

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA NGALL
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

GROUP SEWERAGE SCHEME

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

There are many situations where houses though located quite near to the public sewerage system, are not near enough to be connected to it by the County Council.

The provision of a small Group Sewerage Scheme by a group of neighbours to their homes can have many advantages. Compared with an individual system the cost is usually much lower. Schemes connected on or after 22nd July, 1996, qualify for a grant 75% of the cost, subject to a limit of €2031.58 per house, (all areas) from the Local Authority. This ensures that the householders contribution is kept low. The plans and design of each scheme are examined by the Technical Staff of Donegal County Council (Local Authority) to ensure that the highest standards of construction and performance are reached. County Council Staff are available to advise Groups during the progress of the work on any difficulties that may arise.

HOW TO GO ABOUT IT

Group Sewerage Schemes may be carried out, subject to the approval of the Local Authority.

- (a) In areas where the Local Authority do not propose to carry out a public scheme.
- (b) In areas which can be served by extensions of existing County Council sewers.
- (c) In areas where the Local Authority intend at a later stage to provide a public sewerage scheme. In such cases, schemes should be so designed as to be capable of being connected to the public scheme in due course.

If you and your neighbours are interested in a scheme you should proceed as follows:-

1. The starting point is the selection of a Committee comprising not more than six people and headed by an energetic group organiser who will conduct all the necessary business with the group and the Local Authority.
2. The organiser (Promoter) should write in the first instance to the Secretary, Donegal County Council, Lifford, giving notice of the intention to formulate a Group Sewerage Scheme.
3. The Promoter of the scheme should contact the County Council Offices at Lifford when possible and discuss details of preliminary planning and organisation procedure in regard to formation of a group with the Group Scheme Staff.
4. If the group decide to go ahead with the scheme, the Promoter will arrange for the holding of a public meeting of all participants. The procedure in regard to the planning of the scheme, including matters relating to financing, costings, type of disposal, etc, should be determined at the meeting.
5. Where the scheme is designed by an Engineer of the group's own choice detailed plans must be submitted to the Local Authority for approval.
7. The work should not be put in hands until approval is received and the availability of grants for work is notified.
8. When this approval is reached, the work can then be started. The Promoter and the Committee will get the work underway. They will be in contact regularly with the Local Authority as the project progresses and especially if major difficulties arise.
9. It is important to arrange money matters at the outset. The Promoter will want working capital to meet the expenses involved in the preliminary stages of investigation and he would be well advised to collect a sum of money from each participant when it is decided to go ahead with the scheme. It is suggested that a practical way to apportion the individual cash contributions from participants would be:
 - (a) On a valuation basis, or
 - (b) At a flat rate per house due regard being made to the varying financial circumstances of the members of the the group. Money is required as work progresses to meet the cost of work done and it may be possible to arrange temporary overdraft accommodation with the Bank.

10. The aim of group should be to secure at the outset one hundred per cent connections from the householders in the area to be served by the group scheme. In this way the cost of the scheme will be kept at a minimum.
11. Portion of the grants will be paid from time to time as work progresses. The remaining grants will be paid when the sewerage system is installed in each house and the scheme is working satisfactorily.

The principal forms to be completed for organisation of the group are **G.W.59** (the initial Survey Sheets) and **G.W.42** which Trustees and participants must sign before grants are allocated.

Donegal County Council

April, 1997