

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE,
HELD IN LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE, ON TUESDAY, 30TH
JANUARY 2007.**

***LEC 01/07* MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

***LEC 02/07* OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Aideen Doherty, CEDO, Community Enterprise & Cultural Services
Clare Cronin, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Pat Gillespie, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation,
Jim Hyland, Executive Engineer, Water, Environment & Emergency Services,
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate Services,
Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager, Housing,
Linda Mc Cann, Staff Officer, Corporate Services
Con McLaughlin, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency Services,
Sharon McMorran, Enforcement Officer, Planning & Economic Development
Tommy McNulty, Clerk of Works, Housing

ALSO PRESENT

Brendan Boyle, Donegal National Road Design Office
Karen Hartin, Donegal National Road Design Office
Aidan O'Doherty, Donegal National Road Design Office
Fergus Towey, Donegal National Road Design Office

Paddy Hannigan, Donegal Youth Council
Michael Dowling, Donegal Youth Council
Méabh Kinsella, Donegal Youth Council
April Robinson, Donegal Youth Council

Fitz Howard, Facilities Management
Martin Barrett, Ainsford Contractors

Cllr Gerry Crawford chaired the Meeting.

***LEC 03/07* CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF LETTERKENNY
ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18th
SEPTEMBER 2006.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Dessie Larkin and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
the Minutes of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 20th
November 2006 were agreed.

LEC 04/07 **WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Committee considered the Progress Report dated 30th January 2007 that was circulated at the meeting (Appendix 1). .

04.01 **Lough Greenan**

Con McLaughlin stated, in his report presented at the Meeting, that it was expected that construction works would commence within a month and that water would get into the system by the end of the year.

04.02 **Lagan WS Phase 3**

Con McLaughlin stated, in his report presented at the Meeting, that the tenders received for Phase 3 are being evaluated by the Council's Consultants. He also stated that the DEHLG are also evaluating the water pricing implications and a construction stage budget is being prepared by Donegal County Council based on tender prices for submission to the DEHLG.

Cllr. Gerry Crawford asked for assurances that this Scheme was ready to proceed. Con McLaughlin reminded the meeting that DCC are keen to see this scheme proceed and that there should be no delays at this end

04.03 **Coolatee S.S.**

Con McLaughlin noted in his report to the meeting, that details of the private Developer interested in a joint proposal to upgrade Coolatee Sewerage Scheme has been forwarded to the Water Services Design Office for consideration.

04.04 **Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme**

Con McLaughlin in his report presented at the Meeting, stated that confirmation had been received in December 2006 that this scheme should be de-coupled from Gweedore Sewerage Schemes. He reported that the Council are presently finalising tender documents.

04.05 **Glenwood Park, Letterkenny**

Cllr. Dessie Larkin and Cllr. Ciaran Brogan asked that Donegal County Council work with Letterkenny Town Council on a sewage /stormwater issue in the Glenwood Estate so that this problem can be resolved. Con McLaughlin stated that the Council has used CCTV and pressure cleaning of the drains, which allowed construction debris to be removed. He also noted works done with developers to remove storm water from the foul system, which should help alleviate the storm water overflow in Glenwood Park. He noted also capital works identified which would intercept some of the loading in this area, which is being considered.

04.06 **Glenmaquinn Group Water Scheme**

Cllr. Dessie Larkin asked what steps needed to be taken to extend this Scheme to include a further 20 houses. Con McLaughlin agreed to examine the matter and update the Members on the outcome.

04.07 **Letterkenny Boreholes Scheme**

Cllr. Dessie Larkin asked when the Letterkenny Boreholes Scheme would commence. Con McLaughlin in response, noted that the advise from the Capital Design Office is that works are due to start in March 2007.

04.08 **Workshop on Lifford Local Area Plan**

Cllr. Gerry Crawford and Cllr. Tony McDaid expressed their disappointment at the lack of representation from the Water Environment Emergency Services at the Workshop held to discuss the Lifford Local Area Plan.

Con McLaughlin stated that he couldn't personally attend the Workshop, and apologised for no one from the Water Environment Emergency Service being there. However, prior to the meeting updates had been given to the Central Planning Unit and he agreed to follow up with the Capital Design Team on this matter.

04.09 **Water Interruptions St. Johnston**

Cllr. Tony McDaid expressed concern that despite complaints regarding water interruptions by resident in St. Johnston the Water Services upon investigations is unable to find the source of the problem. Cllr. Gerry Crawford stated that he also had representations from residents of St. Johnston with similar complaints and suggested that when bursts occur in surrounding areas that residents should be informed that it may affect them.

Con McLaughlin stated that the Water Services pride themselves in getting to the bottom of issues and work closely with the public. He referred to recent burst on the inter-connector supplying that area from the Fullerton Pollan Dam and how an alternative service was arranged in the interim from Derry system. He asked that the Members forward details of any residual issues to him for investigation.

04.10 **Water Services Workshop**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan seconded by Cllr. Tony McDaid it was agreed that a further Workshop be held on the Letterkenny Water Supply and Sewerage Scheme for Members of the Letterkenny Electoral Area and Letterkenny Town Council.

04.11 **Rareagh Group Water Supply Scheme**

The Committee enquired regarding the status of the Rareagh Group Water Supply Scheme. In response Con McLaughlin reminded the meeting that the Group must drive this, he referred to correspondence issued by DCC to the

group last February outlining the status, i.e. affordable now in the context of DCC work at south Letterkenny. He also noted that Pauric McGeehan, Group Schemes had met with the group designer to advise further.

04.13 **Metering Project**

Cllr. Dessie Larkin asked if all non-domestic premises were metered and at what stage this project was. Con McLaughlin stated that the appointed Contractor has started this project and meter installation is ongoing throughout the county. He agreed to have an update for Members at the next Electoral Area meeting.

04.14 **Group Water Supply Schemes**

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

04.15 **Small Capital Schemes**

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

LEC 05/07 **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

05.01 **Disposal of Storm Water**

Claire Cronin, in her report circulated at the meeting, stated that conditions in relation to the disposal of surface/storm water are specific to each individual development and in the absence of individual site inspections of each development it is not possible to state that all conditions are being complied with. She stated that in the event of a particular development is thought to be in breach of such condition this can be investigated and appropriate action taken.

05.02 **Planning Policy UB 1**

Following the request of the Committee Ms. Cronin, in her report circulated at the meeting, reported that the Policy UB1 in the County Development Plan 2006-2012 seeks to direct development driven by urban pressures into existing towns and villages. In order to ensure that these towns and villages (i.e. areas within control points) have the necessary infrastructure to accommodate such growth, the Development Plan requires that applicants for multiple developments within such centres demonstrate how they contribute to the long-term provision of services and infrastructure within the control point. Inter-directorate discussions are continuing at present that will provide a strategy for the delivery of services and infrastructure to these centres. Ms. Cronin agreed to update the Members at the next Electoral Area meeting on progress made.

Cllr. Dessie Larkin asked that Dromoghill be highlighted as a settlement area under Policy UB1 and asked that a Local Area Plan be prepared for this area.

Claire Cronin agreed to liaise with the Central Planning Unit to bring this forward in the Scheme of Priorities.

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan asked if all agreed changes following the workshops with the members in respect of the County Development Plan have been brought to the attention of the Planning staff. Claire Cronin confirmed that they were.

Clare Cronin also advised in relation to UB1 Policy that Inter Directorate discussions are ongoing in order to identify an infrastructural strategy for the relevant towns and villages within the Urban Generated Rural Housing Area.

05.03 **Health Centre, Manorcunningham**

Claire Cronin, in her report circulated at the meeting, stated that a Warning Letter had been served but no response had been received by the Planning Authority. This case is now with the Executive Planner with the responsibility for Enforcement for review and action. Ms. Cronin stated that action could be taken within 12 weeks of the Warning Letter being issued.

Cllr. Dessie Larkin welcomed the follow up made by the Planning Office and asked that the Health Centre be forced to address the outstanding issues.

05.04 **Highland View, Letterkenny**

Claire Cronin, in her report circulated at the meeting, stated that a Warning Letter had issued in relation to this development however no response was received. Ms. Cronin reported that the case had been reviewed and appropriate action will now be taken.

05.05 **Cathedral Hill, Raphoe**

Claire Cronin, in her report circulated at the meeting, stated that the final grant of permission on the recent application for an additional phase of development issued on 22nd January 2007. The commencement of development on this new phase is tied by condition to the completion of works associated with the parent application. Ms. Cronin stated that having regard to the planning history on the overall site, the Planning Authority will maintain a watching brief over the coming months.

Cllr. Tony McDaid stated that the granting of permission for a further phase of development was an issue with the residents in Cathedral Hill. He asked if matters had improved in this Estate. Cllr McDaid asked that the access road at the rear of the existing development is authorised as part of the permission granted.

Claire Cronin emphasised the importance of a watching brief on this application considering the history of the application.

05.06 **Ard na Mealla, St Johnston**

Claire Cronin, in her report circulated at the meeting, stated that while costings for the completion of roads related works have been established, information

on the cost of completing boundary treatment and landscaping remains outstanding. The request for a costing of these works was made in November and is currently being followed up by the Executive Planner for Enforcement. When an overall cost is identified, discussions in relation to the release of the bond to part-fund these works and/or the availability of the DCS to offset the balance can be explored.

Cllr. Gerry Crawford welcomed the progress on this ongoing matter. He asked that the lighting issue be addressed as soon as possible and asked that definitive answers be available at the next Electoral Area meeting.

05.07 **Enforcement Statistics**

Claire Cronin, in her report circulated at the meeting, stated that at present, the enforcement statistics presented cover all cases in the system from 2002. It is accepted that does not provide an accurate picture of the number of cases that are being actively pursued by the Council. She stated that a new member of staff is due to commence work on February 5th who will assist in reviewing and prioritising cases, which, it is anticipated, will provide a clearer picture of ongoing enforcement.

Cllr. Dessie Larkin welcomed the Enforcement Team to the Letterkenny Electoral area and asked if enforcement issues in the Letterkenny Town Council area would be addressed by this team. Claire Cronin stated that this is envisaged to happen over the coming months.

Cllr. Dessie Larkin asked if the statistics had changed in light of the new Development Plan. Clare Cronin stated that the demand in applications was still increasing and agreed to present more comparative details for Letterkenny at the next Electoral Area meeting.

05.08 **Drumardagh / Trimeragh Junction**

Claire Cronin, in her report circulated at the meeting, stated that in policy terms, this area falls within the Urban Generated Rural Housing Area. Development in this area can be considered in accordance and subject to normal planning considerations (including the advice of the Roads Engineer, etc).

05.09 **Planners Availability to Queries**

Cllr. Dessie Larkin asked that the proposals for Planning Staff being more available to meet the public and Members be presented at the next Electoral Area Meeting.

05.10 **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.

LEC 06/07 COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND ENTERPRISE SERVICES

06.01 Donegal Youth Council

Cllr Gerry Crawford on behalf of the Committee welcomed Paddy Hannigan, Donegal Youth Council Co-Ordinator, Michael Dowling, Méabh Kinsella, and April Robinson, Donegal Youth Councillors to the meeting.

Méabh Kinsella, Chairperson, of Donegal Youth Council thanked the Members for their support to date and introduced April Robinson, Vice Chairperson and Michael Dowling, Committee Member.

Méabh Kinsella and April Robinson, in their report circulated at the meeting, introduced the new elected Youth Council Members and outlined the Letterkenny Youth Council's Six Monthly Work Plan from January – June 2007: -

- Getting a venue for the rehearsal of performing arts
- Promotion of positive sexual health in an understanding and non awkward environment
- Reasonable student rates in the new Leisure Centre
- Publicity for the Youth Council
- Becoming included in organisations dealing with youth issues
- Bus Shelters and bicycle racks outside schools.
- Try to get more sports facilities and to upgrade the current facilities
- Work on ID/Discount/Scholar card for 12 to 18 year olds
- Attending Council meetings
- Look at how they can be involved with the Flight of the Earls Commemoration
- Hold meetings with candidates in the General Election 2007 on youth issues

Ms. Kinsella stated that Youth Council wished to get more publicity in local radio and media so that young people know how to contact them for support.

Cllr. Dessie Larkin congratulated the Members on their success in the Youth elections. He stated that the new Regional Cultural Centre and Sports Complex including the Skateboard Park are all venues that the youth should be encouraged to use. Cllr. Larkin asked that the Youth Council express their concerns/views on the Letterkenny & Environs Development Plan in relation to their issues regarding bus shelters, bicycle racks/routes outside schools and throughout the town.

Cllr. Tony McDaid congratulated the Youth Councillors on their success and agreed that the local press and radio should support the Youth Councillors in highlighting their issues. He asked what the Youth Council highlight the issues regarding Age of Consent and ASBO's and how they effect young

people and their rights. Cllr. McDaid suggested that the Councillors contact Sean O'Longain, VEC to get support and get involved in the community based youth projects currently running in line with the new Youth Act 2007.

Cllr. Jimmy Harte congratulated the Members and asked that the Youth Council get involved in promoting sport and open up discussion on the issue of mental health in young people. Cllr. Harte concurred with Cllr. McDaid on the issue of ASBO's and asked that the Youth Council look at promoting more awareness on the issue of road safety, as the highest rate of accidents is the 18-27 year old age group and it was important that the Council got involved in highlighting these issues. Cllr. Harte suggested e-mailing the local press with topical issues and getting in touch with the Letterkenny Community Radio Steering Group. Cllr. Harte agreed to forward details to the Youth Council representatives on links to the Inishowen Community Radio.

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan welcomed the Youth Councillors to the meeting and congratulated them on their election. Cllr. Brogan concurred with the issues raised by Councillors and said the Youth Council has a valued contribution to make and looked forward to working with them on issues like road safety, leisure and arts issues. Cllr. Brogan told the Councillors that the new facilities in Letterkenny are for the youth of the area and encouraged them to use and promote these facilities.

Paddy Hannigan informed the meeting that the Youth Councillors have had a lot of induction meetings to learn the structure of Donegal County Council and how they can be more involved in this. He stated the Youth Council has seats on the Road Safety Group.

06.02 Playgrounds

Ms. Aideen Doherty informed the meeting that it is proposed to create an additional five play areas in the county before June 2007 and a further 6 in the later part of the year. She stated that Glenwood Park Play Area tenders are currently being assessed and that Lifford is looking for a suitable site at present.

06.03 Letterkenny Development Officer

Aideen Doherty welcomed the appointment of Ciaran Martin as Letterkenny Development Officer with the Letterkenny Town Council.

Cllr. Dessie Larkin and Cllr. Ciaran Brogan asked that Ciaran Martin would investigate funding options for the development of the old Letterkenny Town Council Offices site for the Donegal Youth Services in Letterkenny. Cllr. Larkin also asked for an update on the Ballyboe site for the next meeting.

06.04 County Childcare Committee Report

Aideen Doherty mentioned the County Childcare Report and Mission Statement prepared by Maria Gallo, Manager, Donegal County Childcare Committee circulated with the Agenda. This report outlined work carried out by the Committee during 2006.

Cllr. Tony McDaid asked that the Committee invite Maria Gallo to next Electoral Area meeting, as there are a number of issues facing Childcare and would be beneficial to Members.

06.05 **Arts Grants**

Aideen Doherty, in her report circulated with the Agenda, informed the meeting that the Donegal County Council Scheme of Arts Grants 2007 had been advertised in the local press and the closing date for receipt of completed applications is 4.30 pm on Monday, 19th February.

06.06 **Public Art Programme**

Aideen Doherty, in her report circulated with the Agenda, gave a brief on the Public Art Programme under the HEART Project.

06.07 **Public Art Working Forum**

Aideen Doherty, referred to a letter circulated with the Agenda from Terre Duffy, Public Art Manager, seeking nominations of one elected member from each of the 6 electoral areas to take part in the Public Art Selection Panel.

On the proposal of Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Gerry Crawford the Committee recommended that Cllr. Dessie Larkin represent the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee on the Public Art Selection Panel.

06.08 **Rehab – Donegal People of the Year Awards 2006**

Aideen Doherty informed the meeting that the closing date for receipt of nominations was Monday, 5th February, 2007. The Awards ceremony will be held on Saturday, 31st March 2007 in the Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny.

06.09 **Flight of the Earls**

The Committee congratulated the work carried out to date on this project and the coverage given by BBC.

06.10 **Environmental Improvement Works – HEART Project**

Cllr. Tony McDaid asked that Kevin Wilson attend an Electoral Area Meeting to update the Committee on works carried out under the HEART Project.

Cllr. Tony McDaid asked that a further consultation be held in Lifford so that efforts can be made to promote the Lifford Tidy Towns Committee and inform residents on issues regarding the roundabout.

Cllr. Gerry Crawford asked that contact be made with Margaret Giblin to explore if funding can be secured through the Arts grants to assist Margaret in publishing her book on the history of Lifford.

06.11 **Review of Local Development Fund**

The Members asked that the criteria for the review of the Local Development Fund be forwarded to them. Aideen Doherty asked that the Members contact her regarding any particular issues and she would update Members at the March Electoral Area meeting.

06.12 **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.

06.13 **Regional Cultural Centre**

Cllr. Dessie Larkin asked for clarity on the management structure and funding proposed for the new Regional Cultural Centre. Cllr. Dessie Larkin also asked that the Letterkenny Town Council be informed of the proposed funding and management structure.

LEC 07/07 **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

07.01 **Minutes of Special Roads Meeting held on 4th December, 2006**

On the proposal of Cllr Dessie Larkin, seconded by Cllr Gerry Crawford, the Committee agreed on the Minutes of the Special Roads Meeting held on 4th December 2006.

07.02 **Dunnes to Sallaghgrane Road Link**

Pat Gillespie informed the meeting that the Road Design Office are currently examining different options and funding available for each option. He stated that Mr. Michael McGarvey would attend the Roads Workshop to be held on 26th February to discuss these options with the Members.

07.03 **Public Lighting Infill and Extension Update**

Pat Gillespie, in his report circulated with the Agenda, updated the Committee on public lighting installation under the 2006 Programme.

Cllr. Tony McDaid welcomed the provision of 3 lights on existing poles to Beechwood Grove, Lifford.

07.04 **Trimeragh Junction Options**

Pat Gillespie informed the Committee that it was proposed to go to public consultation with the proposed new layout options at Trimeragh Junction before the end of February.

The Committee welcomed the public consultation on the proposals for the Trimeragh Junction. The Committee stressed the dangers of this junction and

the ultimate concern is safety and urged residents in the area to bring their concerns and issues to the public consultation.

07.05 **N56 Mountain Top to Illistrin Road Realignment – Phase II**

Pat Gillespie informed the Committee that earthworks had commenced on the Mountain Top to Calhame Road and a new speed limit of 60 kph had been imposed for the safety of all road users. He also stated that traffic lights will be installed and these measures are in place for the ultimate safety of construction staff and road users.

Cllr. Dessie Larkin expressed concerns regarding the works around the junction to Illistrin School. Cllr Larkin was advised that Mr. Fergus Towey, Project Engineer would meet with the Principal of the School along with the Contractor. A copy of the Traffic Management Plan will be given to the Principal and the Contractor will be visiting each class in the school to encourage safety among the pupils.

07.06 **Lifford**

The Committee requested that trees blown down in the vicinity of Lifford roundabout be removed. Cllr. Gerry Crawford asked that the ESB pole, which was replaced, recently be removed.

07.07 **Emergency Telephone Number**

The Committee congratulated the Emergency Telephone service in place over the Christmas period. Pat Gillespie stated that this emergency service was for the Christmas period only but efforts are being made to progress this service forward.

07.08 **Roads Workshops on 26th February, 2007**

The Committee agreed to hold a Roads Workshops on 26th February, 2007 at 10.00 a.m. in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

07.09 **Ray N.S.**

The Committee asked for an update on the proposed programme of works as agreed at the last meeting.

07.10 **The Croft – Soloman's Hill**

Cllr. Dessie Larkin asked that the ESB be contacted in relation to lights that have not been working for sometime at The Croft, Solomon's Hill, Letterkenny.

07.11 **Footpath at Tara Court, Letterkenny**

Cllr. Dessie Larkin asked that the poor construction of the footpath at Tara Court, Letterkenny be investigated.

07.12 **Lismonaghan Road, Letterkenny**

Cllr. Dessie Larkin asked for an update to be presented at the next Electoral Area Committee meeting on when footpaths, resurfacing and lighting will be in place on the Lismonaghan Road.

07.13 **Drumardagh Road, Letterkenny**

Cllr. Dessie Larkin asked when resurfacing works could be carried out on resurfacing the Drumardagh Road.

07.14 **Bomany Road, Letterkenny**

Cllr. Dessie Larkin asked that consideration be given to the upgrading of Bomany Road, Letterkenny in light of St. Eunan's G.A.A. Club securing a County game and the proposed Traffic Management Plan will include this road for diverted traffic.

07.15 **Woodlands/Cashelshannaghan Road**

Cllr. Dessie Larkin asked that an update on the Woodlands/Cashelshannaghan Road be given at the Workshop on 26th February.

07.16 **Footpath on Neil T. Blaney Road**

Cllr. Dessie Larkin asked when the footpath on Neil T. Blaney Road would be completed. Pat Gillespie informed the meeting that this is to be carried out as part of the 2007 Roadworks Programme and will discuss this at the Workshop on 26th February.

LEC 08/07 **HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES**

08.01 **Voluntary Housing**

Patsy Lafferty clarified that the Council preference would be acquire 2 bed units however, the Simon Community are also looking at 1-bed units.

Cllr. Jimmy Harte stated that as a Director of the Simon Community the experience is that if the Simon Community purchase 1-bed units it is because it suits the profile of the people that need accommodation.

It was agreed that while 2 bed units were preferable, the Council would have no difficulty in supporting Simon if they wished to acquire a limited number of 1-bed units.

08.02 **Playground at Abbey Park, Manorcunningham**

Patsy Lafferty, in his report circulated with the Agenda, reported that the Housing Department in conjunction with the Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services have been successful in obtaining funding in the sum of €60,000 towards the provision of a playground at Abbey Park,

Manorcunningham. Mr. Lafferty reported that the playground will be developed in conjunction with the construction of Phase 2 of this scheme and will meet ROSPA standards.

The Committee welcomed the progress made on this project.

08.03 **Affordable Housing, Manorcunningham**

Patsy Lafferty, in his report circulated with the Agenda, reported that 16 affordable units being provided at Abbey Park, Manorcunningham should be ready in the summer. Mr. Lafferty reported that sale price of the units will be available closer to completion of the units and he will update the Members accordingly.

08.04 **Remedial Works/Regeneration Programme 2006**

Patsy Lafferty, in his report circulated with the Agenda, reported that works are ongoing at Fr. Arnold Terrace, Manorcunningham and should be completed shortly

08.05 **Remedial Works/Regeneration Programme 2007**

Patsy Lafferty, in his report circulated with the Agenda, reported that an application had been submitted to the Department for the 2007 Programme, as agreed at the last meeting. Mr. Lafferty agreed to update Members when a decision is received from the Department.

08.06 **Peace Programme 2006**

Patsy Lafferty reported that landscaping works are nearing completion at Glendale Drive, Letterkenny.

08.07 **Voluntary Housing**

Patsy Lafferty, in his report circulated with the Agenda, reported that the North and West Housing Project under construction at Fortwell, Letterkenny (25 units), would hopefully be completed towards the end of 2007.

Mr. Lafferty reported that the Habinteg Project at Lifford (53 units) commenced in December 2006 and it is anticipated the completion date will be in the summer 2008.

Mr. Lafferty reported that the Cheshire Project at Long Lane, Letterkenny (6 units) is expected to commence in March 2007 with an expected construction period of 12 months.

The Committee welcomed the progress made on these projects.

08.08 **Tidy Estates Competition**

Patsy Lafferty, in his report circulated with the Agenda, outlined the winners of the 2006 Tidy Estates Competition and presentation of awards took place at

the meeting to representatives of St Eunan's Terrace, Raphoe, and Abbey Villas, Manorcunningham.

The Committee suggested that a plaque or tree be presented to award winning estates rather than a Certificate, which could be appreciated by all the residents in the Estate. The Committee congratulated the Housing Department on this initiative.

08.09 **Grant Report**

The Committee considered the Grant Report at 19th January, 2007 that was circulated with the Agenda.

08/ 10 **Loan Report**

The Committee considered the Loan Report at 19th January, 2007 that was circulated with the Agenda.

08.11 **Casual Vacancy Report**

The Committee considered the Casual Vacancy Report at 19th January, 2007 that was circulated with the Agenda.

08.12 **Section 183 – Disposal of land at Manorcunningham**

Patsy Lafferty, circulated with the Agenda, details on the Section 183 – disposal of land at Manorcunningham as discussed with Members at the May 2003 Electoral Area Committee meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. Dessie Larkin and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan the Committee recommended that the sale of land at Manorcunningham proceed on the basis that the Developer provide at least one house for the Council as part of the overall deal.

08.13 **Emergency Out of Hour Contact Numbers.**

The Committee asked for an update on the provision of emergency contact telephone numbers at weekends. Patsy Lafferty stated that in an emergency the Clerk of Works is contactable and in the case of emergencies tenants obtain the service required and housing follow up afterwards.

LEC 09/07 **CORPORATE SERVICES**

09.01 **Schedule for 2007 Electoral Area Meeting**

The Committee agreed the following dates for the Letterkenny Electoral Area meetings for 2007 starting at 9:30 a.m.

Monday, 5th March, 2007
Thursday, 17th May, 2007
Monday, 23rd July, 2007

Monday, 17th September, 2007
Tuesday, 20th November, 2007

09.02 **Level of Business Letterkenny PSC and Lifford**

Eunan Kelly, in his report circulated with the Agenda, reported the level of business in Lifford Motor Tax Office and Cash Office and the Letterkenny Public Services Centre. Mr. Kelly outlined an increase of 11% in Motor Tax transactions, 21% in cash receipting, 34% increase in personal customers and 24% increase in telephone calls from 2005 to 2006 in the Letterkenny PSC. Mr. Kelly also outlined an increase in the Citizen's Information Service by 25% over the two-year period.

The Committee welcomed the report and complimented the staff on the level of business that was provided through the office. The Committee commended the Corporate Staff and Citizen's Information Staff on the frontline service provided to customers.

09.03 **Access to Letterkenny PSC**

Cllr. Tony McDaid asked that access at the front door be adjusted so that it is less hazardous. Cllr. McDaid asked if funding received under the Disability Awareness project could be used to improve disability access to the building and how this funding has been spent to date. Eunan Kelly advised the Committee of the new disability access at the lower entrance to the building. Aideen Doherty agreed to circulate a report on how the Disability Funding has been allocated at the next meeting.

09.04 **Application Forms**

Cllr. Tony McDaid asked that plain English and Irish language be used on all correspondence and application forms used by the Council.

Cllr. McDaid asked if forms were available in different languages. Eunan Kelly informed the meeting that the Motor Tax Renewal Form and Driving Licence Form was available in most EU Country languages and Housing are currently looking at drafting forms to suit all applicants.

09.05 **Taxi Drop-Off Point**

Cllr. Dessie Larkin asked that a Taxi drop-off point could be provided in the car park of the Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

09.06 **Section 183 – Disposal of Land at Three Rivers Centre, Lifford**

Fitz Howard, Project Manager, Capital Building Programme, introduced Mr. Martin Barrett, Director of Ainsford Contractors Ltd. to the meeting. Mr. Howard, in his report circulated at the meeting, reported that Mr. Barrett had approached the Council with the purpose of purchasing the freehold interest of a plot of ground circa 0.7 acres from the Council, at the Three Rivers Centre, Lifford. Ainsford Contractors Ltd has obtained planning permission to refurbish the Cinema including the provision of offices and an additional 3

extra screens bringing the total number up to 7 Screens. Mr. Barrett indicated that this investment is urgently required to protect the existing jobs and will result in up to 10 additional jobs being created. The development will also provide 43 additional car-parking facilities.

An independent valuation has been acquired by the Council, which values the Council's interest in the plot at a sum of €2,350.

The Committee welcomed the development by Ainsford Contractors Ltd., and stated that this Company has provided great support to Lifford and the Cinema is a welcomed asset to the Youth community in the area.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry Crawford and seconded by Cllr. Dessie Larkin the Committee recommended that the sale proceed. The Committee also recommended that in light of the proposed works at the Lifford roundabout under the HEART project that the sale price of €2,350 received go towards the upgrading of the roundabout at Lifford.

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan asked that a report on all rental accommodation and the long-term accommodation proposals of the Council be circulated at the next Electoral Area meeting.

LEC 10/07 **DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee on Monday 5th March, 2007, commencing at **9.30 am** in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

Report to Letterkenny EAC Meeting 30th January 2007

AGENDA Item no.1 - consideration of minutes of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee meeting held on 20th Nov 2006

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

From minutes of previous meeting, using same notation:

60.01 Lough Greenan:

Water Services Capital Section has advised that Construction now expected to commence within a month and water to get into the system by the end of the year.

60.05 Lagan WS Phase 3:

Water Services Capital Section has advised – that tenders are being evaluated by our consultant. The DEHLG are also evaluating the water pricing implications. A construction stage budget is also being prepared by DCC based on tender prices for submission to the DEHLG.

60.06 Coolatee SS:

The proposal noted at previous meeting for joint upgrade of that scheme with local developer has been passed to our capital design office. It has been noted that Coolatee is on the small schemes list for Letterkenny EA but work has yet to commence. It was also noted that the load from an abattoir would vary widely and be large in comparison to the 20 or so domestic properties. However arrangements have been made for the private developers details to be submitted and available should work be done on a scheme in Coolatee.

Letterkenny SS:

Confirmation received in December 2006 that this scheme should be de-coupled from Gweedore SS. DCC are presently proceeding with finalising tender documents.

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,
30th January 2007*