

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE, HELD IN THE LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, ON MONDAY, 24<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2005.**

***LEC 01/05***     **MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

***LEC 02/05***     **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Bridget Bonner, Asst Staff Officer, Corporate Services,  
Charlie Cannon, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation  
Francis Coyle, Director of Service, Planning & Economic  
Development  
Aideen Doherty, Community and Enterprise Development Officer,  
Community Enterprise & Cultural Services  
Roisin Dorrian, Asst Staff Officer Corporate Services,  
Pat Gillespie, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation, Letterkenny &  
Inishowen Electoral Areas  
Jim Harley, Senior Planner, Planning & Economic Development  
Jim Hyland, Executive Engineer, Water, Environment & Emergency  
Services  
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate Services, Letterkenny &  
Inishowen Electoral Areas  
Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager, Housing, Letterkenny & Inishowen  
Electoral Areas  
Michael McFadden, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation  
Con McLaughlin, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency  
Services, Letterkenny & Inishowen Electoral Areas  
Tommy McNulty, Clerk of Works, Housing  
Frank Sweeney, Acting Area Manager, Planning & Development,  
Letterkenny & Inishowen Electoral Areas  
Suzanne Tinney, Waster Information Officer, Water, Environment &  
Emergency Service

Cllr Jimmy Harte chaired the meeting.

***LEC 03/05      CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15th NOVEMBER 2005.***

On the proposal of Cllr. Dessie Larkin and seconded by Cllr. Gerry Crawford the Minutes of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2004 were agreed.

***LEC 04/05      PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT***

***04.1              COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW 2005***  
***Rural Housing Policy***

Mr Jim Harley Senior Planner circulated a report and briefed the Committee on the County Development Plan Review 2005 and in relation to the Rural Housing Policy.

He advised the Committee that the Council must now proceed to the next phase of the County Development Plan Review, which is the drafting of an Initial Draft Plan, which must be completed by 4<sup>th</sup> April 2005. The Council members then have a maximum period of 8 weeks to consider same before the Draft Plan is presented to the public for consultation and comment. The formal Draft County Development Plan will therefore be published on or before 30<sup>th</sup> May 2005.

As there is a very tight time scale to have the Plan in place by 4<sup>th</sup> April the Council Members and staff need to get debating this as soon as possible and meetings of the full Council will be held to discuss this.

The Policy on Rural Housing Development constitutes a significant aspect of this plan review. This policy is shaped in no small way by the Consultation Paper issued in March 2004 by the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government, “ Sustainable Rural Housing”. These Guidelines set how the Government Policies on Rural Housing are to be implemented in the Development Plans of Local Authorities and on decisions on Planning Applications.

The current County Development Plan 2000 Rural Housing Policy was based upon both the quality of landscape and the nature of occupant. These parameters remain part of the new policy, but the Council must also incorporate those aspects of the Ministers paper into the Rural Housing Policy.

The main thrust of “Sustaining Rural Housing” is the identification of three broad rural areas and the adoption of development policies to each.

These broad rural areas are:

1. Weak Rural Areas
2. Strong Rural Areas
3. Urban Generated Rural Housing Areas

Jim Harley recommended that:

1. In support of the proposed Rural Housing Policy, that existing Control Points (C.P.'s) be retained for the new Draft Plan as there is sufficient lands available within the C.P.'s to facilitate future growth for urban areas.
2. That proposed Rural Housing Policy, be supported in terms of scenic amenity by the retention of the landscape categories adopted in the current plan together with their respective development implications.
3. The limits defining Rural Service Centres (RSC's) should be regularised as within 1 Kilometre of any centre.
4. Holiday Homes should be excluded from RSC's defined by rural schools.

Jim Harley also recommended that the following policies be included in the proposed Draft Plan:

- A moratorium on Holiday Homes in those towns and villages which have experienced over supply of holiday as opposed to permanent homes, such as Dunfanaghy, Portnablagh, Rathmullan, Portsalon and Downings.
- New Holiday Homes will be encouraged to locate within other towns and villages, while ensuring that they do not exceed 30% of the established housing at the time of the adoption of the plan. The onus will be on the developer to demonstrate that the Holiday Home development meets these criteria.
- Small Clusters of Holiday Home developments within Landscape Category 1 locations will be facilitated as per the current plan policy.
- One major Holiday Home proposal adjacent to or within a reasonable distance of the over-subscribed areas referred to above will be considered for development. Such developments must provide a range of leisure facilities to ensure that basic infrastructure is available.
- Holiday Homes based upon the refurbishment of ruinous structures will be facilitated in all areas apart from Landscape Category 3 Areas.
- Holiday Home proposals for rental purposes by farmer under farm diversification plan will be facilitated.

A long discussion took place on Jim Harley's presentation.

Cllr Dessie Larkin stated that discussions would be needed on certain areas such as the Mountain Top that bounds the Letterkenny and Milford Electoral Areas and on Bomany and Drumardagh. He also stated that financial

pressures put a need for individuals in rural communities to sell sites and that houses approved in Quota Areas should be built within a specified time limit.

Cllr Gerry Crawford felt that the Rural Service Centres and Control Points need to be re-examined, he felt that the distance should be doubled instead of being restricted. Cllr Crawford also expressed the view that land may be available in particular areas but people must also wish to reside in the area.

Cllr Ciaran Brogan felt that the plan is not accommodating enough considering that Letterkenny is a Designated Gateway Town. He felt the new Plan should accommodate the various needs of people coming to work in town and who may choose to live outside town. He felt that the Council should be more accommodating in areas such as Tullygay and Drumardagh.

Cllr Brogan also felt that allowing people to reside in these areas are supporting schools and he stated that people choose to live in an area because of schools etc. He is also opposed to Section 47 Agreements.

Cllr Larkin also expressed concerns with the current difficulty in contacting Environmental Health Officers.

Gerry Crawford felt that Donegal Co Council should employ an Environmental Health Officer.

Cllr Harte felt it would prove helpful if Members were given e-mail addresses for the various Environmental Health Officers

Francie Coyle stated that he follow this matter up with the Environmental Health Officer.

#### **04.2 Carolina Park**

Frank Sweeney informed Committee that an Enforcement Notice had been served and awaiting prosecution.

#### **04.3 Fairways Estate**

Frank Sweeney stated that an Enforcement Notice had been served which seemed to have produced a positive focused effect on the Contractor who is now working with Planning Authority.

Cllr Dessie Larkin asked if Developer would do ducting and drainage work.

Pat Gillespie stated that Road Design had identified needs and work would be complete by end of year.

#### **04.4 Ballymacool**

Frank Sweeney advised that outstanding issue with footpath and will be completed by the Developer.

#### **04.5 Raphoe**

Charlie Cannon met with Developer and he expects that work programme will commence next week.

#### **04.6 Registration of Quarries- Section 262 of the Planning and Development Act 2000**

Frank Sweeney drew Committees attention to fact that quarries now need to be registered. The Council is compiling a list of all Quarries operating in the county.

##### **04.6.1 St Johnston**

Cllr Dessie Larkin stated that road to St Johnston in bad repair due to quarry. Cllr Gerry Crawford stated that he understood that that Contractor responsible had been issued with Enforcement Notice.

Pat Gillespie stated that Council had met developer but may have to proceed with enforcement.

Frank Sweeney said he would follow up on matter.

### **LEC 05/05 HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES**

#### **05.01 Abbey Villas**

Cllr Dessie Larkin enquired about the up to date position on the vacancy at Abbey Villas. Patsy Lafferty stated that he hoped it would be ready for letting within the next few months.

#### **05.02 Peace Programme 2005(Revitalisation of Housing Estates).**

On the proposal of Cllr Dessie Larkin seconded by Cllr Tony Mc Daid the Committee recommended that the following schemes be included in the Council's application for funding for this programme in 2005:

- Ard Baithin, St Johnston
- Glendale Drive, Letterkenny
- Ard na Ri. Letterkenny

#### **05.03 Tenant Liaison Officer**

Patsy Lafferty advised the Committee that the Tenant Liaison Officers duties had been extended to include Meadowhill, Raphoe and that he would be in contact with the residents shortly.

**05.04**            **Central Heating Programme 2004**

Patsy Lafferty advised the Committee that work on this programme is now complete and that he will revert to the Committee in relation to the 2005 Programme when he has an indication of what funding is being made available.

**05.05**            **Manorcunningham**

Patsy Lafferty indicated that 20 houses would be built on land at Manorcunningham, 6 of these will be designated as Affordable Housing.

Cllr Gerry Crawford welcomed the fact that 6 of the houses would be designated for Affordable Housing and stated that he felt Manorcunningham is an ideal location for people from Letterkenny seeking Affordable Housing.

**05.06**            **New Capital Programme**

Patsy Lafferty stated that advertisement for Turnkey had been placed in Newspaper with a closing date for Developers of 28<sup>th</sup> January 2005 He stated a report would be available for the next meeting in March.

**05.07**            **Brendan Doran S.I.**

Cllr Larkin enquired regarding the up to date position of Brendan Doran's S.I. application.  
Tommy McNulty stated that it is currently with Council Solicitors.

**05.08**            **Beechwood House**

Cllr Dessie Larkin stated that the original allocation was given on grounds this would be used as a Homeless Centre.  
Cllr Larkin requested the Patsy Lafferty look at proposal again explore options with the D.O.H.E.L.G. for funding this project.

**05.9**            **Holiday Period**

Cllr Gerry Crawford thanked Tommy McNulty for his speedy response to a problem over the holiday period.

**05.10**            **Transfer Procedures**

Cllr Tony McDaid asked if Council had a policy regarding transfers. He was aware of problems with Respond in this regard.

Patsy Lafferty stated that Houses are allocated using the Scheme of Letting Priorities. In the case of new schemes, priority would be given to applicants on the Housing List. However transfers would be considered where individual circumstances permitted, e.g. situations of overcrowding etc.

**05.12**            **Raphoe**

Cllr Gerry Crawford and Cllr Dessie Larkin requested that they be advised of outcome of meeting with regards to boundary wall at Raphoe.

Cllr Jimmy Harte to be advised of Constructions Sections examination of slopes of gardens on houses being constructed in Raphoe and of decision in relation to final two houses.

**LEC 06/05**      **WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICE**

**06.01**            **Waste Information Officer**

Cllr Jimmy Harte on behalf of the Committee welcomed Suzanne Tinney, Waste Information Officer to the meeting and wished her well in her new post.

Con Mc Laughlin circulated Supplementary Progress Report dated 24<sup>th</sup> January 2005 (Appendix 1) to the meeting in addition to the Progress Report (Appendix 2) which was circulated with the Agenda.

**06.02**            **Lagan Water Supply-Phase III**

Cllr Gerry Crawford queried whether the Oireachtas Members had been invited to attend meeting to discuss this issue as was proposed at last meeting.

Con Mc Laughlin that this matter had been passed to Water Services Design and that there was some confusion in relation to the issuing of the Invitations. He gave a commitment that the Oireachtas Members would be invited to attend next meeting.

The Committee recommended that Magherabeg/Veagh area be included in Water Audit required for Phase 111.

**06.03**            **Civic Amenity Site**

The Committee noted that Planning process would commence in two weeks.

Cllr Ciaran Brogan welcomed development on this project and questions when it would be due to commence

Con McLaughlin indicated that negotiations were not complete but Council were pressing ahead with Planning Stage.

**06.04**            **Magherabeg/Veagh G.W.S.S.**

Cllr Dessie Larkin indicated that this scheme was experiencing problems with low water pressure.

Con McLaughlin stated that the Lagan Water Supply would relieve this problem.

Cllr Larkin requested that public be made aware of this.

**06.05**            **Glencar Reservoir**

Cllr Dessie Larkin requested update on this Scheme

Con McLaughlin stated that the planning issued had now been regularised and scheme was progressing.

**06.6**            **Dangerous Building, Lifford**

The Committee were advised that a prosecution has been secured against the owners and the fine has been paid. The owner continues to be in breach of the Court Order and the Council's Solicitors have been advised to take a further prosecution.

On the proposal of Cllr Tony McDaid seconded by Cllr Gerry Crawford the Committee recommended that the Council consider removing the roof and passing on the cost to the owner.

Con McLaughlin stated that the matter had been referred to Council Solicitor and that that we have been advised that it would be best to follow the Court process. He stated that a further prosecution has been issued.

The Committee to be advised when the case will be heard again.

Cllr Gerry Crawford expressed concern that the building in question was close to houses and directly opposite the Environment Section Office.

**06.7**                    **Lifford Recycling Banks**

Cllr Gerry Crawford requested that funding be sought to provide a complete range of Recycling Banks at Lifford to be located in the Machinery Yard and urged that this be applied for as soon as possible.

**06.8**                    **Water Problems at Tullyvinney, Raphoe**

Cllr Tony McDaid stated that he wished to compliment Con McLaughlin and Jim Hyland in their dealings with this problem.

**06.9**                    **Litter Warden/Waste Awareness Officer**

Suzanne Tinney, Waste Information Officer gave a brief description of her duties in this role.

Cllr Dessie Larkin expressed concern that correspondence had not been received by householders from Private Waste Collectors in relation to Kerbside Collection. He said that householders did not have a choice as to what method of waste collection they preferred, i.e. annual charge or tagging system.

Suzanne Tinney stated that Private Waste Collectors have different ways of functioning but part of her role would be to help collectors promote the change.

Con McLaughlin noted this was an area that required further consideration and that perhaps under the review of Waste Management Plan it may be necessary to introduce a charge at Civic Amenity Sites

Suzanne Tinney stated that Waste Collection Permits are being reviewed and stringent conditions will be laid down as to how waste will be collected.

Cllr Gerry Crawford enquired as to when the second bin would commence in rural areas. He felt that the facilities could be provided in Lifford

Suzanne Tinney replied that 50% of the service should be in operation by April 2005.

The Committee felt that the Waste Contractors should be advising the public of their plans for introducing Pay by Weight, Kerbside Collection etc. and requested that they be provided with details of the services that will be available in the L.E.A and the cost implications of same.

Cllr Tony McDaid questioned why Jason McGilloway, Litter Warden was not present.

Con McLaughlin confirmed Mr McGilloway had been invited and that he would ensure that he would be present at the next meeting.

Cllr Tony McDaid questioned on how successful campaign had been in schools.

Suzanne Tinney replied 80% of schools were covered at end of year and approximately 100 schools visited every year.

**06.10 Green Schools Programme**

Suzanne Tinney stated that this was hugely successful with 20 current Green Flags and a further 15-20 more expected this year.

Cllr Tony McDaid asked if funding was available for private mini-bailers for use in schools.

Suzanne Tinney stated that expensive mini-bailers not necessary as several other options available.

**06.11 Glenmaquin Group Water Supply Scheme**

Cllr Larkin queried whether a resolution had been found to allow this scheme to advance.

Con McLaughlin stated a change of personnel has taken place in the Committee and progress is being made.

**06.12 Kiltole, Convoy**

Cllr Ciaran Brogan requested that the problems with the sewer at Kiltole, Convoy be addressed. Con Mc Laughlin agreed to investigate the matter.

**06.13 Pumping Station, Lifford**

Cllr Gerry Crawford stated that he understood that in the event of a power cut no back up system is in place with the result that local resident being flooded. He questioned what the Council proposed to do about this problem.

Con McLaughlin stated he would investigate this matter.

**06.14**            **Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme**

Cllr Ciaran Brogan requested that the Engineering staff responsible for this scheme should attend the next Electoral Area Meeting to discuss concerns over the quality of the re-instatement works being left by Contractors on Footpaths De Valera Road on road surface on Kilmacrennan Road.

Con McLaughlin stated he would follow up on this matter.

**06.16**            **Major Capital Projects**

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

**06.17**            **Small Capital Schemes**

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

**06.18**            **Serviced Land Initiative Schemes**

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

**06.19**            **Group Water Schemes**

The Committee considered the Report on Group Water Schemes, which was circulated with the Agenda

**LEC 07/05**      **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

**07.01**            **Roadworks Programme Workshop**

It was agreed that a Roads Workshop would take place on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2005 at 10.00 a.m.

**07.02**            **Deele College, Raphoe**

Pat Gillespie advised the Committee that the meeting had not yet taken place with Credit Union. The Committee requested that they be informed of the outcome of this meeting.

**07.03**                    **Tara Court and Glebe, Letterkenny**

Pat Gillespie stated that he would make proposals regarding the upgrading of Tara Court and the Safety Barrier at Glebe at the Roads Workshop

**07.04**                    **N 13 Veagh, Manorcunningham**

Pat Gillespie advised Committee that communication had been made with resident regarding the area in front of his house.

**07.05**                    **Old Leck and Aughinshan Graveyard, Letterkenny**

Pat Gillespie informed the Committee that Michael McFadden Executive Engineer was attempting to get prices for the removal of Ivy at these locations.

Pat Gillespie stated that a structural assessment was needed in the case of Aughinshan.

**07.06**                    **Ballinalecky / Raphoe Junction**

Pat Gillespie informed that the Committee that the island on the road is nearly flush with road and will have to be risen. He has requested Road Design to assess the size and location of the Island before any works are carried out.

**07.07**                    **Thorn Road Junction**

Cllr Dessie Larkin requested that County Council and Town Council should work together on this to replace pipes before any resurfacing work would commence. Con Mc Laughlin and Pat Gillespie to investigate this matter.

**07.08**                    **EU Co-Financed Schemes 2004 – Update**

Pat Gillespie advised that a report would be made available at Roads Workshop on 21<sup>st</sup> February.

**07.09**                    **Changing Rooms, St Eunan**

Cllr Dessie Larkin requesting that negotiations be re-opened with St Eunan's G.A.A. Club in relation to demolishing old Changing Rooms to allow for re-alignment of road.

Pat Gillespie said agreement had been reached with Club to allow for demolishing of Changing Rooms.

**07.10**            **Coolaghey Road**

Cllr Tony McDaid requested that potholes be repaired where the old road meets new road.

Pat Gillespie stated that these were being taken care of.

**07.11**            **Conwal Road**

Cllr Tony McDaid stated he had received correspondence from residents that a footpath had been promised because of the dangerous road.

Pat Gillespie stated that he understood that money had been allocated in 1991 but he has been unable to confirm this.

He also stated that planning conditions for the proposed Mc Williams Development at Ballymacool include for a major upgrade of this road including the provision of a footpath. This application is currently under Appeal to An Bord Pleaneala.

The Committee recommended that the Council apply for funding to upgrade this road in conjunction with the Developer.

**07.12**            **Road Maintenance**

Cllr Gerry Crawford expressed concerns that maintenance of roads was only happening on National Primary Roads and not on other roads.

Pat Gillespie stated that priority had been given to the erection of the New Speed Limits but normal maintenance would now resume.

Cllr Crawford also stated that additional road maintenance was required in the Lifford Area.

**07.12**            **N 56 Improvements Works**

Pat Gillespie circulated a Progress Report to Committee. He advised that it is expected that the NRA will announce funding in the region of €6m for the beginning of Improvement works in February 2005. This funding will allow the construction of the section from the end of the previous works to beyond the Calhame Junction. The Calhame Junction Roundabout is currently the subject of Part 10 Planning and should be considered at next County Council Meeting for approval. It is hoped that a contractor will be appointed before the end of April.

It was agreed to include this matter on all future Agendas.

**07.13**            **Pedestrian Crossing, Paddy Harte Road**

Cllr Tony McDaid stated that a Pedestrian Crossing was necessary to allow pedestrians to cross between Lidl to Argos

Pat Gillespie advised that a Pedestrian Crossing is proposed for that area.

***LEC 08/05      COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND ENTERPRISE SERVICES***

***08.1              Youth Council***

Cllr Jimmy Harte on behalf of the Committee welcomed Ciara Ryan, Jackie O'Connell, Youth Councilors and Andrew McNulty, Youth Councillor Co-Ordinator to the meeting. Cllr Harte congratulated them on their recent elections and wished the Youth Councilors well in their work and said the Members would provide any assistance they could.

Ciara Ryan and Jackie O Connell then made a presentation to the Committee on the work being done by the Youth Council

Cllr Jimmy Harte stated that work on new Leisure Centre was ongoing and that transport to town from rural areas was an issued that needed to be addressed. He felt that the idea of extending the town bus should be considered. Cllr Harte felt that the Teenage Kick Programme was an excellent initiative.

Cllr Tony McDaid stated that he was involved with the Rural Transport Initiative in East Donegal and that a Transport Sectoral Group had been set up to look at the County in this regard.

Cllr Ciaran Brogan emphasized the need to meet with them on a regular basis.  
He informed the Committee that the new Sports Centre should be operational by 2006.

***08.2              Mobile Library Service Hours***

Aideen Doherty that she would request that Eileen Burgess follow up on this with Cllr Crawford.

***08.3              Community Events***

A Doherty stated that the Oireachtas weekend had brought 8,000 visitors to the town and had generated an estimated € million in revenue for the town.

**08.4**            **Play Facilities**

Aideen Doherty informed the Committee that 10 applications had been received to Letterkenny Electoral Area.

She drew the Committee's attention to the fact that an application had now yet been received from Ballymacool Park and requested that the Members follow this up.

She stated that 58 applications had been received so far from County that priority would be given to groups ready for funding this year and others would be brought on for funding in 2006.

She had also been in contact with Letterkenny Community Residents Association but felt that the Association does not have any concrete proposals to progress with.

Cllr Larkin requested that Members be kept aware of proposals coming forward.

**08.4**            **Rehab People of the Year Award**

Aideen Doherty advised Committee that closing date for entries is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2005 and that the Awards will be presented in Jackson's Hotel on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2005.

**08.5**            **North West Film Archive**

Aideen Doherty said assistance was being looked for material that could be used for these.

Cllr Gerry Crawford asked whether showing of film archives would take place in Derry or Donegal.

Aideen Doherty explained that as this is a cross border project showing would take place in both the Museums in Derry and Donegal and would also be available in the Archive Centre, Donegal Co Council.

**08.6**            **Donegal/Tyrone**

Aideen Doherty informed the Committee that an application was being considered under round 2 of Interreg.

**08.7**            **Donegal Holiday Guide**

Aideen Doherty drew Committee's attention to the new brochure and said any feedback would be welcome.

**LEC 09/05 Deputation from Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

Cllr Jimmy Harte on behalf of the Committee welcomed Joanne Sweeney, Brian Mc Cormack and Gerard Mc Cormack from the Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce and Industry to the meeting who were attending the meeting to address the Committee.

The Deputation advised the Committee that they would like to address the issues of the future of the development of Letterkenny Main Street in the context of the overall development of Letterkenny and of out of town developments.

They circulated and read from the Executive Summary of the Report " Letterkenny Town Centre – Balancing the Change " which was prepared for the Chamber by DTZ Piedad Consulting as a submission to the Letterkenny Town and Environs Development Plan.

The Executive Summary examines and addresses the following:

- The context for the submission
- The specific issues and opportunities that require to be responded to in the Development Plan Review
- The vision for the future of the town centre.
- Land use and policy objectives that should be incorporated in the Development Plan Review.
- Looking towards implementation – innovative approaches to maximizing the asset and potential of Letterkenny Town centre.

The Chamber is concerned that the increasing quantum of new retail floor space has been edge of centre resulting in displacement/concentration of retail floor space to the east/south east of Pearse Road and a decline in retail businesses outside of the Core Retail Area at the heart of Letterkenny Main Street. This has resulted in Lower Main Street and Port Road becoming poor Secondary Retail Areas characterized by non-retail uses and increasing vacancies.

The Chamber also feel that by focusing on only the extension area, the approach being adopted in the Letterkenny and Environs Plan had the potential to further erode the attraction and vitality of the traditional town center by directing development interests through development Plan zonings, policies and objectives to edge of center locations. The consequences of this are already in evidence and are severely undermining Letterkenny Town centre sustaining the role and attraction it has worked hard at achieving.

The Chamber also identified a number of opportunity sites within and adjacent to the town centre, which the Development Plan Review should ensure that any future proposals for these sites incorporates predominantly retail uses.

They requested that the Development Plan review includes:

- That a cohesive and integrated master plan and strategy for Letterkenny Town Centre as a whole is prepared which includes both the traditional town centre and the zoned extension area, and
- The frameworks, resources, and mechanisms are put in place to ensure that there is a more balanced and sustainable approach to meeting consumer,

developer and investor demand, which protects the vitality and viability of the traditional town centre.

All the members were supportive of the proposals by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

## **LEC 10/05 CORPORATE SERVICES**

### **10.01 Progress Report**

Eunan Kelly updated the Members on the Progress Report for 2004, stating that Motor Tax business showed a small decrease of 5% on 2003, but that Receipting, Callers and Telephone calls had all increased. The reduction in Motor Tax was probably due to the opening of the Donegal P.S.C.

Members expressed their satisfaction on the progress of the building to-date, however Cllr Gerry Crawford requested that statistics for transactions in Lifford are also taken into account.

## **LEC 10/05 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2005, commencing at 10.00 am.

## Appendix 1

### WATER & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

#### Supplementary Report to Letterkenny EAC Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> January 2005

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

From minutes of previous meeting 15<sup>th</sup> November 2004, using same notation:

#### **78.2 Lagan Water Supply-Phase III**

Following additional information (21<sup>st</sup> January 2005) from John McElwaine, A/ Senior Executive Engineer for circulation:

*Lagan Water Supply Phase II is presently in construction. As part of Phase II the Department of the Environment asked that meters be installed in the greater Pollan Dam network to allow for a water audit to be carried out. The results from the water audit are required by the Department to confirm that the theoretical flows throughout the network at design stage are in line with the actual flows at this time following construction of Phase 2 of the scheme.*

The pipelines for Phase II are nearing completion. Outstanding works to be carried out on the installation of meters and the provision of a water audit report to the department for approval is as follows:

1. Civil works for the meters. Expected completion date 31<sup>st</sup> January 2005.
2. Mechanical and Electrical works for the meters. Expected completion date 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005.
3. Data collection from the installed meters for 2 months. Expected completion date 31<sup>st</sup> May 2005.
4. Water Audit report and submission to the Department 1 month. Expected completion date 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005.

On this basis Donegal County Council would expect to have a report with the Department by end of June 2005. The Department have informed Donegal County Council that this is required before approval is given to go to tender on Phase III (or any part of Phase III).

#### **78.3 Letterkenny Civic Amenity Site:**

Following additional information (24<sup>th</sup> January 2005) from Paul Kilcoyne, Senior Engineer for circulation:

The report presented in November 2004 indicated that the NWHB/ Health Service Executive had agreed in principle to the siting of the Civic Amenity site on Health Board lands at Knocknamona Letterkenny. Since November 2004 further meetings have taken place with HSE in connection with the proposed Recycling Centre. The HSE's preference is to provide the land to Donegal County Council on a license basis and this is being examined from a legal perspective at present. Pending the clarification of the legal matters and with the consent of

the HSE, Donegal County Council has decided to proceed with the preparation of detailed layout plans and the public Planning process (Part 8) commencing in approximately 2 weeks time, with the aim of bringing the Part 8 Managers report before the March meeting of Donegal County Council. As soon as the legal matters are resolved Donegal County Council will progress the project to tender stage.

Paul Kilcoyne,  
Senior Engineer.

WATER & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

**Report to Letterkenny EAC Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> January 2005**

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

From minutes of previous meeting 15<sup>th</sup> November 2004, using same notation:

**78.4 Dangerous Building, Lifford**

As noted previously we have secured a prosecution against the owner of the building and fines have been paid. There is also a Court Order in place and the owner continues to be in breach of this. We have directed our solicitors to take a further prosecution. Our solicitors have also been asked for advise on other options open to us and we await direction. However it is generally felt that proceeding with the Court action remains the best approach.

**78.5 Lagan Water Supply-Phase III**

As previously noted the DoEHLG require a Water Audit to be completed on Phases I and II before the application for Phase III can be dealt with. The Committee were incorrectly advised at the previous meeting that this element would be delivered early in the New Year; I am now advised that this works will commence shortly. Separate correspondence will issue from Capital Design to brief the members of scope of works involved and anticipated completion.

**78.6 Kerbside Collection**

In response request for additional recycling banks for Lifford, I am advised that the Council do not intend to introduce any more additional dry recyclable facilities at any bring bank site. As previously advised the Council have directed the waste collectors to provide a second collection service for these materials in addition to the existing refuse collection. As this recycling collection service is now being introduced DCC would not wish to compete with it.

**78.7 Civic Amenity Site**

Progress report on Civic Amenity Site for Letterkenny to follow at the Electoral Area Meeting.

**78.8 Water Problems at Tullyvinney**

Complaints re water quality at Tullyvinney were investigated following the meeting and may have resulted from recent burst on the local network in that area. Further flushing of the mains was carried out and water quality confirmed clean

**78.9 Litter Warden/Waste Awareness Officer**

***Introduce to the Committee:***  
***Ms. Susanne Tinney, Waste Awareness Officer, Donegal County Council and***  
***Jason McGilloway, Litter Warden (Letterkenny / Inishowen EA's).***

***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***