crawford, seconded by Cllr Ciaran Brogan, Cllr Tony McDaid was elected as Chairperson for the coming year. There were no other nominations for the position of Chairperson.

Cllr Jimmy Harte as outgoing Chairperson thanked the Members, the Staff and the Press for their support over the past year and wished Cllr McDaid well in his position as Chairperson for the coming year.

Cllr McDaid thanked his Proposer and Seconder and extended a welcome to the Press. He proposed that the future Letterkenny Electoral Area Meetings be held in various locations within the Electoral Area during the coming year. All the Members agreed this.

LEC 37/05 CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16TH MAY 2005.

On the proposal of Cllr. Dessie Larkin and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Harte the Minutes of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 16th May 2005 were agreed.

LEC 38/05 CONSIDERATION OF REPORT ON PLANNING WORKSHOP HELD ON 16TH MAY 2005

On the proposal of Cllr Dessie Larkin, seconded by Cllr Jimmy Harte the Report on Planning Workshop held on 16th May 2005 was agreed.

LEC 39/05 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

39.01 Fairways Estate

Frank Sweeney informed Committee that due to the unsatisfactory amount of work done to date he was recommending that a new Enforcement Notice be served on the Developer.

39.02 Ballymacool

Frank Sweeney advised the Committee that as no work had been carried out since the Enforcement Notice had been served that the Council would be referring the matter to the Council Solicitor for follow up.

39.03 **Cathedral Hill, Raphoe**

Frank Sweeney informed the Committee that the Developer is currently working with the Roads Section and progress is being made. He stated that a lot of residents were still unhappy and Enforcement action will be taken.

39.04 **Ard na Mealla, St Johnston**

Frank Sweeney informed the Committee that contact had been made with the Developer regarding issues with landscaping, access roads and open spaces and some progress had been made.

39.05 **St Jude's Court**

Frank Sweeney informed the Committee that Enforcement Action would be necessary to try and resolve the lighting problem.

39.06 **Local Area Planning Programme**

The Committee considered the report that was circulated with the Agenda requesting that the Members examine the listings and prioritise the villages/settlements they wish to be the subject of Local Area Plans in the future.

The Members requested that Drumardagh/Trimragh and Woodlands be included in the Local Area Plan Programme and that the cost of preparing each Local Area Plan be estimated and also how much Finance is available.

It was agreed that a Workshop be held on 26th July in Lifford to discuss the issue further.

39.07 **Planning Statistics at 30/06/05**

The Committee considered the contents of the report on Planning Statistics up to 30/06/05, which was circulated with the Agenda.

39.08 **Consideration of Recent Refusals**

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

39.09 **Unauthorised Development**

The Members requested that an updated Report on Unauthorised Development be circulated to them.

LEC 40/05 HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES

40.01 Central Heating Programme 2005

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee works have commenced at Dr McGinley Road and it is expected that these houses will be completed shortly. Work will then continue at St Eunan's Tce, Raphoe and at other dwellings included in the Programme.

40.02 Remedial Works/Regeneration Programme 2005

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that he is awaiting the Departments decision on the funding application under this Programme and agreed to update the Members at the next Letterkenny Electoral Area Meeting.

40.03 Housing Application-Habinteg Housing Association

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that the Department have given Pre-Tender approval to the Councils application for funding for the Habinteg Housing Association which enables them to proceed to Tender and seek final funding approval for the Project.

This Proposed Project at Lifford consists of 53 units of accommodation plus communal facilities including Day Care Centre for the residents.

The 53 units are made up of:

- 29 houses
- a Group Home comprising 8 units of accommodation for people with disabilities
- a Sheltered Housing Facility comprising 16 independent living units for the elderly

40.04 Tenant Liaison Officer

The Committee was informed that the Council has received notification from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government that the Council's funding application to extend the Tenant Liaison Officer post for a further year under the Housing Management Initiaves Grant Scheme has been approved.

This was welcomed by the Members who acknowledged the worthwhile work being done by the TLO.

40.05 Peace Programme 2005-Revitalisation of Housing Estates

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that any funding decision under the above Programme will be made later in the year and therefore it may be 2006 before any further works will be carried out. He agreed to keep Members updated on any developments.

40.06 **Donegal Domestic Violence Service**

Cllr Tony McDaid requested an update on the new Women's Refuge and was informed by Patsy Lafferty that they were awaiting designs from the Architect before it could be progressed.

LEC 41/05 **WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Committee considered the Progress Report dated 18th July 2005, which was circulated with the Agenda (Appendix 1)

41.01 **Glenmaquin G.W.S.S.**

The Committee were informed that this Scheme is likely to proceed this year. The Members welcomed this.

41.02 **Ballinabreen G.W.S.S.**

The Committee were informed that this Scheme was discussed with Executive Engineer Roads, regarding the potential for progress in conjunction with Roads Programme. Any benefits in this regard are dependent on timing and in particular progress by Group Scheme.

41.03 **Raphoe Water Problem**

Cllr Jimmy Harte raised the issue of the lack in pressure in the water supply over the past few weeks and asked what facilities the Council has to deal with similar situations.

Con McLaughlin in reply stated that tankers could be put in place if it is an ongoing problem but the problem in Raphoe was due to a development in the area and would be resolved by ensuring that the Developer provides storage.

41.04.1 **Fire Hydrants**

Cllr Gerry Crawford requested that consideration be given to providing Fire Hydrants at small Industrial Estates.

41.05 **Letterkenny Water Supply**

41.05.1 **Lough Greenan**

The Committee were informed that John McElwaine, Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Capital Design has advised that tenders have now been received and following tender evaluation, it is expected that the scheme will go to construction later this year.

41.06 **Kerbside Recycling**

Cllr Tony McDaid welcomed Suzanne Tinney, Waste Awareness Officer to the Meeting and invited her to update the Committee on Kerbside Recycling.

Ms Tinney stated that one of the main collectors would be sending out the second bins to approximately 3,000 customers in the next three weeks with an additional 3,000 later on in the year.

Cllr Crawford asked that the consumers be notified again that they have to contact the Collector to get the additional bin delivered as he felt a lot of people weren't aware of this.

The Members requested that a review of the Waste Management Plan be included on the agenda for the next CPG Meeting.

41.07 **Litter Awareness**

Cllr Dessie Larkin thanked the staff for facilitating the Presentation by Scoil Mhuire gan Smal on litter and emphasised that the youth are the correct people to be targeted.

The issue of the amount of litter being produced as a result of Takeaways was also raised and agreed that a Litter Awareness policy needs to be developed in conjunction with Takeaways.

The Members requested that the site of Battle at Newmills be visited and maintained by the Mobile Litter Units.

41.08 **Major Capital Projects**

The Committee considered the Report on Major Capital Projects, which was circulated with the agenda.

41.08.1 **Lagan Water Supply Phase 3**

The Committee were informed that it is expected that the Water Audit required by the Department before approval of Phase III of Lagan Water Supply, will be sent at the end of July 2005.

In reply to a query from Cllr Crawford re water problems in Momeen/Magheracloy, Con McLaughlin stated that they were considering other options to improve the service in this area as a short-term measure ahead of the Lagan WS Phase 3. He confirmed their plans for the provision of pumping of the recently available Pollan water at St.Johnston into certain areas of the Momeen/Magheracloy scheme allowing other areas to be pressure reduced whilst also adding an element of protection for the source borehole.

41.09 **Small Capital Schemes**

The Committee considered the Report on Small Capital Schemes, which was circulated with the Agenda.

41.10 **Serviced Land Initiative Schemes**

The Committee considered the Report on Serviced Land Initiative Schemes, which was circulated with the Agenda.

41.11 **Group Water Schemes**

The Committee considered the Report on Group Water Schemes, which was circulated with the Agenda
Cllr Larkin asked to be advised of GWSS allocations.

LEC 42/05 **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

42.01 **Consideration of Minutes of Special Meeting of 24th May 2005**

On the proposal of Cllr Gerry Crawford and seconded by Cllr Tony McDaid the minutes of the Special Meeting of 24/05/05 were agreed.

42.02 **National Road Design Office**

Cllr Tony McDaid on behalf of the Committee welcomed Damien McDermott and Liam Edwards from the NRDO to the Meeting.

42.02.1 **N56 Mountain Top to Illistrin**

Liam Edwards updated the Committee on the progress regarding the N56 Mountain Top to Illistrin Road. Tenders have been opened and it is expected that construction will commence in mid-September. Design and land acquisition on the remaining phase of the work will continue in 2005.

42.02.2 **N14/N13 Junction to Lifford/Strabane**

Damien McDermott gave an update on the N14/N13 Junction to Lifford and presented a map outlining proposed route. This involves the design and construction of approximately 19Km of New National Primary Road from the

Pluck Roundabout at the junction of the N13 and N14 to the recently constructed Strabane Bypass. The proposed road for the scheme is a 2+1 road type. The preliminary design is underway, geotechnical investigations have commenced, environmental impact studies are ongoing and a Public Exhibition will be held in July for the A 5 section of the scheme.

The Members requested that details of the Design for Pluck/Lifford, Lifford/Strabane and Lifford / Ballybofey be circulated to the Members.

42.03 **2006-2008 Multi-Annual Road Works Restoration Programme**

Pat Gillespie informed the Committee of the contents of Circular RLS 22/2005 advising that new lists of priority restoration projects will be required in advance of the 2006 grant allocation process and that Councils are requested to prepare prioritised list of restoration works to be carried out over the period 2006-2008. These lists must be submitted to the D.O.E.H.L.G. by 16th September 2005. He intends to present a Draft 3 Year Plan at the September EAC Meeting.

Cllr Dessie Larkin stated that the Department should be written to and informed that an audit on the condition of all roads was very necessary to highlight the lack of funding to this area. Cllr Larkin also proposed that a meeting be held with the County Manager and Director of Service to discuss this matter and other issues relating to road funding in the Letterkenny EA. This was agreed by the Members and it was agreed that a meeting be arranged with the County Manager and the Director of Services for Roads & Transportation on Roads allocations at the September E.A.C. Meeting.

42.04 **Carnamuggagh, Letterkenny**

Following discussion at the Meeting it was agreed that a meeting be arranged in relation to the location of the proposed roundabout at Carnamuggagh which the Town Councillors and the County Councillors be invited to attend.

42.05 **EU Co-Financed 2006**

Pat Gillespie circulated report to the Committee updating the Members on the current progress on the schemes approved for 2005, including estimates of schemes that could be considered and, based on the approach agreed with the members in 2004 for prioritisation of schemes and on recently estimated costings prepared by the area staff, a clearer picture was now possible thus allowing the recommendation of the following proposals for 2006:

- R265 St Johnston-Lifford €300,000
- Business Park Road all other available funding

These proposals are based on the assumption that the Coolaghey and Woodlands roads are completed in 2005 and if difficulties are encountered then funding to be transferred to the Business Park Road for 2005 and these two schemes be funded to completion in 2006.

Following a long discussion the Committee decided to wait until the September EAC Meeting before coming to a decision on the proposal.

42.06 **Lifford Roundabout**

Cllr Gerry Crawford requested that the possibility of reducing the height of Lifford roundabout be examined.

42.07 **Special Speed Limits**

Cllr Gerry Crawford raised his concerns regarding the Rossgier Junction and the number of serious incidents which have recently occurred there .He asked that it be examined from a safety point of view and that hedges be cut around the signs and that rumble strips be considered.

Cllr Ciaran Brogan asked that rumble strips be considered in the vicinity of all schools similar to what is done in Sligo and that speed limits be considered on the Letterkenny/Rashedog road.

Pat Gillespie stated that these roads would be reviewed and brought back to the Members.

42.08 **LIS Meeting**

It was agreed that the L.I.S Meeting be held in the County House, Lifford on the 26/07/05 at 1.30pm

LEC 43/05 **COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND ENTERPRISE SERVICES**

Role of Donegal County Council in Directly Supporting the Tourism Sector in County

Cllr Tony McDaid, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed Garry Martin, Divisional Manager, who made a Power point presentation on the Role of Donegal County Council in Directly Supporting Tourism Sector in County (**Appendix 2 attached**)

He explained that the Purpose of the Presentation was to: -

1. Summarise Council's Role in Supporting Tourism in the County
2. Review Investment in 2005 by Council
3. Consider Recent Reviews and Studies (ITIC and DCC)
4. To note the Ongoing Role of North West Tourism and Donegal Tourism Ltd.
5. To consider Key Issues going forward
6. To obtain Initial Feedback for Tourism Workshop September 2005

He also identified a number of Key Issues for consideration: -

- Product
- Flagship(s) required but can Influence/Action Micro-Product (dual purpose local amenity use at sub-county level)
- Funding Possibly Available for Prioritised Actions via
 - Council TDF (2005 & Subsequent Years)
- Interreg IIIA (ICBAN Interest)
- Peace II Task Force
- Relevant Leader + Co's (Possibly 2006 Onwards)
- Development Contribution Scheme

He also identified the following Next Steps: -

1. Consideration of Current Policy by Members
2. Preparation for September 2005 Members Workshop
3. Identification/Prioritisation of Potential Actions at Local Electoral Area Level

Cllr Jimmy Harte suggested that we should consider changing the branding for Donegal from “up here it’s different” and asked if the reduction in Bed Nights in hotels as mentioned in the Presentation was due to the increase in holiday homes and B&B’s.

Cllr Harte also stated that more emphasis should be put on the City of Derry Airport link to Manchester and Birmingham to attract visitors to the County due to the huge Irish connection there.

Cllr Dessie Larkin urged that additional signage was required for visitor attractions like Glenveagh and public transport needs to be more flexible to these areas.

Cllr Larkin also suggested that the Council maintain the site of battle at Newmills and that Donegal is in need of a Tourism Flagship Project.

Cllr Ciaran Brogan congratulated Donegal Tourism on the work done and suggested that Americans flying directly into Belfast should be targeted as possible tourists to Donegal and he emphasised that the litter situation needs to be addressed and additional bins provided in picnic areas.

Cllr Gerry Crawford agreed with the need to address the litter problem as a matter of urgency and suggested that the Council should consider publishing details of all facilities and attractions within an hour of Letterkenny especially leading up to the Fleadh weekend in August.

Cllr Tony McDaid thanked Mr Martin for his informative Presentation and stated that the Beltony Stone Circle in Raphoe could be considered as a location for a Flagship Project.

Cllr McDaid also urged that additional Youth Hostels should be encouraged and the lack of facilities for families with young children especially in the 12-18 year old bracket needs to be addressed.

The issue of the airport in Letterkenny needs also to be finalised and the public informed if this project is now gone!

Garry Martin thanked the Members for their feedback and stated that a Tourism Workshop would be held in September 2005 to which all Members would be invited.

43.02 **Skateboard Facilities**

The Committee welcomed the fact that an application for funding had been made to the Department for the provision of skateboard facilities in Ballymacool Town Park and asked to be kept informed of any developments.

43.03 **North West Film Archive**

Cllr Jimmy Harte requested an update on the Film Archive and was informed by Aideen Doherty that queries were received on a weekly basis and that a seminar was to be held in Dublin in September.

The Members agreed that the National Parks and Wildlife should be challenged regarding the use of National Monuments for publicity shoots etc.

43.04 **Gender Focus Group**

Cllr Tony McDaid expressed his disappointment that the Gender Focus Group has not received funding for the Officer post and was concerned that the Irish Government were now being taken to Court on this issue.

Aideen Doherty stated that Maria Ferguson will be dealing with this issue and the Members will be kept informed.

43.05 **Youth Council**

Cllr Tony McDaid welcomed Ciara Ryan and Jackie O'Connell, Members of the Youth Council and Andrew Mc Nulty, Project Officer to the Meeting.

The Youth Councillors proceeded to update the Members on a number of projects the Youth Council have been working on including a research course which led to a countywide survey assessing the needs and problems of teenagers in Donegal and a survey dealing with issues such as politics and substance abuse.

At present they are recruiting bands and entertainers for Party in the Park that takes place on 6th August in Letterkenny Town Park.

The Members thanked them for their attendance and wished them well with their various projects. They were glad to hear that all school buses will be required to have seatbelts from 2006.

LEC 44/05 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee on Monday 20th September, 2005, commencing at 10.00 am in the County House, Lifford.

Appendix 1

WATER & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

Report to Letterkenny EAC Meeting 18th July 2005

AGENDA Item no.2 – Update reports from previous meeting:

From minutes of previous meeting 16th May 2005, using same notation:

29.01 Dangerous Building, Lifford

In relation to the dangerous building, please note the following:

The Council already received payment of a fine of €1,000 and legal costs of €1,046.75 in respect of this case. We have incurred further legal costs and these are being pursued at present. Given that the Council was advised to pursue this matter through the courts there is little scope for improving the process, which to a large extent is outside our control.

29.02 Coolatee Sewerage Scheme

Water and Environment section have not taken this scheme in charge. Housing have contributed to the design of the required upgrade of that system, however that funding is insufficient to allow the design to progress. Maintenance matter referred to Housing section.

29.03 Glenmaquinn GWS:

See Group Schemes progress report to July EAC Meeting, this scheme is likely to proceed this year.

29.04 Ballinabreen GWS:

Scheme discussed with Executive Engineer Roads, re potential for progress in conjunction with Roads Programme. Any benefits in this regard are dependent on timing and in particular progress by group scheme.

29.06 Letterkenny Water Supply / Lough Greenan:

John McElwaine, Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Capital Design has advised that tenders have now been received and following tender evaluation, it is expected that the scheme will go to construction later this year.

29.07 Kerbside recycling:

Suzanne Tinney, Waste Awareness Officer will attend the meeting and update progress in this regard

AGENDA Items no. 3-6 - Progress Reports:

See attached updated progress reports including:

Capital Programmes:

Major Capital Programme
Service Land Initiative (SLI's)

Rural Water Programme:

Small Capital Programme
Group Scheme Programme

Lagan Water Supply – Phase 3 (Water Audit):

John McElwaine, Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Capital Design has advised of the following detail of the works involved and progress to date:

To prepare the water audit report required by the DEHLG before approval of Phase 3 of Lagan WS, telemetry and network control system sub-contract of Lagan WS Phase 2 has been undertaken. This involves the installation of flow meters, pressure meters and reservoir level sensors at a total of 16 separate sites. A new ESB connection has been required at the majority of the sites. Telemetry sites have been set up to relay this data to the Illies Water Treatment Works for data collection. The majority of the work has been completed with data currently being collected at the Illies Works. The final civil and mechanical and electrical works are now being completed for the remainder of the sites. It is expected that the Water Audit Report will be sent to the DEHLG at the end of July 2005. Members and other elected representatives will be advised when this report is sent.

***C.McLaughlin,
Area Manager, Water and Environment
17th July 2005***

Appendix 2 – Presentation by Garry Martin