

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE,
HELD IN LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE, ON WEDNESDAY, 10TH
SEPTEMBER 2008.**

LEC 39/08 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
Cllr. Gerry Crawford
Cllr. Jimmy Harte
Cllr Dessie Larkin

LEC 40/08 **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Charlie Cannon, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Aideen Doherty, Area Manager, Community & Enterprise
Kellie Gallagher, Youth Council Co-Coordinator
Shaun Hannigan, Director, Regional Cultural Centre
Jim Hyland, Executive Engineer, WEES
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate Services,
Paul Kelly, Acting Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager, Housing
Liam Murray, Assistant Engineer, NRDO
Con McLaughlin, Senior Executive Engineer /Area Manager, WEES
Ronnie Sayers, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Rose Patton, Staff Officer, Corporate Services

APOLOGIES

Stephen Flynn, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation

OTHERS PRESENT

Ross Harvey, Youth Council

SYMPATHY

The Committee extended their sympathy to Cllr Gerry Crawford on the recent death of his wife's niece, Donna Gallagher, Tober, Ballindrait.

LEC 41/08 **ELECTION OF AREA CHAIRPERSON**

Eunan Kelly advised the Committee that the formal election of Chairperson did not take place at the July LEAC Meeting. On the proposal of Cllr Gerry Crawford, seconded by Cllr Jimmy Harte, Cllr Ciaran Brogan was elected as Chairperson for the coming year. There were no other nominations for the position of Chairperson.

LEC 42/08 CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15th JULY 2008.

On the proposal of Cllr. Dessie Larkin and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Harte the Minutes of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 15th July 2008 were agreed.

LEC 43/08 CONSIDERATION OF REPORT ON HOUSING WORKSHOP HELD ON 26TH JUNE 2008

On the proposal of Cllr Jimmy Harte and seconded by Cllr Gerry Crawford the Report on Housing Workshop held on 26th June 2008 was agreed.

LEC 44/08 COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND ENTERPRISE SERVICES

The Committee considered the report that was circulated with the agenda.

44.01 Mini-Pitch Scheme

The Committee were informed that the Mini-Pitch was now completed and preparations being made to draw down Grants from F.A.I.

The Members welcomed this development as they felt that it would be a great asset to the town and asked that a visit to the new Mini Pitch be organised prior to the November Electoral Area Meeting.

44.02 Letterkenny CDP

Aideen Doherty advised to the Committee that Peace II funds had been drawn down and a Planning Application was currently being drafted for the multi-purpose Community Facility at Glencar.

The Committee welcomed the recent meeting with residents and asked that Community consultation be continued as the importance of getting people on board regarding the project was vital to ensure its success.

44.03 Youth Council

The Committee welcomed Kellie Gallagher, Youth Council Co-Coordinator and Ross Harvey, Youth Council member to the Meeting

Mr Harvey proceeded to update the Committee on current Projects ongoing including 'Agenda Day' held in April which was a great success and Mr Harvey thanked all those involved. Some issues highlighted on the day and which now must be worked on include:

- Transport-Town Bus service, Student discount on buses and taxis
- Facilities which could be utilised more by Young people including Regional Cultural Centre, Aura Leisure Centre, and Skate-park etc.
- Anti-Social behaviour including making alcohol harder to get for young people.

The Members thanked Mr Harvey for his detailed update and welcomed ideas which can now be worked on.

Ms Gallagher advised the Committee of the Youth Council Elections which will take place on 20/10/08.

The Committee thanked the current Youth Council Members for their hard work and dedication and wished them well for the future.

44.04 **Walking Routes**

Cllr Dessie Larkin requested Jeremy Smith to contact him regarding a walking route to Aura Leisure Centre, Sallaghagrane and to Conwal Graveyard.

44.05 **Gartan Field Project**

Cllr Ciaran Brogan welcomed progress made on the Gartan Field Project which is now nearing completion and asked that Ciaran Martin and all staff involved be commended on work done.

44.06 **Tidy Towns**

The Committee asked that the Letterkenny Tidy Towns Committee be congratulated on their success in the recent National Tidy Towns Competition.

44.07 **Regional Cultural Centre**

Shaun Hannigan, Director presented a Report on the Regional Cultural Centre in Letterkenny to the Committee. (Appendix 1)

Mr Hannigan outlined details of the building itself and the range of facilities available there which can accommodate programmes taking place in multiple spaces across the building at the same time.

Details of the broad programme of events presented in the Regional Cultural Centre since it opened last year were also outlined which included a busy series of exhibitions, concerts, film, digital media and education and outreach. A large number of primary and secondary schools have attended guided tours of the main exhibitions which have included education packs.

Details of the Autumn Programme were also outlined with something to attract all age groups.

Mr Hannigan stated that the design of the building itself, by MacGabhann Architects, has received extensive positive coverage in the local and National Press and is a great achievement for all involved.

The Members thanked Mr Hannigan for his very informative Presentation and asked how advertising was organised and if there was any record of visitor numbers to date.

Mr Hannigan in reply, stated that approx 20,000 visitors had used the facility to date and that advertising was difficult to target all potential customers and at present local media and e-mail groupings were being used to advertise events.

LEC 45/08 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

45.01 Planning Statistics

Paul Kelly referred to the Planning Statistics circulated at the Meeting and advised the Committee that the percentage of Invalid Applications and Refusals had decreased significantly between first seven months of 2008 compared to 2007. This was welcomed by the Members and Cllr Dessie Larkin asked that policies on Unauthorised Development, Site visits etc be reviewed as a result of the reduction in Planning applications in general.

45.02 Developments at Wood Park, Lisnenan, Glencar and Lismonaghan, Letterkenny,

The Committee asked that the Roads and Planning departments follow up with Developers in Glencar, Lismonaghan and Lisnenan to ensure all Planning conditions are complied with.

45.03 St Johnston

Cllr Gerry Crawford again raised the issue of the ongoing problems at a private estate in the St Johnston area and asked that this be addressed as a matter of urgency by all the relevant Services.

45.04 Consideration of Recent Refusals

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

45.05 Unauthorised Development Report

The Committee considered the Unauthorised Development Report, which was circulated at the Meeting.

LEC 46/08 WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES

46.01 Letterkenny Civic Amenity Site

Cllr Dessie Larkin welcomed the construction progress and projected completion at the end of October 2008. He again stressed the importance of having the proper structure in place prior to the opening of the new CAS and went on to request that

details of staffing, opening hours and charges etc., be circulated to the Members as soon as possible.

The Chairman echoed these views and adding that consideration should be given to accepting all waste streams including grass and hedge cuttings at the site.

In response, Con McLaughlin noted that all the information needed for the proper servicing of the site was not yet available but would follow in due course. He further noted that

- Arrangements continue with HR Section in relation to staffing of the site
- Charging for services will be same as for other Civic Amenity Sites in the County
- He is awaiting confirmation of the full range of waste streams and acknowledged the calls for from local members for inclusion of green waste

46.02 **Railway Tce, Raphoe**

Cllr Gerry Crawford requested that the cause of the flooding problem at a house on Railway Terrace, Raphoe be investigated and resolved and that Cllr Crawford to be informed of the outcome. Con McLaughlin agreed to co ordinate response with Housing Section.

[Post-Meeting Note - Cyril McAteer, Housing has since advised that this matter was being dealt with by Housing and arises from works by one of their contractors, the obstruction in question has been removed but damage to sewer yet to be repaired]

46.03 **St Johnston**

Cllr Gerry Crawford again raised the issue of the ongoing sewage problem at a private housing estate in the St Johnston area and asked that this be addressed as a matter of urgency by all the relevant Services.

Con McLaughlin reminded the meeting that the site in question is not yet taken-over, as such it was a matter for the Planning Authority or Housing Service who have procured a number of units in that estate to pursue the developer. He went on to inform the meeting that the Central Laboratory Service had also opened dialogue with associated developer interests, including a further adjacent development to help progress the matter.

46.04 **Rural Water Programme**

46.04.01 **Group Water Supply Schemes**

The Committee considered the Report on Group Water Supply Schemes circulated with the Agenda.

46.04.01 **Rareagh/Letterleague**

The Committee were informed that the reduced Scheme is now cost effective and the Group had been asked to inform the Design Engineer to amend plans accordingly and re tender.

The Members asked that all assistance possible be given to the Group to advance this Scheme and that it be prioritised as the number one priority in Letterkenny Electoral Area when money becomes available.

46.04.02 **Small Capital Schemes**

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

46.05 **Odour Problems at Ballymacool, Letterkenny**

Cllr Dessie Larkin requested an update on the odour problem at Ballymacool and was informed by Con McLaughlin that a vent pipe was installed a number of years ago that seemed to address this problem Jim Hyland added that we have received no further complaints. Cllr Larkin agreed to discuss outside meeting.

46.06 **Letterkenny Water Supply**

In response to a query from Cllr Ciaran Brogan on a national report about projected water supply shortages for areas around the country including Letterkenny, Con McLaughlin reminded the members of the needs for the Town in this regard if it is to realise its Gateway status. He went to note the operational improvements in the Letterkenny Water Supply following the recent introduction of the Boreholes at Ballymacool and the Councils own initiative at Lough Greenan but that the Council will need to keep a focus on the Major Capital Project included on the WSIP to bring Lough Mourne water to Letterkenny.

LEC 47/08 **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

47.01 **Roads and Housing Workshop**

Following discussion on Roads Workshop agreed at July Electoral Area Meeting which didn't take place, it was agreed that a combined Roads and Housing Workshop be held on Monday 06/10/08 in Letterkenny PSC to discuss a number of matters including Planning and Roads issues in respect of developments in Lisnenan, Glencar and Lismonaghan. Cllr Dessie Larkin stated that while he appreciated the Roads Department meeting with the developers it was important that the Council follow up on Warning Letters issued and keep pressure on Developers to resolve outstanding matters.

A Report on the Ballymacool Roundabout and Junction is also to be presented at the Workshop.

47.02 **EU Co-Financed/Specific Improvement Grants**

The Committee was advised that their comments in relation to sourcing funding for the Sallaghgrane Roundabout had been passed to the Director of Service for his consideration.

The Committee asked to be updated on the options for completion of the Sallaghgrane Roundabout including the provision of a Pedestrian Crossing at the Letterkenny Aura Leisure Centre.

Charlie Cannon advised the Committee that the Pedestrian Crossing at the Aura was not really tied into the Sallaghgrane Roundabout but was a separate issue all along with no funding available yet or even a report from Road Design. He advised that it had been referred to Road Design for their analysis and that he would report back to the members whenever Road Design came back to him.

47.03 **Roadwork's Programme 2008**

47.03.01 **Surface Dressing Programme**

The Committee were informed that surface dressing in Letterkenny EA is now complete for 2008 and the resurfacing of the N14 at Tullyrap with Asphalt is also complete.

Cllr Gerry Crawford asked that further funding options for the Tullyrap Road be explored as this stretch of roadway is recognised nationally as one of worst stretches of road .

47.03.02 **Restoration Improvement Grants**

The Committee were informed that of the 19 contracts due to be completed under this heading in 2008, works on 16 of these projects were now complete with the balance to be completed in the coming weeks.

47.04 **Speeding on Listillion Road**

Cllr Dessie Larkin produced a petition from residents in the Listillion area who wrote to Members regarding a specific incident of speeding and driving dangerously in the area.

The Members asked that a Response be issued to the residents on this matter and that Eamonn Browne, Road Safety Officer, Brenda Ferguson, Low Cost Accident Measures and Stephen Lambert, Road Safety Engineer be invited to the November Meeting of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee to discuss speeding, traffic calming etc, on roads in Letterkenny area.

47.05 **National Road Design Office**

47.05.01 **N14 -4 Lane Road, Letterkenny**

Liam Murray, Assistant Engineer with National Road Design Office updated the Committee on the N14-4 Lane Road in Letterkenny (Appendix 2). This is the busiest section of road in the county with a current ADT in excess of 18,000 vehicles. It is proposed to carry out pavement overlay on this section of road as the carriageway is showing signs of deterioration particularly at the two extremes of the road.

Mr Murray stated that the 2008 allocation is €10,000 and a Scheme Appraisal Report is currently being prepared and will be presented to the NRA by years end. As part of the Report Donegal County Council is looking into options to relieve

traffic congestion at the Polestar Roundabout primarily adding a traffic lane from Ballyraine Roundabout to the Polestar Roundabout.

An application for funding to go to construction in 2009 for this Scheme will be made to the NRA.

Following a query from Cllr Dessie Larkin regarding allocation which he understood to be €650,000, Mr Murray stated that he understood the €10,000 was for design purposes only but would make further enquiries and revert back to the Committee on same.

Cllr Larkin also emphasised that works would need to be done while schools are closed and Mr Murray agreed that looking at off-peak construction times.

Cllr Jimmy Harte queried the possibility of reducing the width of the footpath from Port Bridge towards premises opposite Mount Errigal hotel as it would seldom be used and would possibly be an option to providing an additional lane.

Mr Murray, in reply stated that this option was currently being explored.

Cllr Ciaran Brogan welcomed the surveys being carried out and asked that a mechanism be put in place between Town Council and Donegal County Council by way of Development Charges if funding is not obtained from NRA to advance a third lane at Polestar Roundabout.

The Committee recommended that all possible funding options be explored for funding this project.

47.05.02 **N13 Pluck Roundabout to Newtowncunningham**

Liam Murray advised the Committee that the N13 Scheme Appraisal Report was currently being finalised and that it is proposed to apply for funding for construction of a 2.5 Km section from Newtowncunningham to Moyle in 2009.

47.06 **Bridge at Rossbracken**

Ronnie Sayers informed the Committee that since the bridge at Rossbracken had been closed due to the collapse of part of the wall some temporary pedestrian guarding had been placed at the bridge. The barriers that the Council placed on the bridge were removed by others in the weeks following the initial closure.

Given the condition of the bridge the Council will be carrying out repairs to it over the coming months to reduce the risk to road users. There is no funding source currently for this work and it is proposed to fund it from 2009 DCS.

Cllr Dessie Larkin urged that a speedy resolution be found, as the bridge is vital for local businesses and farmers in the area.

47.07 **Clar Grant**

The Committee were informed that an allocation of €32,400 had been made to the Letterkenny EA for expenditure in the appropriate DEDS and that, subject to approval of the Members, that the L6084 at Drumcrow was being proposed from 2008 Clar Road.

On the proposal of Cllr Gerry Crawford, seconded by Cllr Ciaran Brogan, the Committee recommended that this road be included as the 2008 Clar Road for the Letterkenny Electoral Area.

47.08 **Developments at Wood Park, Lisnenan, Glencar and Lismonaghan Letterkenny**

The Committee considered the Progress Report circulated with the Agenda and are to be kept updated on progress.

The Committee recommended that funding options for the Upper Glencar Road are explored with the Town Council.

LEC 48/08 **HOUSING**

48.01.01 **Affordable Housing, Letterkenny**

In a report circulated with the Agenda, the Committee was informed that remaining applications under this scheme are under consideration and further offers will issue soon for some of the houses. The remaining offers will issue as soon as legal documents are received from the vendors.

48.01.02 **Affordable Housing, Manorcunningham**

The Committee was advised that two applicants have accepted their offers and another four have been approved recently.

48.02 **Remedial Works/Regeneration Programme 2007**

The Committee were informed that works in the S.I. element of this programme was almost completed.

Patsy Lafferty also stated that specification for these works at Croaghan Heights was currently being prepared with a view to getting Department approval before proceeding to tender stage in the 2008 Programme.

The Committee welcomed this.

48.03 **Central Heating Programme 2008**

Patsy Lafferty stated that the Tender process has been completed and the successful tenderer to be selected shortly.

48.04 **Social Housing**

The Committee were informed that the Social Housing Scheme in St Johnston will be allocated within the next two weeks as soon as keys are received.

Mr Lafferty also stated that there were also four affordable units which would be advertised following a confirmation of the sale price from the Department.

The Committee welcomed this progress.

48.05 **Play area at Ard na Ri**

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that the Council are working with the contractor to resolve a number of issues in relation to this project before completion.

48.06 **Derelict Sites**

The Committee agreed that a Workshop on Derelict Sites would take place in Letterkenny PSC on 06/10/08 at 3.00 p.m.

48.07 **Grant Report**

The Committee considered the Grant Report at 28th August, 2008 that was circulated with the Agenda.

48.08 **Loan Report**

The Committee considered the Loan Report at 29th August, 2008 that was circulated with the Agenda.

Cllr Jimmy Harte commented on the fact stated that few standard loan applications had been received and with houses lowering in price, the Council should consider being more pro-active with advertising Council loans with newspaper ads, Information days for first time buyers etc.

The requirement for submitting two letters of refusal with applications should be examined as to whether it is essential.

Cllr Ciaran Brogan stated that there is a need to market affordable housing more as it is a great option for those who cannot afford to buy a house outright.

48.09 **Casual Vacancy Report**

The Committee considered the Casual Vacancy Report at 29th August, 2008 that was circulated with the Agenda.

Cllr Dessie Larkin queried the incidents of houses having to have substantial repair works done before re-letting the property and asked that consideration be given to introducing incentives for tenants who return houses to the Council in good condition.

Patsy Lafferty stated that the main problems occurred when tenants leave the house unexpectedly and only if they apply for housing again can this be taken into account. If a tenant is transferred however, same would be on the condition that their current dwelling if left in good condition.

LEC 49/08 **DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee on 17th November, 2008, commencing at **9.30 am** in Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

APPENDIX 1

Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee Meeting September 10th 2008

Report on Regional Cultural Centre Letterkenny

Prepared by Shaun Hannigan

The Building

The development of the Regional Cultural Centre building in Letterkenny is a great achievement for Donegal County Council.

It is one of the finest multidisciplinary arts facilities in Ireland.

The Centre opened in July 2007 and the Official Opening by Tánaiste Mary Coughlan TD Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Employment was held on July 12th 2008.

Mayor Councillor Gerry Crawford spoke on behalf of the Donegal County Council and all the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee Members were in attendance.

During its first year in operation, the building has been shown to have succeeded in terms of the overall design and lay out, the functionality of the various individual rooms and the flexibility it offers.

The Centre has a range of public spaces that include:

- A first floor art gallery
- An auditorium with 150 retractable seats and full cinema facilities
- **Three multi-purpose workshops**
- Two dedicated digital media suites
- Two small music rehearsal rooms
- Two Foyer galleries

The two main purpose designed rooms – the gallery and the auditorium – have proven to be exceptional spaces.

The gallery, with the wonderful quality of the natural light coming from the ceiling, is the main focal point of the building.

It is one of the finest gallery spaces in the country and has received considerable praise from artists, curators, architects and the public.

It has been proven to be adaptable to a range of art forms, from paintings, to large video projections, to big sculptural installations.

The auditorium has worked really well as –

- a cinema with 35mm and DVD projectors and surround sound,
- as a venue for seated concerts, performances and seminars,
- and as a venue for standing concerts with a capacity of 250 people.

It works particularly well as an intimate music venue; it has exceptional sound quality and has received a lot of positive comment from audiences and performers.

The flexibility and adaptability of the overall building has also proved to be a real bonus to date. It has meant that it has been possible to have specific programmes taking place in multiple spaces across the building at the same time.

This was the case with -

- the Apple Hill Chamber Players Weekend Residency in December,
- the HSE Youth Participation Project in March
- and in the Summer Camps run this year by both the Centre and by the Dynamic Waves dance group.

The use of multiple spaces has also been a feature of the summer exhibitions and was particularly successful this year.

The design of the building, by MacGabhann Architects, has received extensive positive coverage in the local and national press and in key international architectural publications - the most recent being a 2-page article in The Sunday Times in July.

Programme To Date

The Regional Cultural Centre has presented a very broad programme for the whole community since it opened last year.

It has included a busy series of exhibitions, concerts, film, digital media and education and outreach.

It has combined world-class arts events with a programme of classes, workshops and community projects.

The Centre has worked in partnership with a large number of schools, youth, community, statutory and arts group in the area.

It has hosted non-arts events as diverse –

- as the Letterkenny Town Plan Consultation,
- the Neil T Blaney Winter School,
- the County Enterprise Board Business Week Launch
- and the Special Olympics Awards Ceremony.

Education is interwoven into all aspects of the overall programme and the Centre presents an extensive education and outreach programme for all age groups that includes the annual countywide Wainfest for children and Bealtaine festival for older people.

The Centre runs a programme of creative digital media workshops and projects catering for all ages and levels of experience, in areas such as animation, music, photography, video and web-design.

Exhibitions

The Regional Cultural Centre has a first rate purpose built art gallery on the first floor and two foyer galleries, on the ground floor and first floor. Workshop spaces have also been used for exhibitions.

It has enabled us to give local audiences the chance to see major national and international exhibitions such as -

- The opening exhibition 'Painting in the Noughties' featuring world renowned British and Irish abstract painting,
- 'Wild Geese: The Irish in America' work by leading Irish American craftspeople commissioned by the Crafts Council of Ireland,
- 'Great Southern Art Collection of Irish Art 1947-1974' featuring many of Ireland's leading 20th Century artists on loan from the Department of Arts Sport and Tourism / Crawford Gallery Cork,
- 'Unknown Bown' classic photographs by the veteran photographer Jane Bown association with The Guardian/Observer Newspapers.
- 'The Picture is Still' video works from the Irish Museum of Modern Art,

Exhibitions of Donegal artists have included -

- Declan Doherty photographs of the construction of the building,
- 'The House and the Tree' a large scale installation by Eamon O'Kane from Cavanacor House outside Lifford,
- 'Show Off', the Donegal Design Directorate showcase,
- 'Faoi Blath' photographic exhibition of flowers and plants by a Downings artist Jane Talbot.

Education and Outreach

There has been an extensive education and outreach programme over the past year. A large number of primary and secondary schools have attended guided tours of the main exhibitions, which have included education packs.

Special visual arts education initiatives that have been attended by schools from throughout the County have included

- the annual Suil na nOg Junior Cert Art exhibition featuring work by approximately 60 students from 20 Donegal secondary schools in partnership with the Donegal Art Teachers Association,
- the Manscape educational exhibition and schools, family and teachers workshop programme in association with the Ark, the national children's cultural centre in Dublin
- and National Gallery of Ireland's Leaving Cert Study Days.

An extensive opening programme for children and young people incorporating Wainfest in partnership with the County Library in October-November last year featured 120 events throughout the County and included over 60 events in the Centre alone, featuring film, children's theatre, music workshops and digital media and animation taster sessions.

The Bealtaine Festival for older people in May in partnership with the other elements of the Council's Cultural Services and older people's organisations featured over 100 events throughout the County.

Highlights at the Centre included –

- the opening Gala Concert
- Writers Workshop and Book Group with Jennifer Johnston,
- the premiere of 'Fergus Cleary Writes Again',
- the Glen Road concerts
- and the production and screening of three short films – 'Fiesta Days', 'Digital Diaries' and 'Quaker of Donegal'.

Art courses, open to the general public, included 'Just Drawing with Frank Saucian' for adults and 'Making Me with Helen Hancock' and 'Heaven & Earth with Mhari Sutherland' both for children all held in the Spring and two Art Safari Summer Camps for children.

An ongoing series of initiatives with the Youth Information Centre Letterkenny has included the YIC Showcase last November, the Seven Steps Up battle of the bands in January, the Shockwaves gig and week long music industry workshop in July 2008 and the Party in the Park in Letterkenny Town Park on August 3rd 2008.

Digital Media

The Centre has 2 dedicated digital media spaces, one has computers for 12 people and the second can accommodate up to 4 people.

The digital media programme to date has included schools, youth and community projects and public courses for adults and children.

Youth projects have included –

- a short film-training project with Donegal Youth Council,
- song writing & electronic composition and music video projects with the Youth Information Centre in Letterkenny
- and a Youth Activation Project animation.

Schools projects have included -

- claymation projects with Loreto Milford and Glenties Comprehensive,
- a film project with Loreto Letterkenny Leaving Cert Applied
- and a digital comic book project with Creeslough and Glenties National Schools.

Community film projects include –

- a short film drama with the Meevagh Downings Resource Centre Men's Group,
- 'Fiesta Days' a documentary on the Keeney family
- and 'Digital Diaries' an intergenerational film featuring interviews with grandparents and their grandchildren.

Public digital media workshops and courses have included digital archiving, web design, digital photography and video editing for adults, and digital comic books and digital collages for young children and a film making summer camp for teenagers.

Music

The Centre has presented over 30 concerts to date featuring the best in Irish and international folk and traditional, country and bluegrass, jazz and classical and rock and pop.

The majority have been seated but there has been six stand up gigs mainly for young audiences.

The Centre has presented concerts in association with the main national music development agencies Music Network, Moving On Music and Improvised Music Company and in partnership with the Earagail Arts Festival, the Co. Donegal VEC Music Education Project and LYIT.

The standard of the music has been consistently high and highlights have included -

- leading Irish traditional musicians Patrick Street and Liam O Flynn,
- BBC Folk award winning Scottish groups Lau and Julie Fowles,
- American country and bluegrass acts The Hunger Mountain Boys and the Hot Club of Cowtown
- classical music quartets the RTE Vanbrugh String Quartet and the Apple Hill Chamber Players from America
- stand up concerts with Boban Markovic Orchestra from Serbia and Tosh Meets Marley Reggae Allstars from Jamaica
- and a range of music from Donegal from the Donegal Youth Orchestra, to numerous young local rock bands, to TG4 folk musician of the year Martin Tourish and the Glen Road featuring 4 veteran traditional musicians from South West Donegal all in their 80's.

Film

Film and animation has featured strongly to date and in addition to film screenings there has been a considerable number of community film making projects and film and animation classes.

The Centre has held three film seasons to date in association with the national agency Access Cinema that have featured the best in international and independent cinema that would not otherwise be shown in Donegal.

It has also featured public and schools screenings as part of the Foyle Film Festival, Darklight Film Festival, Wainfest and Bealtaine.

There has also been a number of public screenings of some of the community films made by the Centre.

The Centre is a partner with the Nerve Centre Derry in the North West Film Archive Peace 2 funded project that features a database of over 200 films from Donegal and Derry that is available to the public in a kiosk in the Centre.

Summer 2008 Exhibition Programme

The summer exhibition programme at the Centre, that has recently finished turned out, to be a major success and attracted a large and appreciative audience of local people and visitors particularly families with small children.

It centred on a major exhibition of the work of the great French/Hungarian artist Victor Vasarely that featured world-class art that could be enjoyed by everyone - art for all.

It combined a series of exhibitions with a range of activities for children and families.

It included –

- a hands on room where visitors could make their own Vasarelys ,
- a re-imagination of a renowned exhibition from Paris in 1955 as interpreted by a group of young people through the Youth Information Centre,
- a room where people could design and print their own Vasarely's on computer,
- and a Free Family Art Trail.

The summer exhibition programme also featured –

- the 'North by Northwest' exhibition giving an overview of the life and work of the great Donegal / Derry architect Liam McCormick,
- paintings by James Dixon from Tory Island,
- Louis le Brocquy's inspired illustrations of the 'The Táin Bó Cuailnge',
- and 'A Room of One's Own'- six leading Irish Architects design a room for their teenage selves.

The Vasarely exhibition generated a lot of national newspaper coverage and received very positive reviews in Irish Times, The Sunday Tribune and the Irish Independent.

Autumn 2008

The autumn programme features exhibitions, concerts, film, digital media and education and outreach.

Upcoming exhibitions in the main gallery include –

- Chilean Arpilleras (Quilts) curated by Roberta Bacic that opens tomorrow Thursday September 11th at 6 pm and continues until Saturday October 11th,
- the annual Suil na nOg exhibition runs from October 14th to November 8th.

Upcoming Foyer exhibitions include –

- works from the Arts Council's Collection,
- a Donegal Travellers photographic exhibition,
- Donegal County Council's Schools Environmental Photography exhibition,
- An exhibition of works created by local primary school students in workshops facilitated by Redmoon Theatre group from Chicago.

The Autumn music programme featuring seven great country, jazz and classical concerts kicked off last Friday September 5th with the Texas swing band The Hot Club of Cowtown followed by American bluegrass duo Jack Lawrence and Tony Williamson on September 11th. The celebrated Irish pianist/ composer Philip Martin performs a solo piano recital on

October 1st and Americana band the Crooked Jades give a contemporary twist to old-time music on October 31st. The highly respected US guitarist, singer and composer Joel Harrison leads a quintet of New York's finest on November 8th and the leading British jazz trio Clarvis, Barnes and Hart play on November 30th. The final concert on December 3rd features the young Finnish pianist Antti Siirala who won both the Dublin International and Leeds International Piano Competitions.

The Autumn film season begins with the Romanian film and Cannes Film Festival Winner '4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days' on Thursday September 18th and continues for eight consecutive Thursdays until November 6th.

Highlights include –

- 'Persepolis' the highly regarded French produced animated film about a young girl growing up in Iran (September 25th),
- 'Happy Go Lucky' by veteran British independent director Mike Leigh (October 2nd) and
- 'Man On Wire' the award-winning documentary about a daring and illegal high wire walk between the Twin Towers New York in the 70's.

Autumn education programme features Wainfest the countywide arts festival for children organised in conjunction with County Library Service from October 13th to 25th. Events organised by the Centre include mask making, music, animation and digital media workshops, film screenings, children's theatre and Donegal 's first ever Baby Boogie - an afternoon disco for the under 5's in partnership with Letterkenny Community Childcare.

The other major education project this Autumn is Redmoon Theatre group from Chicago who are working with three National Schools around Letterkenny – Illistrin, Educate Together and Ballyraine - from October 20th to December 5th as part of the Oatfield Sweet Factory public art residency project so that local children can make their own magical creations inspired by the factory. The work will be exhibited at the Centre until the end of January.

Youth events include a 7 Steps Up gig and CD launch on October 11th and the Youth Information Centre's Showcase of work they completed during 2008 on November 25th.

Upcoming arts courses for adults include –

- a monthly creative writing class with Monica Corish,
- a six-week Just Painting course with Frank Sausian
- and a one day pre Christmas glass jewellery workshop with Sara Greavu

Upcoming digital media projects include the launches of 'Joyless Joyriding' by Loreto Letterkenny Leaving Cert Applied group in October and 'High Jinks in the High Glen' by Meevagh Downings Resource Centre Men's Group in November. Adult digital media courses - Internet Basics with Christian Gehrke and Filmmaking for Beginners with David Chernick - commence in October. Art and digital media classes for children will commence in November.

APPENDIX 2
N14 – 4 Lane Road, Letterkenny

SCHEME UPDATE

Electoral Area Committee Meeting

September 2008

2008 Allocation €110,000

Scheme Description

The N14 4-lane Road is the busiest section of road in County Donegal with a current AADT in excess of 18,000 vehicles. The carriageway is showing signs of deterioration particularly at the two extremes of the road. It is proposed to carry out a pavement overlay on this section of road.

Programme/ Progress

A Scheme Appraisal Report is currently being prepared and which will be presented to the NRA by years end. As part of the report DCC is looking into options to relieve traffic congestion at the Polestar Roundabout, primarily adding a traffic lane from Ballyraine Roundabout to the Polestar Roundabout.

The following work has been completed to date:

- Full topographical survey
- FWD testing
- Full visual inspection
- Data collection (traffic, skid resistance, accident history)

An application for funding to go to construction in 2009 for this scheme will be made to the NRA.

Note: The N13 Scheme Appraisal Report is also currently being finalising. However from Pluck Roundabout to Newtowncunningham will be in the Inishowen Electoral Area when the Electoral boundaries are changed in 2009. It is proposed to apply for funding for construction on a 2.5km section of N13 from Newtowncunningham to the town land of Moyle for 2009.

