

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE,
HELD IN LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE, ON TUESDAY, 13TH
MAY 2008.**

LEC 21/08 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

LEC 22/08 **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Eamonn Boyle, Executive Engineer, NRDO
Charlie Cannon, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Aideen Doherty, Area Manager, Community & Enterprise
Stephen Flynn, Area Manager/Senior Executive Engineer, Roads
Jim Hyland, Executive Engineer, WEES
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate Services,
James Kelly, Executive Engineer, WEES
Paul Kelly, Acting Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager, Housing
Vincent Lynn, Divisional Manager/Senior Engineer, Roads
Damien McDermott, Senior Executive Engineer, NRDO
Conall McGettigan, Executive Planner, Planning & Economic Development
Con McLaughlin, Area Manager/Senior Executive Engineer, WEES
Rose Patton, Staff Officer, Corporate Services
Ronnie Sayers, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Declan Sheehan, Public Arts Assistant

APOLOGIES

Cllr Jean Crossan

Cllr Dessie Larkin chaired the meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Committee asked that a letter of congratulations be sent to Minister Mary Coughlan on her recent appointment to the post of Tanaiste.

Congratulations were also extended to Cllr Gerry Crawford on becoming a grandfather.

LEC 23/08 **CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11th MARCH 2008.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Harte and seconded by Cllr. Tony McDaid the Minutes of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 11th March 2008 were agreed.

LEC 24/08 **COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND ENTERPRISE SERVICES**

24.01 **Presentation by Declan Sheehan, Public Arts Assistant on Public Art in the Letterkenny Electoral Area**

Declan Sheehan, Public Arts Assistant made a Presentation to the Committee and circulated copies of “Public Art in Letterkenny E.A.”, which included details on the status of Public Arts Projects in Letterkenny including the “Per Cent for Art” Scheme commissioning the Oatfield Sweet Factory Residency Project in Letterkenny, The Pyrotechnics Public Art Project in Letterkenny and the Heart Public Art Trail Project involving Lifford and Raphoe.

He also advised the Committee that the Nominated Elected Members would be invited to the Public Arts Selection Panels for the “Lovely Weather Residency Project” for each Electoral Area, which was due to take place in the Autumn of 2008. The Public Arts Fund will utilise monies from the Electoral Areas under the “Percent for Housing Scheme” to initiate a series of residencies for artists and scientists to examine on the ground the effect of climate change in Donegal. These residencies will allow for in depth analysis of science, biology and art and will accommodate a series of workshops and educational projects with school children, farmers, fishermen, community groups and the general public.

The Members welcomed the detailed Report but felt that the members nominated to the Public Art Committee previously should have been involved in the selection process.

24.02 **Forest Link**

The Committee were informed that the Forest Link Co-ordinator is currently investigating the development of community woodland areas in Letterkenny. Cllr Dessie Larkin requested that that they contact Ann McHugh, Principle of Errigal College regarding the Community Woodland Scheme.

24.03 **Walking Routes**

The Committee were updated on current projects that Jeremy Smith is working on and Cllr Dessie Larkin asked that Mr Smith contact Charlie

Cannon, Roads Service regarding walking routes at Sallaghgrane, Letterkenny.

24.04 **Donegal Film Commission**

Aideen Doherty advised the Committee that the Film Office had secured production of a film “A Shine of Rainbows” which started shooting on 12th May at Malin Head and will begin shooting for a few days at the beginning of June in the New Building at St Conal’s Hospital. Aideen also stated that they were having problems casting 9 to 12 year old boys.

The Committee suggested that they contact St Eunan’s GAA Club who may be able to assist in this regard.

24.05 **County Childcare Committee**

Aideen Doherty advised the Committee that Maria Gallo has left her post as Manager with DCCC and that Avril Sweeney is replacing her. She also advised that Bridgid Casey is the new Childcare Development Officer with responsibility for Inishowen, Anita Nicholson is the new Support and Information Assistant and Angela Mc Ginty is the new Childcare Advisory Worker.

An up to date Report would be submitted for the July Electoral Area Meeting.

LEC 25/08 **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The committee welcomed Paul Kelly as Acting Area Manager, Planning to the Meeting. Mr Kelly is temporarily replacing Claire Cronin until a permanent Area Manager is appointed.

25.01 **Ard na Mealla, St Johnston**

In an update Report circulated with the Agenda, Paul Kelly advised the Committee that the surface road within the estate was now priority in terms of improvement works to be carried out. The streetlights are now working satisfactorily, and treatment system serving the estate is also operating without difficulty.

The Section dealing with the Take Over of Housing Estates are to revert to Planning Office in due course, steps now to be taken in drawing down outstanding bond to complete the relevant works.

The Committee welcomed this.

25.02 **Fairways, Letterkenny**

Paul Kelly advised the Committee that the site has been inspected and the matter investigated.

In addition to works to be carried out in respect of boundary treatment etc., it has now emerged that additional works remain outstanding and it may be necessary to re-instantiate the entire enforcement file.

25.03 **Raphoe Flooding**

Paul Kelly advised the Committee that the Planning Office would continue to work with the Roads Directorate to follow up, through appropriate enforcement action, sites where non-compliance with planning conditions is contributing to problems with surface water.

However it should be noted that due to staff shortages at present within the Planning Directorate, statutory obligations would take priority but if the Planning Authority are informed of any instances where Planning conditions are not complied with, these will be investigated in due course.

Cllr Tony McDaid raised the issue of damage done to public property by the Developer when installing footpath as part of Planning Conditions and asked who would be responsible.

Mr Kelly, in reply, stated that the onus is on the developer to ensure works are carried out properly, however damage to public property is a civil matter.

Further discussion regarding enforcement would be dealt with in the Planning Workshop following the Electoral Area Meeting.

25.04 **Invalid Applications**

In a report circulated with the Agenda, Paul Kelly advised the Committee that an additional level of internal quality control had been introduced whereby Planners now sign off on the recommendation of the Technicians with regard to the validation process and that planning staff discuss case with the Area Manager where a unique issue arises in relation to validation prior to formal invalidation or validation. It is considered that this is an appropriate and commensurate response to previous concerns in relation to inconsistencies in the validation process, which should significantly reduce the margin for errors.

As management in response to previous validation process concerns had recently introduced the new measures, it is not considered, in the present context of limited planning staff resources, that further investigation into previous validation concerns is necessary. Rather it is suggested that the new arrangements are allowed to mature for a month or two, after which performance could then be reviewed. If problems in relation to inconsistencies in the validation process persist thereafter then perhaps an investigation could be merited at that time, particularly if the reasons behind any inconsistencies remain unclear.

25.05 **Wood Park, Letterkenny**

Cllr Dessie Larkin raised the issue of lack of public lighting at Wood Park and asked that this be resolved as soon as possible.

Cllr Ciaran Brogan asked that the Roads and Planning Service agree a Schedule of Works with Developers in Glencar, Lismonaghan and Lisnenan

areas to ensure all Planning Conditions are complied with and present a Report to the next Electoral Area Meeting.

25.06 **Workshop**

It was agreed that a follow up Workshop be held with Francie Coyle, Director of Services, and Denis Kelly, Acting Senior Planner on 15th July 2008 at 2.00 p.m.

The Committee asked that the Roads Service also attend the Workshop and that a joint response be prepared on planning/roads issues raised regarding Lisnennan, Lismonaghan and Glencar areas.

25.07 **Consideration of Recent Refusals**

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

Cllr Gerry Crawford queried the refusal to ESB regarding erection of a 25 metre high pole at Rossgier and asked whether Council would follow up with An Board Pleanala as to their reasons for refusing the application.

Mr Kelly stated that this would be normal procedure.

25.08 **Unauthorised Development Report**

In a Report circulated with the Agenda, Paul Kelly advised the Committee that presently, within the Letterkenny and Inishowen Electoral Areas the Planning Authority's technical resources for enforcement consist of Mr. Conal McGettigan, Executive Planner and Ms. Catriona Kelly, Enforcement Technician. These limited resources cover enforcement duties not only within the aforesaid two Electoral Areas but are also expected to cover Letterkenny and Buncrana Town Council functional areas.

As a result, enforcement work is severely strained. In response the Planning Authority has re-examined the deployment of staff resources in association with a clear prioritisation of enforcement work, in order to ensure that urgent and critical enforcement matters receive priority attention in the context of a balanced and proportionate level of service to each Electoral Area and Town Council area.

However in this context the Planning Authority does not presently have adequate resources to provide a 'police check' survey on developments in Glencar, Lismonaghan and Lisnennan in order to ensure compliance and conformity with the terms and conditions of planning permission. In this regard it must also be noted, that it is the developers responsibility first and foremost to ensure that development progresses in strict accordance with the approved plans, particulars and conditions of planning permission, and this is a process which is largely self-policing, usually through the certification of compliance process. However as always, where it comes to the attention of the Planning Authority, by third party complaint or other, that a development is unauthorised or otherwise is not proceeding in conformity with the terms and conditions of a permission granted, then the matter will be included within the present schedule of enforcement work, given appropriate prioritisation and investigated in due course.

LEC 26/08 **WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Committee welcomed Con McLaughlin back as Area Manager and thanked Jim Hyland and James Kelly for tremendous work done during his absence.

26.01 **Letterkenny Civic Amenity Site**

In an update report circulated at the Meeting (Appendix 1), Con McLaughlin informed the Committee that the contract is currently in Week 6 of a 26-week construction programme and is scheduled to be completed at the end of October 2008.

The Members welcomed this progress and asked that details of staffing, opening hours and charges etc., be presented at the next Electoral Area Meeting.

26.02 **Letterkenny Boreholes Scheme**

Con Mc Laughlin informed the Committee that the boreholes supply at Ballymacool was brought into service on 24/04/08 and is currently supplying 1.2ml/day to Ard O'Donnell Reservoir where it combines with water from the existing supply and serves an area including the Town Centre, Port Road, Oldtown, Rahan and Lismonaghan. This will be further expanded when the new Rahan Reservoir is commissioned over the coming weeks.

The Committee welcomed the progress to date and Cllr Dessie Larkin asked that the Rahan reservoir be operational as soon as possible to relieve the Glenmaquin scheme, which is fed from the Listillion Reservoir. He also requested that options to improve supply to three houses on high ground at Lismonaghan be explored.

26.03 **Glenwood Park**

The Committee were informed that remedial works had been carried out to the storm sewer in Glenwood Park as a temporary emergency solution to relieve the current problems.

A final permanent solution would require laying a new trunk foul sewer down the Circular Road.

The Members welcomed the progress to date.

26.04 **Business Park Road, Letterkenny**

The Committee were informed that the Council had formally written to the IDA regarding the taking in charge of the foul sewer in the Business Park and a reply was awaited.

26.05 **Tara Court**

Cllr Dessie Larkin asked that Con McLaughlin follow up with Chris Lyons, Director of Services, regarding funding for laying sewer at Tara Court that is preventing the Roads Service from resurfacing the Road.

Stephen Flynn informed the Committee that costings had been prepared by the Roads Department as part of the Strengthening Programme for 2008 and these have been forwarded to WEES. WEES have indicated that they do not wish to proceed with the works at this time.

An update to be circulated to the next meeting of the Committee.

26.06 **Ballyraine**

Cllr Brogan asked that emergency works be done on Ballyraine Road at the Port Bridge to alleviate the flooding problem which has occurred on a number of occasions.

Con McLaughlin stated that they were considering options towards resolving that problem.

26.07 **Group Water Supply Schemes**

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

LEC 27/08 **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

27.01 **Roadwork's Programme for 2008**

Stephen Flynn circulated an update on the Roadworks Programme for 2008 with the Agenda regarding Restoration Improvement Grants, Surface Dressing Programme and the EU Co-Financed Schemes.

The Committee asked that all resurfacing works proposed in and around Letterkenny be completed prior to the Entente Florale competition in July.

27.01.01 **Lifford to St Johnston Road**

Cllr Gerry Crawford raised the issue of Tullyowen Junction, under the EU Co-financed Schemes and asked for clarification if Interreg funding is an option for remainder of the Lifford to St. Johnson road as it is in a serious state of disrepair because of the volume of traffic using it. He also felt that signage should also be erected at the junction.

Stephen Flynn agreed to investigate the matter and revert back to Cllr Crawford.

27.01.02 **Meetinghouse Street and The Diamond, Raphoe**

Cllr Tony McDaid asked that Roads Service follow up with Developer regarding repair and raising the level of the footpath at Meetinghouse St., Raphoe.

Cllr Jimmy Harte asked that the possibility of having traffic calming installed at the Diamond, Raphoe be explored.

27.01.03 **Dunne's Stores/Rosemount**

Cllr Dessie Larkin welcomed the works on the Dunne's Stores to Rosemount Road and asked that the temporary bollards at McDonalds be removed. Charlie Cannon, in reply, stated that these will be removed and a temporary frame installed with floral arrangements put in place until Road Design have advanced a design for the roundabout.

27.02 **National Road Design Office**

27.02.01 **N14 Four Lane Road**

Eamonn Boyle, National Road Design Office, circulated a Report updating the Committee on the proposals for N14 Four Lane Road from Dry Arch Roundabout to the Port Bridge Roundabout. It is proposed to keep the existing cross section and provide a pavement overlay. Options involving change of cross section and provision of a central median have been ruled out in the short term following lengthy discussions on financing with the NRA and issues with regard side road access, specifically realignment of the Cullion Road.

The initial estimated cost of the proposed pavement overlay was €1.5m and the allocation of €50,000 for 2008 only allows for certain areas of pavement, which have failed to be replaced or strengthened. The allocation does not allow for the entire overlay of the N14 Four Lane Road. It is proposed to seek approval to defer commencement of the works to 2009 and to carry out the whole scheme overlay as one project, thus saving on preliminaries and minimising traffic disruption. It is expected that subject to NRA approval the contract documents and tenders will be completed by the end of 2008 and construction will be carried out early in 2009.

Following on from a request at the last EA workshop it was reported that it might be feasible to extend the approach lanes to the Port Bridge Roundabout on the N56 at least as far as the Mount Errigal within current land take. It was agreed that design for pavement and minor improvement works would progress on this section of the N56 under the 2008 design budget and an allocation sought for 2009.

The Members expressed their disappointment at the lack of progress on the provision of a Central Median on this stretch of Road, which has been ongoing since 2005 and stressed the importance of it for safety reasons.

The Committee recommended that this project advance early in 2009 in conjunction with advancement of proposed pavement and lane extension on the N56 Mount Errigal Hotel to the Port Bridge.

27.02.02

N14 Letterkenny to Lifford/Strabane

Eamonn Boyle, National Road Design Office, circulated a Scheme Update Report to the Committee on the N14 Letterkenny to Lifford/Strabane Road. The proposed project involves the design and construction of approximately 19km of New National Primary Road from the Pluck Roundabout at the junction of the N13 and N14 to tie into the recently constructed Strabane Bypass in County Tyrone.

The proposed road type is a Type 2 Dual Carriageway, which is being developed by the National Roads Authority for use in this country. The Type 2 Dual Carriageway, is designed to eliminate the head-on overtaking collisions associated with single carriageway roads. The Type 2 Dual Carriageway system consists of two traffic lanes in each direction to allow continuous safe overtaking in both directions, with opposing traffic streams separated by a safety barrier.

The National Roads Authority has allocated €850,000 for this scheme for 2008. The allocation will allow design work for the scheme to be advanced and also the preparation of the compulsory purchase order.

At present work is currently ongoing by Mott MacDonald Consulting Engineers progressing the Preliminary Design and Environmental Assessments. An additional geotechnical investigation is now complete, and will supplement the original GI Contract, particularly adjacent to structures and also in areas where the mainline has changed such as the Drumoghill area. The preparation of the Compulsory Purchase Order is currently underway and is expected to be complete by July 2008 following a peer review. The publication of the Compulsory Purchase Order and Environmental Impact Statement will take place when approval to proceed with the scheme has been obtained. Subsequent to the publishing it is expected that An Bord Pleanála will convene an Oral Hearing as part of the CPO/ EIS procedures. Subject to a positive decision from An Bord Pleanála and depending on NRA funding Land Acquisition, Archaeological Testing, Design and Tender/Procurement will then take place.

Cllr Gerry Crawford asked for clarification on whether or not it is proposed to close a road at Ballindrait as part of this Project as local residents had raised concerns.

Damian McDermott, NRDO, agreed to refer the query to the design team and revert back to the member. He confirmed that, irrespective of this, such issues would be addressed at the next Public Consultation process.

27.02.03

N56 Letterkenny Inner Relief Road.

Eamonn Boyle, National Road Design Office, circulated a Scheme Update Report to the Committee on the N56 Letterkenny Inner Relief Road. This road is located west of Letterkenny town linking the Dry Arch Roundabout (Junction of the N13/N14) to the N56. The scheme involves the construction of a route mainly through green field sites and includes a major crossing of the River Swilly.

The route selection process is now almost complete; two outstanding issues still remain since the meeting/workshop of the 12th November 2007. It should be noted that the inclusion of these results in the report are unlikely to change the outcome of the emerging preferred route (the blue route). New project appraisal guidelines will have to be implemented before this phase is finalised.

The NRDO contacted the majority of landowners affected by the proposed road in relation to a contribution towards the construction of the road. An overall negative response was received. It is unlikely agreement will be reached with any of these landowners in relation to land.

Expressions of interest have been received from Consultants to prepare A Traffic Model for Letterkenny and are currently being reviewed.

A brief for a Transport and Land Use Study has been prepared and will be issued to short listed Consultants. (Donegal County Council Road Design Department Lifford is leading this work). This work should be complete by February 2009.

A Cost Benefit Analysis (COBA) will have to be carried out when the results of the traffic model are available.

New Project Appraisal Guidelines will have to be complied with in total in order to secure any further funding from the NRA. This work cannot be finalised until a COBA analysis is carried out. It should be noted that even with the completion of this element there is no guarantee of future funding as was evident for the recent Donegal County Council delegation to the NRA.

This year's budget will be spent with a contribution for the Traffic Model and staff costs, which includes for the completion of the land valuation, Project Appraisal Report, reviewed cost estimate and preparing a brief for consultants.

The Committee stressed the importance of progressing this Project.

Cllr Crawford raised the issue of the current status surfacing on the N13 at Tullyrap and of the N14 Ballyholey Junction.

Damian McDermott outlined the following:

N13 Surfacing at Tullyrap

The former Area Manager for Letterkenny EA, Pat Gillespie raised the issue of the N14, adjacent the townland of Tullyrap between the areas of Feddyglass and Mulnaveagh, with the NRDO in Late September/October 2007. The key problem identified were a poor history of accidents near the start of this area, which it was suggested as attributable to poor scrim results. Scrim results were determined to be relatively poor to very poor along a considerable length. Following a further review on site options were discussed. It agreed to include the works in the Pavement and Minor improvement funding applications for 2008. The DNRDO advised that getting the go ahead to proceed with asphaltting at that late stage of the year was not possible. Furthermore the chances of getting the scheme considered in 2008 was slim on the basis of the

number of equivalent schemes already applied for and the projected budget restrictions forecast for 2008.

It was determined that if overlay funding were not forthcoming and as the skid resistance was the primary issue, allowance would be made to surface dress the section in 2008.

Minor improvement scheme grant application form AF1 Form application was issued for the scheme in November 2007. No grant was received for 2008. Currently the Roads Maintenance Section is preparing to carry the surface dressing works.

N14 Ballyholey Junction

A recommendation and full report was issued to the NRA in August 2007 following ongoing discussions on the most appropriate scheme to resolve the safety issues at this location.

The NRA replied to the Council's proposals in October. In refusing approval to proceed they cited budget constraints and also queried the proposed scale and design life of works in light of proposed major new project works proposed specifically the N14 Manorcunningham to Lifford Realignment.

In October 2007 the Council submitted a Minor Improvement Scheme Grant Application Form AF1 to the NRA with a view to proceeding with all or part of Phase 1 as previously proposed. This would include land acquisition, site clearance and groundworks.
No grant was received in 2008.

27.02.04

N2/A5 Project

Stephen Flynn provided an update on the Dublin/Derry route. The Roads Service of Northern Ireland are conducting public consultation in relation to route options and environmental impacts on the A5 and welcome comments on www.a5wtc.com

Damian McDermott confirmed that Mouchel Consultants were appointed by the Roads Service and had commenced preliminary scoping works. The DNRDO have been consistently seeking information and progress updates from the design team through the NRA as financiers. A meeting with Roads Service, Mouchel and the NRA was facilitated last month. Following a briefing and discussion the DNRDO expressed some concern at the lack of consultation to date. The emphasis was on helping the process and ensuring that current major Donegal projects were adequately picked up and adequately connected in any upcoming route evaluation

On the advice of the DNRDO the County Manager had requested that N2/A5 Consultants and Road Service Project Managers to make a presentation to the G.P. Meeting on 9th July. Everyone agreed that the progress was very much welcomed and the emphasis at this stage was to assist the process in any way possible.

The Committee stressed the importance of the N2/A5 Consultants making a presentation to the GP Meeting, such that Councillors views could be expressed.

The Committee thanked NRDO staff for attending the Meeting and asked that they attend the Letterkenny Electoral Area Meetings on a regular basis.

27.03 R 245 Improvements at Cashelshanaghan

Stephen Flynn circulated a copy of "Report to the Milford Electoral Area Committee dated 13th May 2008 on the R245 Improvements at Cashelshanaghan" to the Committee. This report was prepared at the request of the Milford E.A.C. and provided a brief outline of the project, which was now complete, and information on future works envisaged for the route.

27.03 Roads Workshop

It was agreed to hold a Workshop on 15/07/08 at 1.00 p.m. and it was also agreed that Members and Road Design staff should attend to discuss the current status of and priority accorded to the various projects ongoing within Roads Design Office.

27.04 Public Lighting

The Committee welcomed Vincent Lynn to the meeting. Mr Lynn advised the Committee that he was now working on the Public Lighting Programme and sought the approval of the Members for Manorcunningham and Lifford to be included on the Public Lighting Infill Programme for the Letterkenny E.A. He advised that it is proposed to hold a Workshop shortly to discuss these issues.

On the proposal of Cllr Dessie Larkin, seconded by Cllr Gerry Crawford it was agreed to proceed with these areas.

The Committee asked that Lighting Plans be circulated for the Lifford and Manorcunningham areas and also that the status of the Public Lighting Programme previously agreed for St Johnston, Corkey, Porthall, Ballindrait and Raphoe be clarified.

The Members asked that the Council request the ESB to explore the possibility of replacing the steel ESB pole erected in Manorcunningham and also that they be advised if public lights will be erected at the Glebe, Letterkenny.

27.05 Pedestrian Crossing

Cllr. Dessie Larkin requested that the possibility of a Pedestrian Crossing be investigated at the Letterkenny Aura Leisure Centre.

LEC 28/08 HOUSING

The Committee asked that a letter of sympathy issue to the McDaid family, Ard Na Mealla, St Johnston on the recent tragic death of their son.

28.01 Affordable Housing, Letterkenny

In a report circulated with the Agenda, the Committee were informed that letters of offer have issued to 20 successful applicants and further offers will issue shortly in respect of a further 11 applicants. Remaining applications are under consideration and offers will be made on an ongoing basis over the next few months.

28.01.01 Affordable Housing, Manorcunningham

The Committee was advised that a number of offers have issued to the successful applicants and further applications are currently being examined.

28.02 Remedial Works/Regeneration Programme 2007

The Committee were informed that works in the S.I. element of this programme are underway.

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

The Committee welcomed this.

28.03 Central Heating Programme 2008

Patsy Lafferty stated that he hoped to be in a position to proceed to tender stage with these works in the coming month.

28.04 Social Housing

The Committee were informed that the Social Housing Scheme in St Johnston is expected to be completed later in the summer and will comprise a number of affordable units also.

With regard to Social Housing in Letterkenny, Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that four units acquired under Part V would be allocated shortly.

The Committee welcomed this progress.

28.05 Proposed Section 183 - Dwelling at Dromore, Raphoe

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that the above dwelling was purchased and allocated to a family a number of years ago. There were a number of subsequent issues in the locality. After the family vacated the dwelling it was

extensively damaged. Given the significant problems and history associated with the dwelling it is not recommended that the dwelling be re-let.

Mr Lafferty sought the agreement in principle of the Members at this stage that the dwelling be sold in its current condition, and that a detailed Section 183 be presented to full Council in due course. The proceeds of sale will be credited to the Traveller Accommodation Account and used for future purchases. This was agreed.

There was some general discussion in relation to housing traveller families in rural areas.

28.06 **Voluntary Housing Proposal-Letterkenny**

Patsy Lafferty sought approval in principle from Members for a proposal received from Tús Maith Housing Association who propose to acquire 12 apartments at Carnamuggagh Upper, Letterkenny, subject to costs and so forth being agreed and approved by the Department.

The Committee welcomed the proposal, which would cater for single and elderly applicants on the Housing Waiting List. On the proposal of Cllr Dessie Larkin seconded by Cllr Jimmy Harte the Committee recommended that the Council approve this project.

Cllr Tony McDaid asked for an update regarding the proposed new Women's Refuge in Letterkenny, as he understood that a lot of people had been refused accommodation in the present location due to shortage of space.

Patsy Lafferty stated that the Council had agreed to provide a site for the new Refuge on council land at Oldtown, Letterkenny. However as a new Relief Road is planned for that area, Road Design will have to finalise plans before further development can go ahead.

Stephen Flynn agreed to get an update on this proposal.

28.07 **Grant Report**

The Committee considered the Grant Report at 1st May, 2008 that was circulated with the Agenda.

28.08 **Loan Report**

The Committee considered the Loan Report at 01st May, 2008 that was circulated with the Agenda.

28.09 **Casual Vacancy Report**

The Committee considered the Casual Vacancy Report at 30th April, 2008 that was circulated with the Agenda.

LEC 20/08 **DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee on 15th July, 2008, commencing at **9.30 am** in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

Appendix 1

WATER & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

Report to Letterkenny EAC Meeting 13th May 2008

1.0 - consideration of minutes of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee meeting held on 11th March 2008

2.0 – Update reports from previous meeting:

From minutes of previous meeting, using same notation:

17.01 Letterkenny Civic Amenity Site:

The Contract is currently in Week 6 of a 26-week construction program and is on schedule for a projected completion at the end of October 2008.

17.02 Letterkenny WS – Borehole supply at Ballymacool:

The boreholes supply at Ballymacool was brought into service on the morning of Thur. 24th. April. It is presently supplying 1.2ML to Ard O'Donnell Reservoir where it combines with water from the existing supply, and is serving an area including the town centre, Port Road, Oldtown, Rann, Lismonaghan. Its area of supply will be further expanded when the new Rann Reservoir is commissioned over the coming weeks.

17.03 Glenwood Park:

Last month Letterkenny Town Council carried out remedial works to the storm sewer in Glenwood Park. This is a temporary emergency solution to relieve the current problems. A final permanent solution requires laying a new trunk foul sewer down the Circular Road, as reported previously.

17.04 Sewer at Business Park Road

Following meetings with the I.D.A. regarding the taking in charge of the foul sewer in the Business Park, we have formally written to them requesting their agreement, and we await their reply.

3.0 - Progress Reports:

Updated progress reports circulated with agenda, including:

Rural Water Programme:

Group Scheme Programme
Small Capital Programmes

*C.McLaughlin, Senior Executive Engineer,
Water & Environment Service,
13th May 2008*