

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE,  
HELD IN LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE, ON MONDAY, 20TH  
NOVEMBER 2006.**

***LEC 55/06*     MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

***LEC 56/06*     OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Charlie Cannon, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation  
Clare Cronin, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development  
Richard Gibson, Acting CEDO, Community Enterprise & Cultural Services  
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate Services,  
Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager, Housing,  
Linda Mc Cann, Staff Officer, Corporate Services  
Sinead McClafferty, Assistant Planner, Planning & Economic Development  
Con McLaughlin, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency Services,  
Tommy McNulty, Clerk of Works, Housing  
Ronnie Sayers, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation  
Frank Sweeney, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development

**APOLOGIES**

Pat Gillespie, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation,  
Jim Hyland, Executive Engineer, Water, Environment & Emergency Services,  
Liam Edwards, Donegal National Road Design Office

**ALSO PRESENT**

Eileen Burgess, County Library Services  
Damien McDermott, Donegal National Road Design Office  
Paddy McMullin, County Solicitor  
Aidan O'Doherty, Donegal National Road Design Office  
Fergus Towey, Donegal National Road Design Office

Cllr Gerry Crawford chaired the Meeting.

Cllr Gerry Crawford on behalf of the Committee welcomed Clare Cronin, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development to her first Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee meeting.

The Committee also thanked Richard Gibson, Community & Enterprise for all his work for the Committee and wished him well in his new post.

**LEC 57/06 CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Dessie Larkin and seconded by Cllr. Gerry Crawford the Minutes of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2006 were agreed.

**LEC 58/06 HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES**

**58.01 Central Heating Programme 2006 – Croaghan Heights, Lifford**

Cllr. Tony McDaid asked when the Contractor would complete works under this programme in Croaghan Heights. Tommy McNulty informed the meeting that the Contractor was working in this Estate and in an estate in Convoy and had 17 houses completed out of 44 houses.

**58.02 Flooding at Fr. Arnold Terrace, Raphoe**

Tommy McNulty informed the meeting that he had examined the flooding problem in the Fr. Arnold Terrace. He stated that bitmacing had been carried out since the last meeting and gullies were put in place and the problem has been resolved.

The Committee requested that this be monitored on a regular basis.

**58.03 Remedial Works/Regeneration Programme 2007**

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that an application has been prepared for submission to the Department for next years Programme, as agreed at the last meeting. He stated that he would keep the members updated on the Department's decision.

**58.04 Peace Programme 2006**

The Committee were informed that landscaping works had been started at Glendale Drive, Letterkenny and that same would be completed in the New Year when the weather permitted.

Cllr. Dessie Larkin suggested that the Members visit the Estates that had been upgraded see the work that had been carried out under this Programme.

**58.05 Voluntary Housing**

Patsy Lafferty in his report circulated with the Agenda updated the Committee on discussions with the Simon Community in acquiring a number of 1 and 2 bed units of accommodation in Letterkenny and funding being sought under the Capital Schemes available for Voluntary bodies. The report outlined that the units would be specifically to meet the needs of single persons on the housing list in Letterkenny and that any units purchased under this Programme would be additional to units planned under the Council's own Programme. Mr. Lafferty asked for the Committee's approval in principle to proceed and

make application to the Department on behalf of the North West Simon Community, whenever units were identified and assessed and a formal submission received.

Cllr. Jimmy Harte as a member of the North West Simon Community updated the Committee on the work being carried out by the organisation in the North West. He complimented Patsy Lafferty and Patrick McLaughlin on their work with the Simon Community and thanked them. Cllr. Harte suggested that Claire McKernan, who is a member of Simon Community, attend the next Electoral Area Committee Meeting to inform the Members of the work being carried out in the North West.

The Committee welcomed the work being carried out by the Simon Community, complemented everyone involved in this project and approved Patsy Lafferty's recommendation to make application for funding on behalf of the Simon Community when suitable units were identified. They also Members recommended that 2 bed units be purchased for supporting families.

The Committee also requested Patsy Lafferty to contact the Cheshire Homes regarding their plans.

**58.06**            **Grant Report**

The Committee considered the Grant Report at 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 that was circulated with the Agenda.

**58.07**            **Loan Report**

The Committee considered the Loan Report at 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 that was circulated with the Agenda.

**58.08**            **Casual Vacancy Report**

The Committee considered the Casual Vacancy Report at 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 that was circulated with the Agenda.

**58.09**            **Habinteg Housing Scheme, Lifford**

The Committee expressed their appreciation and thanked staff and Members involved in assisting in advancing this housing development in Lifford.

**58.10**            **Emergency Telephone Number**

The Committee requested that consideration be given to the setting up of an emergency telephone number for dealing with emergencies at nights/weekends etc. similar to what is put in place during the Christmas holidays.

***LEC 59/06      PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT***

***59.01      Staff Changes***

Frank Sweeney introduced Clare Cronin, Area Manager, and also advised the Committee that Sharon McMorro, Executive Planner and Ciara Condon, Assistant Planner had also taken up duty in the Letterkenny Office. The Committee welcomed the new staff and paid tribute to Frank Sweeney for his work and commitment as Area Manager in Letterkenny and Inishowen Electoral areas. The Committee wished Frank well in his new post as Area Manager in the Milford and Dungloe Electoral Areas. The Committee also thanked Sinead Mc Clafferty for the work she contributed to the Letterkenny area and wished Sinead well in her new post in the Planning Office in Dungloe Public Services Centre.

***59.02      Ray National School***

Claire Cronin informed the meeting that an inspection of the piping of the roadside drain had shown that the works were carried out in compliance with Planning Permission. She also stated that the Roads Department would carry out improvements to the road to remove hollows.

***59.03      Health Centre, Manorcunningham***

Claire Cronin informed the meeting that as a follow up to a site inspection a number of planning conditions have not been complied with at the Health Centre, i.e. entrance, footpaths, manhole covers, etc. She stated that a Warning Letter would be issued in the coming week. Cllr. Dessie Larkin welcomed this and stated that the footpath was a major concern at the Centre.

***59.04      Ard na Mealla, St Johnston***

The Committee were informed that the Developer had gone into Liquidation and that an estimate for the cost of works to complete internal roads was to be prepared and consideration to be given to funding these works from the Bond that is being retained.

The Committee asked to be informed of any developments, and advised that the site boundary needs to be clarified. They also stated that the whole bond issue needed to be reviewed to ensure that all costs were covered in situations like this.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry Crawford and seconded by Cllr. Dessie Larkin the Committee recommended that an estimate be prepared to carry out all the outstanding work at Ard na Mealla and that consideration be given to funding these works from the Bond and from the Development Contribution Scheme.

***59.05      Cathedral Hill, Raphoe***

Cllr. Tony McDaid asked the Planning Department to address the outstanding issues in relation to the above Estate prior to granting Planning Permission for further houses in this Estate.

He stated that the residents are concerned about the access road, public lighting and water shortages as highlighted by the Deputation to a previous Electoral Area meeting.

Cllr Gerry Crawford asked for an update on the issues raised by the Deputation and requested that a response be issued with copies to the Members.

Frank Sweeney stated that following the Deputation the he had met with the Developer and was given an undertaking that the issues raised would be addressed. He stated that conditions would be included as part of the new planning permission to construct a reservoir and upgrade the pumping station. Mr. Sweeney informed the meeting that the current application was due for decision and that the issues raised would be dealt with under this application.

**59.06**                    **Consideration of Recent Refusals**

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

The Committee requested that consideration be given to lifting the prohibition in development at Drumardagh in conjunction with the works to be carried out at the Trimeragh Junction.

**59.07**                    **Planning Statistics**

The Committee considered the report on Planning Statistics circulated with the Agenda.

The Committee requested clarification on Enforcement Statistics at the next meeting.

**59.08**                    **Disposal of Storm water**

The Committee recommended that Planning Conditions in relation to the disposal of storm water are checked to ensure that storm water is not being disposed to the sewers.

**59.09**                    **Planning Policy UB 1**

The Committee requested clarification on Planning Policy UB 1 relating to Urban Generated Rural Housing. Clare Cronin agreed to report to the next meeting on this matter.

**59.10**                    **Highland View, Letterkenny**

The Committee recommended that the Council follow up with non-compliance of Planning Conditions at Highland View.

***LEC 60/06     WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES***

The Committee considered the Progress Report dated 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006 that was circulated at the meeting (Appendix 1)

***60.01           Lough Greenan***

Con McLaughlin stated, in his report presented at the Meeting, that the appointment of the contractor (McMenamin Bros) was currently being finalised and it was anticipated that works would commence in January 2007.

Cllr Dessie Larkin requested clarification if additional storage capacity was being provided.

The Committee welcomed this progress.

***60.02           Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme***

Con McLaughlin stated, in his report presented at the Meeting, noted the proposed combining of Letterkenny and Gweedore Sewerage Schemes as one contract, and how the Water Services Capital Section is shortly to submit a procurement strategy to the Department with a view to de-coupling Letterkenny & Gweedore Sewerage Schemes. He reported that the concerns voiced by the European Commission about lack of progress on the Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme may have a bearing in this regard.

Cllr. Dessie Larkin expressed concern regarding the existing plant, which was unable to deal with current demands and storm water.

***60.02.01       Disposal of Storm Water***

Cllr. Larkin asked that CCTV system be used to investigate the source of storm water problems and to alleviate flooding problems in Carnamuggagh and Ashfield area.

***60.03           Capital Programmes - Procedures for Updating***

Con McLaughlin advised the Committee that Quarterly Progress Reports would continue to be presented to the full Council Meetings.

***60.04           Group Water Schemes***

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

***60.05           Lagan WSS Phase 3***

Cllr Dessie Larkin requested an update report on the Lagan WSS Phase 3 with regards to pricing policy and on tendering.

60.06

Coolatee S.S.

Cllr Crawford asked that contact is made with the Developer interested in joint proposal to upgrade Coolatee Sewerage Scheme.

60.07

Cathedral Hill, Raphoe

Cllr Tony McDaid raised the concerns of the residents of Cathedral Hill, Raphoe in relation to the water supply. Con McLaughlin stated that the Council is working with the developer in relation to upgrading the existing pump to make it automatic. It was also noted that any future development on that site will depend on pumping arrangement being upgraded and reservoir storage provided.

LEC 61/06

COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND ENTERPRISE SERVICES

61.01

Tourism Funding of €14,000

The Committee requested clarification on when the tourism funding of €14,000 approved for Lifford at a previous LEAC meeting would be spent.

61.02

Environmental Improvement Works

Richard Gibson informed the meeting that contact had been made with the Lifford Tidy Towns Committee to assess the scope of works to be carried out under the HEART Project. He stated that the Environmental Improvement Works to be carried out under the HEART project can reach a value of circa €65,000.00 – €49,000.00 funded by HEART to be match funded by the Council to a value of €16,000.00. It is hoped with the cooperation of Roads Section and the NRA, this money can be spent on the roundabout.

Mr. Gibson told the meeting that Lifford could also benefit from complementary works to be carried out by Planning & Economic Development through PEACE Funds secured from the Council's Task Force. He said PEACE funds are available to produce a Local Area Plan for the town and there's also a figure of €38,000.00 for further Environmental Improvement Works – it is understood that it is proposed to carry out works in the vicinity of the roundabout – Liar's Corner, Simms Corner & that general area with this funding. Mr. Gibson said a meeting is due to take place between C&E and Roads section within the coming weeks to iron out the details of these works and to ensure complementarity for the different sources of funding available.

The Committee recommended that a plan be prepared for the works to be carried out in vicinity of Lifford Roundabout being funded by HEART, Peace II and Roads/NRA and that the works be advanced.

Cllr. Dessie Larkin asked that Bus Eireann be contacted in relation to the condition of the bus stop and that the Hospital should be contacted to improve their entrance.

**61.03**      **Public Art**

Mr. Gibson informed the Committee that €27,000.00 available under HEART for a piece of public art. He stated that the value of the funding is €20,000.00 from the HEART Project match funded by a minimum of €7,000.00 from Council funds – most likely through the Percentage for Arts Scheme.

**61.04**      **Shop Front Scheme**

Mr. Gibson informed the meeting that expressions of interest from businesses in Lifford are being accepted for funding under this scheme. He said this Scheme would see the rejuvenation of a number of shop fronts in Lifford. Shop owners would contribute 60% of costs and the HEART project would pay 40%. Mr. Gibson circulated a copy of the Expression of Interest form with the agenda. He stated that a good response received from Raphoe businesses – and he was keen to get businesses in Lifford to apply.

**61.05**      **Public Art Working Forum**

The Committee recommended that the Chairman of the day represent the LEAC on the Public Art Selection Panel.

The Committee also requested clarification on the make up of the Public Art Working Group.

**61.06**      **Ballindrait Bridge – erection of a plaque**

Mr. Richard Gibson informed the meeting that on the request of Cllr. Gerry Crawford the Cultural Services Division is researching an appropriate plaque at Ballindrait Bridge in recognition of its significance in relation to the Flight of the Earls. Mr. Gibson stated that Aideen Doherty would update the Committee on this.

**61.07**      **Flight of the Earls**

Richard Gibson informed the meeting that he will be replacing Sally Murphy on this project. Mr. Gibson outlined the main tasks associated with the Flight of the Earls for 2007; ensuring quality programme of events to attract visitors; ensuring a unified and combined approach on branding with partner organisations, festival committees, etc.; and ensuring that all funding opportunities are availed of, i.e., Interreg, IFI and Office of An Taoiseach.

**61.08**      **Youth Council Elections**

The Committee considered the report from Paddy Hannigan, Youth Coordinator which was circulated with the Agenda. The Committee congratulated the Youth Councillors on their elections and thanked Paddy Hannigan for his report and all the staff involved in making the Youth Elections a success.

**61.09**      **Taobh Tire Project**

The Committee considered the report on the Taobh Tire project, which was circulated with the Agenda.

**61.10**      **Letterkenny Development Officer**

Richard Gibson informed the meeting the Mr. Kieran Martin was appointed Letterkenny Development Officer and commenced work with Letterkenny Town Council today.

**61.11**      **Cultural Services Strategic Plan**

Richard Gibson introduced Eileen Burgess, County Librarian, to the meeting. Eileen Burgess advised the Committee that the Council is preparing a new Strategic Plan for it's Cultural Service Division which includes Library Service, Countywide Arts Service, Regional Cultural Centre, Public Art, Museum Service, Archives Service and Heritage Service. She also circulated and gave a short presentation on the Draft Strategic Plan, in which she outlined the goals and objectives of the Plan.

Eileen Burgess also informed the meeting that the Draft Strategic Plan would be published in March, 2007, however, prior to the publication, public consultation meetings would take place in each of the Public Services Centres commencing on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2006. Consultation Workshops would be held with Members in February, 2007. Also, any contributions/submissions would be most welcome.

The Committee requested that consideration be given to holding a consultation Meeting in Lifford.

**LEC 62/06**      **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

**62.01**      **Report on Roads Workshop held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

On the proposal of Cllr Dessie Larkin, seconded by Cllr Gerry Crawford, the Committee agreed the Report on the Roads Workshop held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

**62.02**      **N56 Mountain Top to Illistrin Road Realignment - Phase 1**

The Committee considered the Progress Report dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2006 prepared by Liam Edwards, Senior Resident Engineer that was circulated with the Agenda.

Damien McDermott informed the meeting that land deals for Phase II currently in arbitration would be finalised after Christmas. He introduced Fergus Towey who would be supervising Phase II for Donegal County

Council and it is anticipated this would commence early January and continue for a two year period.

The Committee welcomed Fergus Towey and thanked Liam Edwards for all his work on Phase I of this project.

The Committee also thank Charlie Cannon and his staff for the work carried out from the Hospital to the Roundabout as a result of €500,000 becoming available and for carrying out the work at night.

**62.03**      **N13 Dual Carriageway - Dry Arch Roundabout to Pluck Roundabout**

The Committee considered the Progress Report circulated with the Agenda on the N13 Dual Carriageway – Dry Arch Roundabout Pavement Strengthening and Safety Barrier work. The work commenced on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006 and was due to be completed within the 10-week construction period.

The Committee requested that consideration be given to extending the Safety Barrier at Pluck.

**62.04**      **Lifford to Stranorlar**

The Committee was updated on the current position with regards to the Lifford/Stranorlar Road and noted that an Information Day was due to take place on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

**62.05**      **Trimragh Junction Options**

Aidan O Doherty, Donegal NRDO advised the Committee that advice had been obtained from VP McMullin, the Councils Solicitors as to the correct procedure that should be followed to introduce any change to the junction. A report on the junction is being prepared and is due to be completed in next four weeks. The decision to close the junction is an Executive decision not a Reserve decision.

It is intended to consult with the members and the public before any decisions are made.

The following works are proposed:

- Immediate Works
- Interim Proposals to be carried out in 2007
- Long Term Proposals

It was agreed that the report on the Trimeragh Junction would be released to members before Christmas and that a Workshop would be held early in 2007.

**62.06**      **Lifford**

The Committee requested that trees blown down in the vicinity of Lifford roundabout be removed and that the upgrading of the entrance to Lifford Hospital be investigated to be included in works to be carried out in Lifford.

The Committee also recommended that Bus Eireann be contacted regarding the upgrading of the Bus Shelter at Lifford.

**62.07**      **Emergency Telephone Number**

The Committee recommended that consideration be given to the setting up of a Roads Emergency Telephone Number to deal with emergency situation that occur at night/weekends etc e.g. flooding.

**62.08**      **Flooding**

The Committee recommended that Storm Drainage systems be inspected and cleaned where necessary to prevent flooding and that consideration be given to introducing an ongoing programme of storm drains/gully cleaning.

**62.09**      **Roads Workshops on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2006**

The Committee agreed to hold a Roads Workshops on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2006 at 3.00 p.m. to consider the other items on the Agenda due to the unavailability of the Area Manager.

**62.10**      **Ray N.S.**

The Committee recommended that that consideration be given to upgrading the roads in the vicinity of Ray N.S. to address surface water issues.

**LEC 65/06**      **DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2007, commencing at **9.30 am** in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

## Appendix 1

### WATER & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

#### **Report to Letterkenny EAC Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

**AGENDA Item no.1 - consideration of minutes of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2006**

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

From minutes of previous meeting 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2006, using same notation:

**51.01 Lough Greenan:**

Water Services Capital Section has advised that the appointment of the Contractor (McMenamin Bros) is currently being finalised. It is anticipated that construction works will commence in January 2007.

**51.02 Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme**

In the matter of Letterkenny and Gweedore sewerage schemes being bundled as one contract, I am advised that Water Services Capital Section is shortly to submit a procurement strategy to the Department with a view to de-coupling Letterkenny and Gweedore Sewerage Schemes. The concerns voiced by the European Commission about lack of progress on the Letterkenny SS may have a bearing in that regard.

**51.04 Capital Programmes-procedure for updating:**

The Quarterly Reports will continue to be presented to full Council Meetings, which is the appropriate forum to discuss the capital schemes. The Council have recently requested that a full day be allocated to the Capital Programmes for all Services. Copying / rewriting reports to EA meetings may be counter productive, deflecting staff from time required in advancing schemes which is more desirable.

*AGENDA Items no. 3- Progress Reports:*

Updated progress reports circulated with agenda, including:

**Rural Water Programme:**

Group Scheme Programme

Small Capital Programmes

*C.McLaughlin, Senior Executive Engineer,  
Area Manager, Water & Environment Service,  
20<sup>th</sup> November 2006*