

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE,
HELD IN THE LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, ON MONDAY, 21st
MARCH 2005.**

LEC 12/05* **MEMBERS PRESENT*

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
Cllr. Gerry Crawford
Cllr. Jimmy Harte
Cllr. Dessie Larkin
Cllr. Tony Mc Daid

LEC 13/05* **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
James Kelly, Resident Engineer, Letterkenny S.S.
Paul Kilcoyne, Senior Engineer, Water Environment & Emergency Services
Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager, Housing, Letterkenny & Inishowen Electoral Areas
John McElwaine, Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Water, Environment &
Emergency Services
Jason McGilloway, Litter Warden, Water, Environment & Emergency Services
Con McLaughlin, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency Services,
Letterkenny & Inishowen Electoral Areas
Tommy McNulty, Clerk of Works, Housing
Rose Patton, Staff Officer, Corporate Services
Martin Roarty, Litter Warden, Water, Environment & Emergency Services
Frank Sweeney, Acting Area Manager, Planning & Development, Letterkenny
& Inishowen Electoral Areas

Cllr Jimmy Harte chaired the meeting.

LEC 14/05 **ALSO PRESENT**

Deputy Jim McDaid T.D.
Deputy Cecilia Keaveney T.D.
Kenneth Rutherford, Raphoe Community Action Ltd
Conor Porter, Raphoe Community Action Ltd

14.1 **Apologies**

Deputy Niall Blaney T.D.

LEC 15/05 **CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF LETTERKENNY
ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24th
JANUARY 2005.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Dessie Larkin and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan the Minutes of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 24th January 2005 were agreed.

15.1 **CONSIDERATION OF REPORT ON PLANNING WORKSHOP HELD
ON 24th JANUARY 2005.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Dessie Larkin and seconded by Cllr. Gerry Crawford the Report on the Planning Workshop held on 24th January 2005 was agreed.

LEC 16/05 **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

16.01 **COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW 2005**
Control Points

Frank Sweeney circulated Control Points for the Drumoghill area, which he recommended be designated as a Rural Service Centre.

On the proposal of Cllr Jimmy Harte and seconded by Cllr Gerry Crawford the Committee recommended that the Control Points as presented be adopted.

16.02 **Fairways Estate**

Frank Sweeney informed Committee that works were soon to be carried out following an Enforcement Notice that had recently been served.

16.03 **Ballymacool**

Frank Sweeney advised that outstanding issue with footpath and will be completed by the Developer.

16.04 **Cathedral Hill, Raphoe**

Frank Sweeney informed the Committee that the Roads Section had met with the Developer and a work programme was now in place and he expects that work programme will commence next week.

16.05 **Killylastin**

Cllr Gerry Crawford stated that the residents of the Killylastin area were concerned at the state of the roadway due to the clearing of a site and the transportation of the rubble to a location in the Milford area. Cllr Crawford requested that Planning conditions in relation to cleaning of roads due to development be enforced.

Frank Sweeney agreed to look into the matter and report to the Committee.

16.06 **Tara Court**

Cllr Dessie Larkin queried whether works had yet taken place at Tara Court and was informed by Frank Sweeney that they had not yet commenced but would take place in conjunction with the Town Council.

16.07 **Appointment**

Frank Sweeney informed the Committee that a new Assistant Planner, Sinead McClafferty had been appointed and commenced work on 21/03/05. Sinead Mc Clafferty will replace Alana Green who is being transferred to the Central Planning Unit.

The Members welcomed this news.

LEC 17/05 **HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES**

17.01 **Assessment of Housing Needs 2005**

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that the Statutory Assessment of Housing Needs was currently underway. This consisted of writing to everyone on the Housing list and asking them to complete an updated Application Form so that the Housing need in the county can be assessed. Notices were also published in the Local Press seeking applications from others who haven't yet applied.

Around 60% of forms have been returned so far. Reminders will issue shortly to those who haven't responded. Patsy Lafferty stressed the importance of applicants returning their forms as soon as possible to be considered for housing.

17.02 **Peace Programme 2005(Revitalisation of Housing Estates)**

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that they were awaiting an invitation from the Task Force to formally submit an application to include the following Estates which had been agreed at the previous meeting in the application to the Task Force for funding under the Peace Programme 2005: -

- Ard Baithin, St Johnston
- Glendale Drive, Letterkenny
- Ard na Rí. Letterkenny

17.03 **Central Heating Programme 2005**

On the proposal of Cllr Jimmy Harte, seconded by Cllr Dessie Larkin, the Committee recommended that the following be included in the application for funding under the Central Heating Programme 2005.

1. Remaining Rented Dwellings at St.Eunan's Tce, Raphoe
2. Remaining rented Dwellings at Dr.McGinley Rd, Letterkenny
3. SI Cottage at Figart, Raphoe
4. Vacant houses that require Central Heating if funding is available

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that this priority list is for a Funding Submission and the final works carried out will depend on the actual allocation received .If the money available does not cover all of the above dwellings it is proposed to commence at No 1 above and prioritise accordingly.

17.04 **2004-2008 Housing Programme - Landbank Schemes**

A list of proposed schemes was circulated with the agenda. Following a query from Cllr Gerry Crawford, Patsy Lafferty agreed to clarify the situation with regards to proposals for 30 acres of land in Lifford.

17.05 **Abbey Park, Manorcunningham**

Cllr Gerry Crawford enquired as to whether the Council would lease land at entrance to Abbey Park. Patsy Lafferty advised that there were plans for Social and Affordable Housing and that a Part 8 was being applied for shortly seeking planning permission. In light of same he felt that the Council would not be leasing land at Abbey Park

17.06 **Voluntary Housing**

Cllr Dessie Larkin raised the issue of the dangerous river to the rear of the proposed Voluntary Housing Scheme by Respond at Oldtown. Patsy Lafferty advised that Respond were asked to take this into consideration when the Scheme was being designed.

LEC 18/05 **WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICE**

18.01 **Lagan Water Supply-Phase III**

Cllr Jimmy Harte welcomed James McDaid T.D. and Cecilia Keaveney T.D. who had been invited to attend meeting to discuss Phase 111 of the Lagan Water Supply as was proposed at last meeting. Cllr. Harte also welcomed Paul Kilcoyne, Senior Engineer and John McElwaine, Acting Senior Executive Engineer from the Capital Design Section who described the various and sometimes lengthy stages that Schemes have to go through before getting the go ahead to commence by the D.O.E.H.L.G.(Appendix 2)

Con Mc Laughlin updated the Committee on the current situation, stating that a Water Audit has to be carried out with meters installed for a two-month period prior to this audit being carried out. The expected completion date is 30/06/05.

Paul Kilcoyne stressed the importance of the Scheme and outlined the various stages, which must be progressed. He stated that they were on target with the installation and commissioning of the meters and hopefully the Audit Report would be with the Department in June. He asked that the Oireachtas Members help to progress this Scheme as much as possible.

Deputy Mc Daid and Deputy Keaveney requested that they, together with the Cabinet Members in Donegal SW be advised when the Water Audit Report is submitted to the Department. They stressed the importance of being kept up to date on important Schemes and suggested that the Members hold regular meetings with Oireachtas Members in order to brief them on the status of Schemes and to try and fast track Capital Projects.

The Members welcomed the comments of Deputies McDaid and Keaveney and any assistance they could give to progress this and other Schemes and requested that a Progress Report on Lagan Water Supply Phase III be submitted to the July Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee Meeting.

18.02 **Civic Amenity Site**

Paul Kilcoyne informed the Committee that the last date for submissions from the public in relation to the Planning Approval for the New Civic Amenity Site was 18/03/05 and that this would be included on the Agenda for consideration at the next meeting of the Council.

The Members were also informed of the closure of the existing Bring Bank Centre located at the Hospital grounds and their relocation to the rear of the old Fire Station. This would be a temporary arrangement pending the development of the new Civic Amenity Site.

Paul Kilcoyne stated that the Council's preferred option for the site of the new Civic Amenity Site would be the outright purchase of the land in question.

18.03 **Glencar Reservoir**

Paul Kilcoyne informed the Committee that the Planning approval will be applied for again with regard to the Glencar Reservoir and would come to the full Council in the normal way.

18.04 **Dangerous Building, Lifford**

The Committee were advised that a prosecution has been secured against the owners and the fine has been paid. There is also a Court Order in place and the owner continues to be in breach of this and that the Council's Solicitors have been directed to take a further prosecution. The matter is listed for mention at Letterkenny District Court on 07/04/05 where a hearing date will be set.

18.05 **St Johnston Sewerage Scheme**

Cllr Gerry Crawford welcomed the detailed presentation made by John McElwaine and queried the developments made at present regarding land negotiations in respect of the St Johnston Sewerage Scheme.

John McElwaine advised that detailed land negotiations were ongoing at present and it is hoped to commence the planning process regarding the site within the next few weeks.

Cllr Crawford stressed the importance of help from the Oireachtas members to progress this Scheme.

18.06 Letterkenny Water Supply

18.1 Letterkenny No. 2 Augmentation Scheme - Borehole Scheme

Cllr Dessie Larkin requested an update on the Letterkenny Borehole Scheme and was advised by John McElwaine that the Tender Evaluation Report would be submitted to the D.o.E.H.L.G. in May. Construction would depend on approval being received from Department.

18.2 Lough Greenan

John McElwaine advised the Committee that work to allow pumping of water from Lough Greenan to Lough Salt should commence construction this year.

18.2 Lough Mourne

Following queries from Members, Paul Kilcoyne informed the Committee that the Lough Mourne Scheme was an enormous Scheme to be delivered over a number of years and was in the early stages of planning at present.

18.07 Litter Warden

Cllr Jimmy Harte welcomed Jason McGilloway and Martin Roarty, Litter Wardens to the meeting. Con Mc Laughlin explained the Jason and Martin were currently covering the Letterkenny and Inishowen Electoral Areas.

Jason McGilloway proceeded to make a short presentation, which included details of their main duties in this role.

The Members raised various issues including scrapped cars, illegal dumping in forestry areas and the importance of support and goodwill of the general public.

Cllr Gerry Crawford felt that the Council are not providing an adequate service to cater for waste like carpet, washing machines etc. He urged that a mobile facility be provided for rural areas on a regular basis.

Jason McGilloway stressed the need for an additional Mobile Litter Unit and following a query from Cllr Larkin, it was agreed that the Environment Section would liaise with Roads Service to organise a clean up of the Dual Carriageway in conjunction with grass cutting.

It was also agreed to improve public awareness of the appointment of the Litter Wardens and that littering will not be tolerated and encourage the assistance of the general public in preventing illegal dumping.

The members expressed their appreciation of the work currently being done by the Litter Wardens.

18.08 **Pumping Station, Lifford**

In a report from Con McLaughlin the Committee were informed that Pumping Stations are typically designed to allow for overflow to nearest watercourse in the event of any power cuts/emergencies and that, together with the option to provide on-site generator power could be used.

Cllr Gerry Crawford stated that an alarm system should be installed to alert people in the vicinity in the event of any such emergency.

18.09 **Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme**

James Kelly, Resident Engineer gave an update on the current works programme stating that approximately 82% of pipe laying works were completed at present.

An update was also given on the remaining works programme including completion of gravity sewer at Leck View expected to last to 30/06/05, construction of pumping stations to be completed by 31/03/05 and construction of section through LYIT to be completed during student summer holidays.

With regard to the issue raised at last Electoral Area Meeting regarding the quality of the re-instatement works left by contractors, Mr Kelly informed the Committee that the contractor had commenced replacement of the unacceptable sections of footpath at DeValera Road last week. Some reinstatement on the Circular road will be completed as soon as possible and some sections on the Kilmacrennan Road will be replaced by the Contractor in consultation with the Roads Section.

The Members thanked Mr Kelly for the work done and requested that damage to fences at Leck View cottages be attended to as soon as possible.

Cllr Ciaran Brogan urged that the work on the road from Hospital to Prumerica be done as quickly as possible.

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18.10 **Major Capital Projects**

The Committee considered the Report on Major Capital Projects, which was circulated with the agenda.

18.11 **Small Capital Schemes**

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

18.12 **Serviced Land Initiative Schemes**

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

18.13 **Group Water Schemes**

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

LEC 19/05 **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

19.01 **Roadworks Programme Workshop**

On the proposal of Cllr Gerry Crawford, seconded by Cllr Jimmy Harte the Report on the Roads Workshop held on 21/02/05 was agreed.

19.02 **Speed Limits**

Cllr Jimmy Harte queried the position regarding the review on the speed signs and was informed by Pat Gillespie that this legal document was finalised and the next review would be some years away.

19.03 **Lismonaghan Road, Letterkenny**

Cllr Dessie Larkin requested an update regarding the Lismonaghan Road and Pat Gillespie stated he would organise a report as soon as possible.

19.04 **N56 Mountain Top to Illistrin Project**

Pat Gillespie circulated a Progress Report prepared by Liam Edwards, Donegal N.R.D.O. to the Committee. He advised the Committee that this year's funding allocation is €6 million and will be used to construct Phase 1, advance works for Phase II, continue with land acquisition for the entire Scheme and allow finalisation of the Phase II design.

The project has been split into two phases with the primarily urban section to be constructed first. This 1.45 Km section has been amended to incorporate a new roundabout instead of a staggered junction. Phase 1 will extend 200m north past the new Mountain Top Roundabout.

All land owners subject to the C.P.O. that had not previously been affected by Site Investigation or Fencing Contracts were served with Notices to enter in 2004.

He advised that Final Contract Documents are under review by the NRA, who will grant formal approval to go to tender .It is expected that construction of Phase I will commence during the summer of 2005 and will last for one year. The Council will continue with soft ground improvement works in the vicinity of the proposed new Glassagh Bridge to accelerate the completion of Phase 2. The Council is also examining further works relating to the diversion of the River Glassagh.

It was agreed to include this matter on all future Agendas.

LEC 20/05 COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND ENTERPRISE SERVICES

20.01 Play Facilities

Aideen Doherty informed the Committee that 70 Expressions of Interest had been received from throughout the county with 31 full applications since received. These are currently being assessed.

The Members complimented Community & Enterprise on the work achieved to date and asked that Glenwood Park be promoted as a play area. Cllr Gerry Crawford asked that groups from Lifford, Raphoe and St Johnston be encouraged with applications for funding for playgrounds.

Aideen Doherty stated that a full report would be made available at the May Electoral Area Committee Meeting.

20.02 Donegal Diaspora Initiative

Details of the initiative were circulated with the agenda, the main aim of which is “to create a broader Donegal Community at home and abroad”.

The Members asked that they be updated on any developments.

20.03 North West Film Archive

Aideen Doherty said assistance was being looked for material that could be used for these.

The members suggested contacting media outlets to try and source material and also members of the public in different towns including Gerard McGirr in Lifford and Frank McCarron in Raphoe.

Cllr Gerry Crawford suggested using the facility of the Parish Notes in each area to advertise County Archive.

20.04 Donegal Childcare Committee

Cllr Tony McDaid raised the issue of the difficulty in local Community Groups obtaining funding for Crèches and Aideen Doherty informed the Committee that 68 applications are with the Department at present seeking funding.

Deputy McDaid asked that he be advised regarding any applications made for funding for Crèches.

20.05 **Gender Focus Group**

Cllr Tony McDaid expressed his disappointment that the Gender Focus Group has not received funding for the Officer post.

Aideen Doherty to confirm current status at next Letterkenny Electoral Area Meeting.

20.06 **Feasibility Study**

Following a query from Cllr Dessie Larkin, Aideen Doherty will update Members on the status of Feasibility Study for Waste Recycling for Co. Donegal including Kerbside Collection and a Materials Recovery Facility.

LEC 21/05 **DEPUTATION FROM RAPHOE COMMUNITY IN ACTION LTD**

Cllr Jimmy Harte on behalf of the Committee welcomed Kenneth Rutherford and Conor Porter from Raphoe Community in Action Ltd to address the meeting.

The Deputation presented a handout to the Committee outlining their main concerns regarding the Councils lack of action attending to matters in the Raphoe area.

Mr. Rutherford outlined the main problem areas namely:

- Approach Roads to the town
- Footpaths/Waste of Resources
- Lack of supervision of outside contractors and subsequent deterioration in road state

The Deputation requested a meeting in Raphoe with a small group of Planners and Engineers to discuss the problems in question.

Pat Gillespie stated that he would have the issues raised investigated and issue a reply and also would arrange a meeting with the group in Raphoe to inspect the issues raised by the Deputation and would notify the members of the date of this meeting.

LEC 22/05 **DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee on Monday 16th May, 2005, commencing at 10.00 am.

Appendix 1

WATER & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

Report to Letterkenny EAC Meeting 21st March 2005

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

From minutes of previous meeting 24th January 2005, using same notation:

- 06.02 Lagan Water Supply-Phase II**
Capital Design staff to attend and brief meeting on current status of the Lagan Water Scheme, including the ongoing water-audit / the inclusion of the Magherabeg/Veagh area.
- 06.03 Civic Amenity Site**
Capital Design staff to attend and brief meeting on current status of the proposed Civic Amenity Site.
Member should also note the imminent change for the existing bring bank service presently located at the hospital grounds. From 21st March that site will no longer be available to us and thereafter the service will be delivered from the site of the old fire station. See further public briefing in local media.
- 06.05 Glencar Reservoir:**
Capital Design staff to attend and brief meeting on current status of the Glencar Reservoir.
- 06.06 Dangerous Building, Lifford**
As noted previously we have secured a prosecution against the owner of the building and fines have been paid. There is also a Court Order in place and the owner continues to be in breach of this. We have directed our solicitors to take a further prosecution and the matter is listed for mention at Letterkenny District Court on 7th April where a hearing date will be set.
- 06.07 Kerbside Collection:**
In response request for additional recycling banks for Lifford, I am advised by the Recycling Officer that the Council do not intend to introduce any more additional dry recyclable facilities at any bring bank site. As previously advised the Council have directed the waste collectors to provide a second collection service for these materials in addition to the existing refuse collection. As this recycling collection service is now being introduced DCC would not wish to compete with it.
- 06.12 Kiltole, Convoy**
I understand that the sewer problems noted at Kiltole, Convoy which are located in the Stranorlar Electoral Area have been passed to the relevant people in that area for investigation. Arrangements made for resolution to be confirmed with the Councillor.

06.13 Pumping Station, Lifford

Pumping stations are typically designed to allow for overflow to nearest watercourse in the event of such emergencies, that together with option to provide on-site generator power could be used.

06.14 Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme

James Kelly, Resident Engineer on the above scheme will attend the Meeting.

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
10th March 2005*

Appendix 2