

Water, Environment and Emergency Services

The Council operates 53 public water supplies, from which 95% of the population is served, the balance being supplied from private sources.



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1. New Fire Station, Letterkenny
2. Civil Defence in action
3. Civil Defence on a search mission of Mulroy Bay
4. Trá na Rossan
5. Charlie Faulkner Memorial Cup Competition 2004

WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Operation of Water Services

The Council operates 53 public water supplies, from which 95% of the population is served, the balance being supplied from private sources. The table below sets out the volume of water produced for consumers in the county per annum and the source of this water.

Water Production (per annum)

Production (cubic metres)	Public Supply	Private Supply	N. Ireland
23.5 million	22 million	1.2 million	0.3 million

Wastewater Treatment

The Table below sets out details of the wastewater treatment schemes operated by the Council.

Wastewater Treatment Schemes

No. of Wastewater Treatment Schemes	Population Equivalent (PE) being treated
14	Excess of 2,000
27	Between 2,000 and 500
50+	Less than 500

Water Quality and Pollution Control

The quality of drinking water is monitored by staff of the North Western Health Board and by the Council and reported on annually by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Overall compliance of public schemes was 96.9% in 2003 and the report for 2004 has yet to be published. A new range of test was introduced in 2004 in compliance with the Drinking Water directive. Compliance with Aluminium standards was problematic in 2003 and steps are being taken to improve on this.

Water quality from group schemes with private sources was less satisfactory with an overall compliance rate of 89.3% in 2003. Steps are being taken through the Rural Water Programme to improve the level of compliance of these schemes. Our laboratory service monitored water quality on 141 Group Water schemes during the report period on behalf of the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government.

Indicators of Water Quality Compliance i.e. % of schemes that achieved the prescribed standard

Year	2002		2003		2004	
	Public Schemes	Group Schemes	Public Schemes	Group Schemes	Public Schemes	Group Schemes
Compliance	%	%	%	%	%	%
Faecal Coliforms	98	72	99	79	99.8	91.9
Total Coliforms	93	60	90	60	95	71
Aluminium	74	N/A	70	N/A	77	100
Flouride	97	N/A	99	N/A	100	100
Trihalomethans (THM)	87	N/A		N/A	92	100
Colour	98	90	99	92	87	91

Monitoring of influent and effluent at sewage treatment works was conducted and results reported to the EPA. Infrastructural constraints at many of these works limit the extent of monitoring achievable. Discharges to air and water were monitored at landfill sites and all industrial discharges covered by the licensing requirements of the Water Pollution Act 1977 and 1990 were monitored. Thirty eight licensees discharging to water and forty one discharging to sewers were being monitored at the end of 2004.

Lake waters were also monitored as part of an EPA requirement covering approximately 40 lakes per year on a 4 year programme. Designated salmonoid river monitoring is part of the routine work carried out. Other rivers not designated but considered significant are also monitored.

The Laboratory continues to produce implementation reports relating to the Measures Report for the EPA under the Phosphate Regulations. In addition, it produced the first Measures Report under the new Dangerous Substances Regulations.

The Council is acting as lead authority in implementation of the NSSHARE project. The objective of this project is to strengthen inter-regional capacity for environmental monitoring and management at river basin district level, following on from the EC Water Framework Directive (WFD). The WFD establishes a new, integrated approach to the

protection, improvement and sustainable use of Europe's inland and coastal waters.

Capital Programmes – Water Services Investment Programme

The Water Services Investment Programme consists of the Major Capital Programme, the Serviced Land Initiative Programme, and the Water Conservation Programme.

Major Capital Programme

The Major Capital Programme for Water Services is the programme under which major water and wastewater infrastructure is planned and implemented. The programme if implemented will result in an approximate investment of g199m in wastewater infrastructure and g79m in water infrastructure. Many of the schemes on the programme are complex in nature and involve the preparation of detailed Preliminary Reports, Environmental Impact Assessments, Network /Outfall models, and involve liaison with and the approval of bodies such as Department of Communications Marine and Natural Resources, and the Loughs Agency. Each project must be approved by the Department at Preliminary Report stage, Contract Document stage, Tender Invitation stage, and Tender Approval/ Construction stage. Planning approvals are also required.

The following milestones were achieved on the Major Capital Programme:

Project	Milestone
Letterkenny/Stranorlar Electoral Area	
Lough Mourne/ Letterkenny Water Supply Scheme:	Advanced to draft Environmental Impact Assessment stage and draft Engineering Report stage. Preliminary site investigation works were also carried out.
Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme	Advanced to tender invitation and recommendation stages for the Sludge removal contract and Contract 1 Sewers.
Letterkenny Water Scheme	Contract documents were revised in accordance with the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Governments requirements.
Inishowen Electoral Area	
Malin Sewerage Scheme	Advanced to draft Preliminary Report stage and Part 8 Planning.
Carndonagh Sewerage Scheme	Commissioned and completed
Moville/Greencastle Sewerage Scheme	Advanced to detailed site selection stage
Inishowen Sludge Centre	Advanced to Preliminary Report stage and Environmental Impact Assessment preparation commenced.
Desertegney WSS	Stage 1 contracts 1,2 were completed.
Lagan Desert Water Supply	Stage 1 was completed. Stage 2 advanced to tender invitation stage and tender assessment is underway. Stage 3 contract documents have been completed and submitted to the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government.

Project	Milestone
Milford Electoral Area	
Fanad Water Supply	Stage 1 advanced to tender invitation and recommendation stage.
Fanad Water Supply	Stage 2 advanced to draft Preliminary Report and source assessment stage.
Rathmullan Sewerage Scheme	Advanced to Appointment of Consultants and preliminary assessment has commenced.
Glenties Electoral Area	
Burtonport Sewerage Scheme	Contract documents have been completed and submitted to the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government for approval.
Gweedore Sewerage Scheme	Environmental Impact Assessment and Foreshore Licence approved by An Bord Pleanála.
Dungloe Sewerage Scheme	Advanced to Appointment of Consultants and preliminary assessment has commenced.
Falcarragh Sewerage Scheme	Advanced to draft Preliminary Report Stage.
Glenties Sewerage Scheme	Advanced to Appointment of Consultants and preliminary assessment has commenced.
Gortahork Water Supply Scheme (Major Scheme)	Advanced to Appointment of Consultants and preliminary assessment has commenced.
Ardara Sewerage Scheme	Advanced to tender invitation and recommendation stage.
Donegal Electoral Area	
Donegal Main Drainage	Contract 2 Sewers advanced to substantial completion.
Gweedore Sewerage Scheme	Environmental Impact Assessment and Foreshore Licence
DBO Group A (Donegal, Rossnowlough, Ballyshannon) Wastewater Treatment Works	Advanced to tender invitation stage.
Ballyshannon Sewerage Scheme	Contract 2 Sewers advanced to tender invitation stage.
Rossnowlough Sewerage Scheme	Contract 2 advanced to tender invitation stage.
Laghay Sewerage Scheme	Advanced to draft Preliminary Report stage.
DBO Group B (Bundoran, Killybegs)	Wastewater Treatment Works
Ballyshannon Water Supply Scheme	Advance Works – Boreholes advanced to detailed assessment stage.

Serviced Land Initiative Programme

The Serviced Land Initiative (SLI) Programme provides for investment in small to medium scale water and wastewater infrastructure. The schemes on this programme are 40% funded by the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government based on accepted tender costs. The remaining 60% is funded from development charges levied by the Council under the Development Contribution Scheme.

Progress on Serviced Land Initiative Programme was as follows:-

Project	Milestone
Letterkenny Electoral Area	
Oldtown Phase 2	Involved construction of a pumping station, rising main and gravity sewer linking Oldtown Phase 1 to the main Letterkenny sewer network.
Glencar	The scheme involves a reservoir to alleviate the low water pressure within the Glencar area of Letterkenny. Construction started in November 2003.
Lifford	Preliminary design is ongoing with this scheme.
St. Johnston	Preliminary design is ongoing with view to combine the SLI and Small Capital Scheme programme to progress the scheme to tender.
Inishowen Electoral Area	
Killea	Progress included construction of a Pumping Station, 400m rising main, 500m of 225mm Gravity Sewer and completion of a Package Treatment Works.
Lisfannon	Completed
Newtowncunningham	Final design was completed and Part 8 Planning was granted for a 1200m sewer extension including a Pumping Station and rising main for Newtowncunningham. The project was tendered and construction started in December 2003.
Bridgend	Consultants are preparing a preliminary Report for upgrading the treatment works and sewer network.
Buncrana Ballymacarr	Being progressed in conjunction with Buncrana Town Council.
Buncrana Miltown	Being progressed in conjunction with Buncrana Town Council.
Milford Electoral Area	
Downings	Preliminary design is complete. The scheme involves an upgrade of the existing pumping station. Planning will be sought next year with view to proceeding to tender.
Kilmacrennan	Preliminary design is complete and consultants will shortly progress the tender documents and part 8 planning drawings.
Glenties Electoral Area	
All Serviced Land Initiatives within Glenties Area were completed prior to 2003	
Donegal Electoral Area	
Malinmore	Progress included construction of a Package Treatment Plant. The civil contractor is at the final stages of construction.
Drumrooske	Preliminary design for this scheme in ongoing.
Bundoran Brandra	Being progressed in conjunction with Bundoran Town Council.
Bundoran Old Railway	Complete
Bundoran Eastend	Complete.
Bundoran Church Road	Being progressed in conjunction with Bundoran Town Council.
Stranorlar Electoral Area	
Ballybofey Navenny	Construction started in October 2003. The scheme involves a sewer extension, pumping station and rising main.
Convoy	Consultants have prepared a preliminary report, which is currently being reviewed.

Water Conservation Programme

The Water Conservation Programme provides for Water Conservation Measures and pipe replacement to assist in the effective management and operation of the Councils water supply infrastructure. Water Conservation Measures and pipe replacement are funded by the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government at rate of 100% and 75% respectively. The remaining 25% for pipe replacement is funded from development charges levied by the Council under the Development Contribution Scheme.

Planning and implementation work continued on a total of ten Water Conservation schemes in the county.

Rural Water Programme

Since 2002 the Rural Water Programme has focused on assisting existing Group Water Supply schemes become compliant with the Drinking Water Directive in terms of water quality. Twenty seven schemes have been identified of which four have already been brought into compliance. Work is on going on the remaining schemes through a variety of means e.g. connecting to public supply and investigating new supplies.

Nineteen new group schemes commenced construction during the period of the report and a further four are ready to proceed in 2005. Grants of up to 85% of the cost of works, or €6,475 per grant eligible house are available to support the cost of these schemes. Subsidies are made available to private group schemes to offset operational costs.

The Small Public Water and Sewerage Schemes allocation provides funding for minor upgrades to our public schemes. 75% of the cost of works is grant funded, up to a ceiling cost of €472,500. Through these schemes, the quality of drinking water produced and the standard of sewage treatment at a number of treatment plants is improved annually. During the period improvements were carried out on the following schemes:

- Gortahork Water Treatment Works,
- Lettermacaward Water Treatment Works
- Carrick (Malinmore/Malinbeg) scheme.
- The Old Carrick water supply was connected to the Carrick/Teelin supply
- Pollan Link to Muff (Moville).
- Groundwater investigation also took place in the Lagan Desert area.

Also under the Rural Water Programme grants are made available to individual households for water supply (normally wells). The grant covers 75% of the cost up to a maximum of €2,032.

Waste Disposal

The Council has one operational landfill site at Ballynacarrick, Ballintra. This facility is operated under the conditions of a waste licence granted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This site is being expanded and developed to facilitate effective waste management. This

includes new engineered cells, gas collection and flaring equipment, leachate collection and storage facilities, and a waste inspection area.

The total waste disposed of at the landfill in 2003 and 2004 was 19,700 tonnes and 37,950 tonnes, respectively. The increase is due to enforcement activity by the Council preventing cross border movement of waste during 2004.

It is proposed to develop a new landfill site at Meenaboll, Churchill, subject to environmental impact assessment, planning approval and licensing by the EPA.

The Council also continued to monitor its five closed landfill sites in compliance with EPA licence requirements. This involved regular sampling and testing of air emissions, groundwater, surface water and leachate by qualified staff.

Recycling

The Council operates 55 bring banks around the county for recycling glass and cans. Of these sites, 37 also cater for textiles and 4 for paper and plastic. There is one Civic Amenity Site at Carndonagh, which caters for these materials and a range of others, such as electrical goods, waste oils and batteries. The Council, through the Public Services Centres, continued to sell home composters to householders at a subsidised price. A number of private sector companies are also involved in recycling. 12.5% of household waste is recycled.

Regulation

All waste collectors operating in Donegal are required to hold a valid Waste Collection Permit. The Council issued 88 waste collection permits during 2003 and 2004. These included permits for the collection of ordinary household waste as well as contractors who deal with specialist waste types, such as metals, oils and hazardous items.

In addition, any person who operates a waste facility must hold a valid Waste Permit. The Council issued 17 such permits up to the end of 2004. These cover such activities as the temporary storage of waste prior to its transfer for recycling or final disposal. The operation of these sites is closely monitored.

Other regulatory and enforcement activities include the investigation of illegal importation and exportation of waste, illegal dumping, illegal burning, and enforcement of Packaging Regulations, Farm Plastics Regulations and Plastic Bag Levies.

Environmental Education and Awareness

Our Waste Awareness Officer promotes good practices in relation to waste prevention, reduction and recycling, including home composting. An environmental newsletter, entitled "The Greenpiece", was also developed and published in local newspapers on a quarterly basis.

Much of this programme of work is done through links with schools, community groups and businesses in the

county. The Council continued to support and promote the Green-Schools Programme and 20 green flags were flying in Donegal in 2004 with over 80 schools actively working towards the Green Flag.

Clean Up Activities

Throughout the spring and summer, the Council worked in partnership with Community/Tidy Towns groups to clean up their areas. Assistance was given in the form of bags, gloves and refuse skips. These activities supported The Spring Clean Up Campaign run by An Taisce.

The Council deployed two Mobile Litter Units to patrol the county to clear litter from roadsides, picnic areas, beaches and illegal dump sites.

Litter Management

The Council employed 3 full-time Litter Wardens. The wardens enforce the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 and Waste Management Act, 1996. This is in addition to the Traffic/Litter Wardens in Donegal Town, Ballyshannon and Ballybofey/Stranorlar. The wardens' duties include investigation of cases of littering and illegal dumping, which results in the issuing of on-the-spot fines and enforcement notices. Fines for littering issued in 2003 and 2004 was 232 and 249, respectively

Blue Flag Beaches

County Donegal maintained twelve Blue Flag Awards as follows:

Murvagh	Magherawarden (Portsalon)
Lisfannon	Culdaff
Portnoo	Marble Hill
Fintra	Rossnowlagh
Bundoran	Carrickfinn
Killahoey	Shroove

Veterinary Services

Meat Production

The Council continued to provide supervision of the domestic meat supply working under a Service Contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. The County Veterinary Inspector, backed by one full time Veterinary Inspector and five part time Veterinary Inspectors, carried out inspections on all domestic abattoirs in the county. During 2004 the Council took responsibility for the licensing of these premises and at the end of 2004, there were nine

domestic abattoirs licensed to operate in the county. All animals presented for slaughter for human consumption are inspected both before slaughter and before the meat is released onto the market. During 2003 and 2004, 79 and 153 samples were tested respectively to ensure that meat on sale in the county was free from illegal residues and/or contamination.

Milk and Dairies

Donegal County Council vets are responsible for monitoring the standard of all liquid milk production units in the county and continued to assist liquid milk producers to reach the required standards. In 2004 there were 112 farms in the county in this category.

Dog Control

In co-operation with the Irish Society For the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Donegal County Council employs two dog wardens who are active throughout the county checking dog licences and dealing with complaints about stray and dangerous dogs. The dog pound at Glencar, Letterkenny, opened six days a week and handled 1,106 dogs in 2004. 140 of these were re-homed. 27 fines were issued for breaches of the Control of Dogs Act and 5,642 licences were issued.

The Veterinary Section continued to issue advice on the environment generally, and in dealing with the problems associated with the disposal of animal carcasses.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire Service

The Council in its role as Fire Authority for the county continued to provide fire and emergency cover as well as advice on fire prevention and building control. Fire and emergency services is provided by:

- The retained brigades, which have a total complement of 150 that includes Station Officers, Sub Officers, Fire-Fighter / Driver and Fire - Fighters based in 15 locations around the County
- The voluntary brigades on Aran Mor Island and on Tory Island.
- The Northern Ireland Fire Authority, which provides cover in the border areas of the County in the vicinity of Derry City, Strabane and Beleek.

Fire Station Building Programme

Below is the progress of the implementation of the Five Year Fire Station Building Programme in the period of this report:

Fire Station Location	Status at the end of 2004.
Letterkenny	Completed in 2003
Donegal Town	Completed in 2003
Carndonagh	Completed in 2004
Killybegs	Construction substantially complete
Dungloe and Glenties	Awaiting approval to go to tender
Moville	Site available and submission is with the Department for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Official Opening of Fire Stations

Mr. Pat the Cope Gallagher, Minister of State at the Department for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government officially opened the following Fire Stations.

- Fire Brigade Headquarters, Letterkenny on the 23 May 2003.
- Falcarragh Fire Station on the 20 June 2003
- Donegal Town Fire Station on the 24 May 2004.

CAMP (Computer Aided Mobilisation Project)

This is a national initiative to improve emergency response times and reliability, consisting of "call out" from three regional control centres and a "communications system" to each brigade area.

Work on CAMP West, which is located at Castlebar, County Mayo is substantially completed with staff now in position. All calls for assistance in the five counties of Connacht and in Donegal, as well as all Ambulance related calls in the Western Health Board Region, will be routed to CAMP West and the relevant Fire Brigade or Ambulance mobilised from there. Interim arrangements have been put in place with a call centre in Cork to receive and distribute calls for fire brigade assistance until CAMP West comes on line.

Brigades in Mayo, Leitrim and Roscommon have moved into CAMP West and it is anticipated that Donegal will join in 2005.

Fire Service Charges

The scale of charges for fire brigade attendance at incidents remained the same as at the end of 2002.

Long Term Service Awards

The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government issued awards as follows:

For 20 years service to:

- Fire Fighter Joseph Kelly and Fire Fighter Patrick Mulligan Falcarragh Fire Brigade.
- Fire Fighter Louis Bradley and Fire Fighter Ronnie White, Letterkenny Fire Brigade.

For 30 years service to:

- Assistant Chief Fire Officer Robert McMenamin.
- Station Officer James McDermott, Fire Fighter Driver Seamus Harkin and Fire Fighter David McIntyre, Moville Fire Brigade.
- Fire Fighter Driver Eamon Harvey (Deceased), Letterkenny Fire Brigade.
- Fire Fighter Driver Robert Ellis, Donegal Town Fire Brigade.
- Fire Fighter Terence Kane, Ballyshannon Fire Brigade.

Staff Changes

The members of the Fire Service listed below retired from the service since 2002.

- Station Officer PJ Clancy, Bundoran Brigade
- Fire-Fighter Driver Joseph Smith, Killybegs Brigade

Neil Gallagher retired from the Voluntary Fire Service on Aran Mor Island on the 1st October 2003.

Assistant Fire Officer, J. McGinty left to take up a position as Assistant Chief Fire Officer with Roscommon Fire Authority.

We thank them for their services and wish the well for the future.

Tribute to Eamon Harvey

Eamon Harvey died on the 23 January 2004 after a short illness. Eamon joined the Fire Service on the 1 June 1973, was subsequently promoted to Fire Fighter Driver and left the service on the 12 December 2003. To his wife, Carrie and to his immediate and extended family we offer sincere condolences.

Appointments to the Fire Service since 2002.

- Fire Fighter Martin Bond, Letterkenny Brigade
- Fire Fighter Noel O'Hagan, Buncrana Brigade
- Fire Fighter Thomas Hourihane, Bundoran Brigade
- Fire Fighter Ronan Smith, Killybegs Brigade
- Edward Wallace, Dungloe Brigade
- Assistant Fire Officer G. Hamilton, Fire Brigade Headquarters, Letterkenny
- Voluntary Fire Fighter Driver James Sweeney, Aran Mor Island.

Donegal Civil Defence

The Government in its commitment to the future development of the Civil Defence modernized the legislation governing Civil Defence by introducing the Civil Defence Act 2002. This Act provided for the establishment of a new State Authority known as the Civil Defence Board. The board inaugurated in December 2003 will advise the Minister for Defence on management and development issues at national level.

The Civil Defence Act 2002 allows for the Civil Defence Board to develop policy and advise the Minister for Defence on policy issues relating to Civil Defence matters and to propose initiatives in that regard. Donegal developed and adopted policies at a local level as follows:

- Code of Conduct policy in 2003, which has formed part of the framework document for a national policy in 2004.
- Transport Policy for the county in 2004.
- Adopted the 'Dignity at Work' policy drafted by the Donegal Local Authority.
- 3 - Year Development Plan was implemented for the better good and development of the service.
- Drafting of proposals for refurbishment / relocation of Civil Defence Headquarters.

Management

The Council is responsible for delivering Civil Defence services at a local level. The Civil Defence Officer, Ms Edel Wilson manages Civil Defence on a daily basis.

Civil Defence is organised on an electoral area basis with relevant Commanders appointed as follows:

Commander	Area
Danny Coyle	Donegal County Commander
Columba Gallagher	Inishowen
Paddy O'Flanagan	Letterkenny
Cathal Carr	Milford
Paddy Herron	Glenties
Kathleen Callaghan	Donegal
John Quinn	Stranorlar

Membership

All members of Civil Defence nationally are voluntary, and are the cornerstone of Civil Defence. In Co. Donegal, there are 109 active volunteers who undertake training weekly.

Services

The main programme of activities undertaken could broadly be described as:

- First Aid / Casualty.
- Search and Rescue
- Auxiliary Fire Fighting
- Kayaking / Boating Techniques.
- Radiation Monitoring
- Radio Communications
- Welfare Provision

Volunteers assist the main emergency services in dealing with emergency situations and at events attracting large crowds, e.g. Border Trek, North West 10K, Donegal International Rally. The following are examples of emergency responses by the service in the period:

- Supporting Gardaí and others in search and recovery missions. In January 2004 Civil Defence assisted the Gardaí and PSNI in the cross border search for a missing person
- Participated in Exercise 'Drontheim', a Crossborder Emergency Planning Incident.
- Responded to call outs from the Donegal Fire Service to assist in the battling of Gorse Fires.

Competitive Achievements

- Donegal Civil Defence emerged as the outright winners of National Exercise 2003 held in Cavan. The winning team of twelve members was drawn from throughout Donegal and comprised the victorious champions of the county competitions held in August. A reception was held in the Council Chambers, Lifford by Cllr. David Alcorn in recognition of the teams achievement.
- Donegal secured 1st place in the Pat Kennedy Memorial Trophy in Kayaking, held in Leitrim in 2003. The county retained the trophy the following year when the team travelled to Wicklow and Graiguenamanaigh, Co. Kilkenny. With over 19 counties contesting the event, it was regarded as an outstanding performance and achievement when the Donegal team braved the challenges of the River Barrow and secured 1st place in the competition.
- Kayaking – Denis Gallagher, Linda Kiernan & Mary Butler competed in the 9th Interceltic Watersports Festival 2003 and attained 1st, 2nd & 3rd positions respectively.

County Competition / Charlie Faulkner Memorial Cup

In 2003 the first County Competition was held in Donegal since the late 80's. The multi-skilled competition was held in memory of the late Charlie Faulkner on 30 August at Unifi, Letterkenny. Teams drawn from across the county were tested in Communications, First Aid, Rescue and A.F.S. Team A emerged as the overall winners and included Joe Breslin, Danny Mc Connalogue, Paidin Doherty, Carol Lapsley, John Harmon and Fabian Gibson and were led by Linda Kieran.

The Charlie Faulkner Memorial Cup was competed for during the competition and was presented to the individual who throughout the competition had demonstrated skill, initiative, leadership, enthusiasm, and their ability to work as a team player. Denis Gallagher was the proud recipient of the cup.

At the presentation dinner in the Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, the family of the late Charlie Faulkner, were presented with an audio visual "This is Your Life" book in memory of Charlie Faulkner, a dear departed friend and comrade.

Cross Border / Cross Community Support

Members of Donegal Civil Defence welcomed to Donegal the cyclists participating in the joint An Garda Siochanna and Police Service of Northern Ireland charity cycle and provided refreshments and 'rest bite' in the Parochial Hall in Muff.

Community Participation

Donegal Civil Defence for the first time since the early eighties entered a float in the Letterkenny St. Patrick's Day Parade. The float represented the various services of Civil Defence in the county and won first place in the Community section of the parade.

Water, Environment & Emergency SPC Activity Report

The Water, Environment and Emergency Strategic Policy Committee met on 11 March 2003, 17 June 2003, 6 November 2003, 26 January 2003 and 20 April 2004.

In March 2003 the Committee agreed to support The Fairtrade Policy and this was subsequently adopted at a Council meeting in June 2003. The aim of The Fairtrade Project is to help people in the developing world out of poverty by guaranteeing them fair prices for their produce e.g. tea, coffee, chocolate, bananas, fruit juices and sugar.

Other issues discussed were the provision of long leads, policy issues in the Veterinary Service, Flouridation, Water Pricing Policy, and Government funding. Papers were also presented on Special Areas of Conservaion (SAC's), Drinking Water Quality, River Basin Districts, The Environment Fund, Illegal Dumping and The Water Conservation Fund.

The sudden and untimely death of Clr. Jim Sheridan in February 2004 was a great shock and loss to the Committee. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dílis.

Membership

Councillor

Clr. Dessie Larkin (Chair)
 Clr. Sean Campbell (Vice Chair)
 Clr. David Alcorn
 Senator Joe Mc Hugh
 Clr. Jim Sheridan (RIP)
 Clr. Enda Bonner
 Clr. Patrick Mc Gowan

Sectoral

Mr. William Darrell Duncan
 Ms. May Mc Clintock
 Mr. Danny Connolly
 Mr. Ken Wilson

Town

Clr. Mai Kelly (Ballyshannon Town Council)