

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE,  
HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD, ON WEDNESDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER  
2005.**

***LEC 45/05***     **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr. Gerry Crawford  
Cllr. Jimmy Harte  
Cllr. Dessie Larkin  
Cllr. Tony Mc Daid  
Cllr. Ciaran Brogan  
Cllr. Damien Blake, Mayor of Letterkenny

***LEC 46/05***     **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Charlie Cannon, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation  
Aideen Doherty, Community and Enterprise Development Officer,  
Community Enterprise & Cultural Services  
Pat Gillespie, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation, Letterkenny &  
Inishowen Electoral Areas  
Jim Hyland, Executive Engineer, Water, Environment & Emergency Services,  
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate Services, Letterkenny & Inishowen  
Electoral Areas  
Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager, Housing, Letterkenny & Inishowen Electoral Areas  
Con McLaughlin, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency Services,  
Letterkenny & Inishowen Electoral Areas  
Tommy McNulty, Clerk of Works, Housing  
Rose Patton, Staff Officer, Corporate Services  
Ronnie Sayers, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation  
Frank Sweeney, Acting Area Manager, Planning & Development, Letterkenny  
& Inishowen Electoral Areas

Cllr Tony Mc Daid chaired the meeting.

***LEC 47/05***     **CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF LETTERKENNY  
ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18TH JULY  
2005.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry Crawford and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan  
the Minutes of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 18th  
July 2005 were agreed.

**LEC 48/05     HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES**

**48.01            Central Heating Programme 2005**

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee works have been completed at Dr McGinley Road and are due to commence shortly at St Eunan's Terrace in Raphoe.

**48.02            Remedial Works/Regeneration Programme 2005**

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that he is awaiting the Departments decision on the funding application under this Programme and agreed to update the Members when he had any further information regarding same.

**48.03            Proposed Social Housing Starts - (2004-2008)**

A Report was circulated to the Committee outlining 220 proposed starts that have been allocated for the Letterkenny Electoral Area and an additional 53 units to be provided by Habinteg Voluntary Housing Proposal in the Lifford area.

Patsy Lafferty advised that the Programme could be reviewed and amended if required, mid term, i.e. towards the end of 2006, to take into account any major changes in demand and so forth.

Cllr Dessie Larkin welcomed the Report and thanked Patsy Lafferty for his input into it. Cllr Larkin stated that the Council should ensure that Turnkeys and Social Housing include Community Facilities.

Cllr Larkin felt that the Councils Housing Design Section should be including Play Areas within new Council Schemes.

Patsy Lafferty referred to the upcoming scheme in Manorcunningham, and advised that the Housing Design Section were intending to include a play area within the scheme for the residents, and that they were liasing with himself and Aideen Doherty, C.E.D.O in this regard.

Aideen Doherty advised that as a minimum she hoped that safety surfacing be installed for play purposes.

Cllr Tony McDaid stated that standards should be the same for Social and Private Estates. Cllr Damien Blake agreed and stated that this should be dealt with in the Review of the County Development Plan.

Cllr Gerry Crawford also welcomed the Report especially the Proposed Development in the St.Johnston area that meant that applicants could be catered for in their own area.

In response to a query from Cllr. Crawford, Patsy Lafferty advised that in his experience over the last few years, the demand in Porthall could be met from vacancies in current stock rather than the construction of a new scheme.

On the proposal of Cllr Dessie Larkin seconded by Cllr Gerry Crawford the Committee recommended that the distribution of starts included in the report be advanced.

Cllr Jimmy Harte said that he thought that Habinteg were to be invited to make a presentation at an Electoral Area Meeting. Discussion ensued and it was noted that Habinteg had already made a presentation a few years ago to the Electoral Area Committee, but that they may have been invited to an SPC Meeting.

The Committee also recommended that the 15% Open Space requirement should be provided as a single, central, accessible space.

**48.04**      **Allocation of Houses**

The Committee was informed that the new scheme at Raphoe would hopefully be completed before the end of the year. Mr. Lafferty stated that it is intended to allocate the houses as soon as they are completed and the process of assessing applicants has already started.

The Members unanimously agreed that the new scheme would be named 'Pairc na Bealtaine'.

The Committee was also informed that 2 houses would be ready for allocation at Carnamuggagh, Letterkenny in the next month or so.

**48.05**      **Affordable Housing**

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that 4 Affordable Houses would be available for sale at Carnamuggagh, Letterkenny shortly. It is intended to advertise these and invite applications within the next month.

Following a query from Cllr Dessie Larkin, Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that a general Affordable Housing Application Form was being developed.

**48.06**      **Shared Ownership**

Cllr Dessie Larkin requested a breakdown of Shared Ownership, Tenant Purchase and Standard Loan applications.

Patsy Lafferty stated that there had been a massive increase in Shared Ownership applications since decentralisation.

Cllr Jimmy Harte raised the issue of the 95% loan and suggested that perhaps we should offer 100% loans similar to other financial institutions.

Mr Lafferty in reply stated that the Council were implementing the national guidelines. He also stated that if an applicant can demonstrate the ability to

provide a deposit from saving that it is an indication that they would be in a position to meet monthly repayments, as they had a track record of saving, and that this would be considered to be a positive indication of the applicants' ability to meet loan repayments.

***LEC 49/05    COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND ENTERPRISE SERVICES***

***49.01        Skateboard Facilities***

Aideen Doherty advised the Committee that applications on behalf of the county had been made following the call for proposals to the Department. Letterkenny Town Council has been included in these submissions. The Department has now requested that the county agree the priorities for development. Applications were submitted on behalf of Letterkenny Buncrana and Bundoran. An updated report on the current position of applications will be issued to the elected members at the Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2005. Members will be asked to agree the priority for the county at this meeting.

Cllr Dessie Larkin indicated that Ballymacool Park has been chosen as a suitable location for Letterkenny.

The Members stated that the Youth Council should become involved in the project and also that the development of the Park would be a first priority in the Letterkenny Electoral Area

Aideen Doherty commented that funding would be an issue and also the lifespan of the Skateboard Parks in other areas of the country is a cause for concern.

***49.02        Funds Update***

The Members welcomed the fact that a matrix was being devised for the Council to keep a track of funding applications. Aideen Doherty stated that Maria Ferguson was dealing this with and the Committee will be kept informed of progress.

***49.03        Disability Audit***

Cllr Gerry Crawford asked if a Disability Audit had been carried out on the County House, as he was concerned that the lift had not been working for quite some time. It was agreed that this information would be forwarded to Cllr Crawford.

**49.04**      **Youth Council**

The Committee welcomed Paddy Hannigan as Youth Council Co-Ordinator and wished the former Youth Council Co-Ordinator Ann McGeever and Claire Mulhall former C.E.D.O. well in their new venture.

The Members were informed that there had been 2320 Respondents to the Youth Audit and Cllr Tony Mc Daid requested further information on same from Loreto McNicholas.

**49.05**      **Members Development Fund**

The Members commented on the detailed list with the Agenda regarding the Members Development Fund and commended Brid Breen for her work on same.

**LEC 50/05**      **WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Committee considered the Progress report dated 6<sup>th</sup> September 2005 that had been circulated with the Agenda (Appendix 1)

**50.01**      **Lagan Water Supply-Phase 3 (Water Audit)**

Con McLaughlin informed the Committee that John McElwaine, Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Capital Design has confirmed that the Water Audit is not yet completed. The associated Mechanical & Electrical works were substantially completed in mid July 2005, however the resulting Draft Water Audit Report based on the recorded information, identified a number of anomalies in the meter readings. The contractor is now repairing these meters. Upon completion of these repairs the Water Audit Report can be finalised and forwarded to the Department of the Environment.

Cllr Gerry Crawford voiced his total dissatisfaction with this up date and the fact that the Audit was to be completed in July. He stated that both he and Cllr Larkin had raised this with Minister Dick Roche in Ballaghadreen the previous day regarding Phase 3 and had advised him that the Water Audit Report had already been submitted to the D.O.E.H.L.G. and Cllr Crawford presented the Minister with a letter that had been forwarded to him to this effect.

Cllr Dessie Larkin also expressed his total frustration with this and urged that the Committee be advised immediately when the Water Audit has been submitted to the D.O.E.H.L.G.

Con McLaughlin undertook to relay the views of the members to the Capital Design Office and seek confirmation when the Audit will be presented to the D.O.E.H.L.G.

Con McLaughlin later advised the Committee that he had received assurance that the Audit Report would be forwarded to the D.O.E.H.L.G. week commencing the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

**50.02**      **Momeen/Magheracloy Scheme**

The Committee were informed that pumps for improvements had been ordered with delivery some 4 to 6 weeks. DCC to proceed with preparation works including plinth, pipework, ESB connection, etc.

Cllr Gerry Crawford voiced his disappointment that the pumps were not in place prior to this meeting as had been hoped and emphasised the seriousness of the situation for the residents.

Con McLaughlin, in reply, stated that he regretted that these pumps were not yet in place as more work had been involved than anticipated but reassured the Members that all possible was being done to rectify the situation.

Cllr Dessie Larkin urged that the Water Department liase with the Roads Department before pumps are put in place.

**50.03**      **Lismonaghan Water Supply**

Cllr Ciaran Brogan raised the issue of the water breakdown in the Lismonaghan area in August and was informed by Jim Hyland that the new pump had been ordered and should be installed within the next few weeks.

Con McLaughlin stated that Strategic Plans were in place for the Letterkenny area to strengthen the network including increased storage capacity. He advised that the approach being taken tied in with the longer-term Lough Mourne plans, but also the shorter-term Boreholes Scheme and Lough Greenan emergency works. He further advised that when those plans were sufficiently advanced he would brief the members in more detail.

The Members welcomed this.

**50.04**      **Charges to Voluntary Groups/Sports Clubs**

Cllr Larkin requested that a mechanism for reducing charges applying to Sports Clubs, Voluntary Groups etc be examined.

**50.05**      **Major Capital Programme**

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

**50.05.1**    **Letterkenny Trunk Sewers**

Cllr Ciaran Brogan asked if the sewerage network is being extended to the Bunagee area. Con Mc Laughlin agreed to check this and advise Cllr Brogan

**50.06**      **Small Capital Schemes**

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

**50.7**      **Serviced Land Initiative Schemes**

The Committee considered the Report on Serviced Land Initiative Schemes, which was circulated with the Agenda.

**50.8**      **Group Water Schemes**

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

**50.8.1**     **Tullygay GWSS**

Cllr Ciaran Brogan asked to be advised of the current situation regarding Tullygay GWSS.

**LEC 51/05**    **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**51.01**      **Fairways Estate**

Frank Sweeney informed Committee that due to the unsatisfactory amount of work carried out to date by the Developer that an Enforcement Notice had been served.

Mr Sweeney stated that the Developer had liased with the Roads Section earlier in the year regarding the construction of the footpath and a works programme had been agreed. This was confirmed by Pat Gillespie who stated that the Roads Section would commence works in the next few weeks and the Developer would follow on with works on the footpath on completion of same.

Mr Sweeney advised the Committee that there were other outstanding issues included in the Enforcement Notice and agreed to inform the Committee on whether the footpath had formed part of the Enforcement Notice and also whether any further applications for Planning Permission by the Developer could be refused pending solution of the Enforcement Notice.

The Members also requested that a full report on the outstanding works at the Fairways be presented to the next Letterkenny Electoral Area Meeting.

**52.02**      **Ballymacool**

Frank Sweeney advised the Committee that as no work had been carried out since the Enforcement Notice had been served that the Council would be referring the matter to the Council Solicitor for follow up.

**52.03**      **Cathedral Hill, Raphoe**

Frank Sweeney informed the Committee that an Enforcement Notice had been served and passed to the County Solicitor and a prosecution date was being sought.

**52.04**      **Ard na Mealla, St Johnston**

Following a query from Cllr Gerry Crawford regarding odour problems at the treatment plant at Ard na Mealla, Frank Sweeney agreed to have the matter investigated and revert back to Cllr Crawford.

**52.05**      **St Jude's Court**

Frank Sweeney informed the Committee that a site inspection had been carried out and an Enforcement Notice would be served in due course.

**52.06**      **Local Area Plans Priority List**

The Committee considered the report that was circulated with the Agenda requesting that the Members examine the listings and prioritise the town or village in number order. On the proposal of Cllr Gerry Crawford seconded by Cllr Ciaran Brogan the following Priority List was agreed:

- No1. Lifford
- No 2. Manorcunningham
- No 3. St Johnston
- No 4. Raphoe
- No 5. Drumoghill
- No 6. Porthall
- No 7. Ballindrait

**52.07**      **Planning Statistics at 30/06/05**

The Committee considered the contents of the report on Planning Statistics up to 30/06/05, which was circulated with the Agenda.

**52.08**      **Consideration of Recent Refusals**

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

**LEC 53/05**      **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

**53.01**      **Proposed LIS Schemes for 2005**

The Committee considered the list of proposed Local Improvement Schemes circulated with the Agenda and on the proposal of Cllr Dessie Larkin seconded by Cllr Gerry Crawford the Committee recommended that the list presented be carried out.

**53.02**      **Workshop regarding Proposed 2006-2008 Multi Annual Roadworks Restoration Programme**

The Members agreed to hold a Workshop on 04/10/05 to discuss the proposed 2006-2008 Multi-Annual Road Works Restoration Programme and it was agreed that the EU Co-Financed update and proposals for 2006 would also be discussed at that Workshop.

A Meeting with the Town Council regarding the Business Park Roundabout was agreed for 21/09/05 at 3.00 pm.

**54/05**      **DEPUTATION FROM THE MOMEEN/MAGHERACLOY GROUP WATER SCHEME**

Cllr Tony McDaid welcomed the Deputation from Momeen/Magheracloy GWSS which included Ann Doherty, Patsy McDaid, Mervyn Long and Wilson McGirr, and invited Ann Doherty to make her Presentation.

Ms Doherty gave detailed background information on the Scheme since its commencement in November 2000 and referred to a meeting held on 28/07/05 with Donegal County Council which they felt did not adequately address the issues raised and prompted the Group to seek further clarification.

A detailed list of outstanding issues was circulated to the Committee and these are summarised as follows:

- The existing water supply is no longer able to cope with the current water demand or any future demand due to approved Planning Applications.

- Some houses only have water between 9.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. every day, which is not much use in houses with school going children.
- The pipes are performing below their design performance.
- Some houses do not have water for 2-4 days
- Two houses on the scheme have never had a supply
- Insufficient supply for Fire Hydrants
- The consumers need a 24hour continuous supply of water in their homes, as the present situation of having water for only a few hours is totally unacceptable.

The Deputation recommended that new entrants can no longer be accepted onto the Scheme until the matter is resolved, they should connect to the Pollen Dam supply and judge how far the pressure goes and that a pressure pump location should be at the lowest point of pressure to ensure that those houses at a high level get a supply. The Deputation thanked the Committee for their time and hoped the issues would be addressed prior to their next meeting on 20/09/05. Copies of the Presentation were circulated.

Con McLaughlin, in reply to some of the issues raised, informed the group of the background on the current disruption faced by consumers on the scheme. In particular the borehole source of water is failing to meet demand. Consequently, the Council are attempting to regulate the available water, turning the system off to consumers' overnight, allowing the reservoir to build up, and turning back on in the mornings. Despite the fact that the group scheme is not yet taken in charge, the Council continue to respond to the disruptions caused by bursts.

Con McLaughlin went on to indicate that the ultimate solution to the source problem was the Major project, called the Lagan Water Supply. He explained that this is a Major Capital Project being progressed in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government. A three phase project to bring available water at the Fullerton Pollan Dam to the Manorcunningham area. Phases I & II are commissioned with water now available at Newtowncunningham and St. Johnston. Approval to proceed with Phase III is awaited from the Department of the Environment Heritage & Local Government, but is anticipated in the short-term.

Con McLaughlin went on to brief the meeting on local plans that the Council were progressing to bring some relief to the system ahead of the Major project. He noted that with the recent commissioning of the Lagan Water Supply Phase II, and water at St. Johnston, the Council are now progressing plans to pump that supply to part of the Momeen/Magheracloy Scheme, at high areas of Binnion Hill and Lettergull. Apart from securing supply for consumers in those areas, these improvements will reduce the demand on the borehole source at Galdonagh for the remainder of the scheme. It is hoped to deliver that improvement in the next month.

He assured the Deputation that a written reply would be sent to them shortly regarding all the issues raised.

***LEC 55/05    DATE FOR NEXT MEETING***

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2005, commencing at 10.00 am in the Resource Centre, St Johnston.

## Appendix 1

### WATER & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

#### **Report to Letterkenny EAC Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2005**

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

From minutes of previous meeting 18<sup>th</sup> July 2005, using same notation:

#### **41.05 Raphoe Water supply (reported pressure problems)**

Recent problems in the above regard, were due to failure of the pumps provided by a local developer, which appear to be lacking in design and installation. The details of same were not submitted for approval by the DCC as required. The Council have pursued the required repairs and no complaints were noted since. In a subsequent meeting with the Developer's Architect it was agreed that the pumps were adequate for the phases of development granted so far, but that a reservoir / upgrade will be required for any further development at higher level.

#### **41.07 Kerbside Recycling**

Suzanne Tinney, Waste Awareness Officer advises the meeting that progress in the rollout remains quite positive, with one local operator delivering some 700 new 'green' bins per week. Collectors would appear to have good coverage in the Letterkenny area at this time and are beginning to concentrate their efforts in the rural areas.

Ms Tinney also indicated that a campaign to update the public will follow in coming weeks, to confirm the progress made and gauge the new levels of recycling now being delivered and further targeted throughout the County.

#### **41.08 Litter Awareness (developing an awareness policy / in conjunction with Take Aways)**

I am advised from Environment at Head Quarters, that the Council will shortly commence the process of preparing and adopting a new Litter Management Plan. It is a requirement of the plan that it specifies objectives to prevent and control litter and measures to encourage public awareness.

As part of the process of making the new plan, the Council must review all its activities in respect of litter prevention and control, including awareness-raising activities. Consideration will be given to forging links with groups or businesses that have either a positive or negative impact with regard to litter. As noted at previous meeting, Fast food takeaway outlets are of particular interest in this regard having also been identified as major potential litter generators under the national Litter Pollution Monitoring System. It is anticipated that the progression of the new plan will proceed over the coming months with further updates at subsequent meetings.

**41.09.01 Lagan Water Supply – Phase 3 (Water Audit):**

John McElwaine, Acting SEE, Capital Design has confirmed that the Water Audit is not yet completed. The associated Mechanical & Electrical works were substantially completed in mid July 2005, however the resulting draft water audit report based on the recorded information, identified a number of anomalies in the meter readings. The contractor is now repairing these meters. Upon completion of these repairs the water audit report can be finalised and forwarded to the Department of the Environment.

**Momeen / Magheracloy Scheme (Proposed improvements):**

Pumps for improvements ordered, delivery some 4 to 6 weeks. DCC to proceed with preparation works including plinth, pipework, ESB connection, etc.

*AGENDA Items no. 3-6 - Progress Reports:*

See attached updated progress reports including:

**Capital Programmes:**

Major Capital Programme  
Service Land Initiative (SLI's)

**Rural Water Programme:**

Small Capital Programme  
*Group Scheme Programme*

*C.McLaughlin,  
Area Manager, Water and Environment  
6<sup>th</sup> September 2005*