

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE,
HELD IN LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE, ON THURSDAY, 27th
SEPTEMBER 2007.**

LEC 41/07 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
Cllr. Dessie Larkin
Cllr. Tony McDaid
Cllr. Gerry Crawford
Cllr. Jimmy Harte
Cllr. Jean Crossan, Mayor, Letterkenny Town Council

LEC 42/07 **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Clare Cronin, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Aideen Doherty, Area Manager, Community Enterprise & Cultural
Pat Gillespie, Area Manager /Senior Executive Engineer, Roads
Jim Hyland, A/Area Manager/ Senior Executive Engineer, Water,
Environment & Emergency Services,
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate Services,
James Kelly, Executive Engineer, Water, Environment & Emergency Services,
Rose Patton, Staff Officer, Corporate Services
Fergus Towey, Senior Resident Engineer, Roads & Transportation

ALSO PRESENT

PJ McMonagle, Raphoe Flood Committee
Stuart Dunlop, Raphoe Flood Committee
Teresa Duffy, Raphoe Flood Committee

Cathal Greene, Chairman St Eunan's GAA Club
Paddy Mullen, Secretary St Eunan's GAA Club

APOLOGIES

Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager, Housing

Cllr Dessie Larkin chaired the Meeting

LEC 43/07 **Welcome**

Cllr Dessie Larkin, on behalf of the Committee welcomed Mayor Jean Crossan, Letterkenny Town Council to the Meeting.

LEC 44/07 CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23rd JULY 2007.

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Gerry Crawford the Minutes of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 23rd July 2007 were agreed.

LEC 45/07 COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND ENTERPRISE SERVICES

45.01 Minutes of Tourism Workshop held in the Council Chamber, Lifford on 1st May 2007

On the proposal of Cllr Ciaran Brogan, seconded by Cllr Tony McDaid the Minutes of the Tourism Workshop held on 1st May 2007 were agreed.

45.02 Donegal County Childcare Committee

Cllr Dessie Larkin asked that the possibility of using the Crèche Facility in Letterkenny Public Services Centre be investigated whether by Donegal County Council or LYIT who are commencing a new Degree course in Early Childhood Education.

It was agreed that this be investigated before the November Electoral Area Meeting.

45.03 Walking Trails Development Officer

The Committee requested that Jeremy Smith, Walking Trails Development Officer, attend the next Electoral Area Meeting to update the Members on walking routes in and around Letterkenny.

45.04 Flight of the Earls

Aideen Doherty thanked the Members for their support at the various events organised to commemorate the Flight of the Earls.

The Committee in turn expressed their congratulations to all involved in making all the events so successful and commended all those involved and their commitment to the project.

The Members asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Mayor John Boyle for his participation in the Flight of the Earl events and also a letter of congratulations to all staff involved.

Cllr Dessie Larkin stated that the public and children in particular gained a greater understanding of the events surrounding the Flight of the Earls.

45.05 Public Art

Detailed information was circulated with the Agenda on the various Public Art projects currently being developed including the project resulting from the Per Cent for Art monies generated from the new Mountain Top Road in Letterkenny and Oatfield Sweet Factory.

While the Committee welcomed these projects, the Members sought clarification as to why the Public Art Working Group has not met and how projects for the Mountain Top were selected. Aideen Doherty agreed to raise the matter with those concerned.

Cllr Brogan requested that a list of schools to be associated with the Oatfield project be circulated to the Members and urged that Illistrin N.S. be included.

45.06 **FAI Mini-Pitch Scheme**

Aideen Doherty informed the Committee that Contractors are currently looking at the proposed Mini-Pitch Scheme with a proposed location at the Town Park.

This was welcomed by the Committee as a further step towards providing adequate recreational facilities for the youth.

45.07 **Recreation Policy**

Aideen Doherty informed the Committee that the National Recreation Policy was launched on the 10th of September. One of the developments proposed in the Policy is the establishment of Youth Cafes. While this is welcomed it would be a pity to see only that policy implemented when there are greater needs throughout youth services requiring funds.

A copy of the Policy will be forwarded to Members when it becomes available.

LEC 46/07 **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

46.01 **Highland View and The Fairways, Letterkenny**

Following a query from Cllr Dessie Larkin on the current position relating to Highland View and The Fairways, Clare Cronin advised that both these estates are within the Town Council area and a report would be submitted to the next Town Council Meeting. The members also to be updated on these schemes.

46.02 **Ard na Mealla, St Johnston**

Clare Cronin informed the meeting that the Developer of this estate has gone into liquidation and the Council was in consultation with the Liquidator to establish the availability of funds.

Work is ongoing to establish a schedule of outstanding works needed to complete the development to a satisfactory standard in accordance with the conditions and to review the cost of these works.

46.03 **Cathedral Hill, Raphoe**

The Committee were informed that Planning Permission was granted for a new phase of development at Cathedral Hill. To ensure existing deficiencies within the estate were addressed, several conditions were imposed on the Developer to carry out certain works prior to the commencement of this new phase including resurfacing of the estate service road, provision of a water reservoir and speed cushions along estate access roads. The site was inspected a number of occasions in early September and it was found that work had commenced. The Planning Authority issued a Warning Letter in this regard and is currently awaiting a response.

The Members to be kept informed on any progress.

46.04 **Preparation of a Master Plan for the Big Isle**

Clare Cronin stated that the request for a Master Plan for the Big Isle has been referred to the Central Planning Unit for consideration and the Director of Service has advised that he is currently examining alternative options for this work.

The Committee urged that the matter be pursued as this area has great potential.

46.05 **Workshop for Members to discuss Interpretation of C.D.P.**

Clare Cronin informed the Committee this matter had been referred to the Senior Planner and a response will be circulated in due course.

She also advised that a Workshop to discuss issues connected with the Review of the County Development Plan is proposed for October.

The Committee welcomed this

46.06 **Glenwood Park**

The Members requested that works at Glenwood Park be progressed to resolve problems with sewer and storm water in conjunction with Town Council, WEES and Developer.

46.07 **Raphoe Flooding**

The Members requested that Planning Service respond to issues raised by the Raphoe Flood Committee Deputation and inspect developments in Raphoe to ensure Planning Conditions relating to drainage are complied with.

46.08 **Consideration of Recent Refusals**

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

46.09 **Unauthorised Development Report**

The Committee considered the Unauthorised Development Report that was circulated with the Agenda.

LEC 47/07 **WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

47.01 **Non Domestic Metering Project (N.D.M.)**

The Committee were informed that no information has yet been received regarding any exemption for Primary Schools, Community Halls etc., from Water Charges.

The Members will be kept updated on this matter.

47.02 **Letterkenny Civic Amenity Site**

In an update circulated with the Agenda the Committee were informed that the contractor is awaiting an instruction to start which will be issued when the Council is permitted to access the lands.

Cllr Dessie Larkin asked that Jim Hyland liaise with the County Managers Office for an update in this regard.

This progress was greatly welcomed by the Members.

47.03 **Odours at Ballymacool, Letterkenny**

Jim Hyland informed the Committee that pressure jetting of the foul sewers downstream of this area has been carried out and a considerable amount of debris was removed. This appears to have resolved the problem of odours and no complaints have been received since. This will continue to be monitored.

47.04 **Letterkenny Boreholes Scheme**

The Committee were informed that progress on this Scheme is still on target and completion is expected by the end of December. All pipework in roads is complete and awaiting pressure testing.

The Committee welcomed this.

47.05 **Lough Greenan**

Jim Hyland informed the Committee that the pipework on this Scheme is almost complete and Mechanical and Electrical Fit Out is about to commence. The job is expected to be complete by yearend. The new permanent watermain from Lough Salt to Goldrum is also near to completion.

The Members welcomed this and Cllr Dessie Larkin asked that with these two new sources of water coming on board, were plans being made to increase storage capacity.

Jim Hyland stated that it is hoped to build a new reservoir at Mountain Top- this was waiting to go to tender- and a new reservoir is currently being built at Rahan and it is hoped to be commissioned January 2008.

47.06 **Glenmaquinn Group Water Scheme**

In response to queries regarding the proposed extension to Glenmaquinn Group Water Supply Scheme Jim Hyland informed the Committee that the proposed extension to the Glenmaquinn GWS would go ahead at the end of the year.

The Committee welcomed this and they asked to be kept updated on any progress.

47.07 **St Johnston Sewerage Scheme**

Cllr Gerry Crawford asked for an update on the St Johnston Scheme.

47.08 **Carnamuggagh, Letterkenny**

The Members requested that WEES contact IDA regarding connecting of two private Housing Schemes in Carnamuggagh to the IDA sewer and regarding the takeover of this sewer.

47.09 **Raphoe Flooding**

WEES to investigate the discharge of sewerage to the Swilly Burn, Raphoe raised by the Raphoe Flood Committee Deputation.

47.10 **Glenwood Park**

The Members requested that works at Glenwood Park be progressed to resolve problems with sewer and storm water in conjunction with Town Council, WEES and Developer

LEC 48/07 **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

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

Fergus Towey updated the Committee on progress being made on Phase II N56 Mountain Top to Illistrin Road Realignment Project. Mr. Towey stated that progress is good and most of the major works would be completed by the end of the year. He stated that the traffic management was working well and acknowledged the patience of the road users during the works.

The Committee commended the work being done with minimal disruption to the public and asked that consideration be given to scheduling of work at flash points on Mountain Top Road during the Mid Term Break.

48.02 **Dual Carriageway**

The Committee welcomed additional monies allocated to complete the roadworks and urged that a work programme be agreed with the contractor taking the safety and concerns of the public on board.

48.03 **Magherahane Road**

Pat Gillespie agreed to investigate complaints of flooding regarding recent works completed on the Magherahane Road as soon as possible.

48.04 **Rahan Road**

Cllr Dessie Larkin stated that the Rahan Road was in a very poor state of repair due to recent works at this location including installing a new watermain. James Kelly advised that pressure testing had to be carried out on the new watermain and it was intended that resurfacing would be carried out in the near future.

The issue of damage caused by Eircom was also raised and Pat Gillespie agreed to look into the matter.

48.05 **Raphoe Flooding**

Pat Gillespie stated that a Report from Road Design was awaited which would address the issues relating to the September 2006 flooding in Raphoe. Office of Public Works will deal with the June 2007 flooding issues in conjunction with Donegal County Council.

Pat Gillespie stressed that DCC were not responsible for the bigger picture regarding the flooding. In other parts of the country this was the responsibility of the OPW. The OPW had shown a willingness to get involved and the Members would be kept updated on any meetings regarding this issue

48.06 **2008-2010 Strengthening Programme**

On the proposal of Cllr Dessie Larkin, seconded by Cllr Ciaran Brogan the 2008-2010 Road Strengthening Programme circulated at the Meeting (Appendix 1) was agreed.

48.07 **Local Improvement Schemes**

Pat Gillespie circulated a list of Schemes included in LIS Budget for 2007 (Appendix 2).

Get Well Wishes

The Committee extended get well wishes to Charlie Cannon, Executive Engineer who is currently on sick leave.

LEC 49/07 DEPUTATION FROM RAPHOE FLOOD COMMITTEE

Cllr Dessie Larkin welcomed PJ McMonagle, Teresa Duffy and Stuart Dunlop, members of the Raphoe Flood Committee, to the Meeting and invited them to make their Presentation.

PJ Mc Monagle showed photographs of the extensive flooding in Raphoe Town Centre during both flooding incidents in September 2006 and again in June 2007.

A photograph was also shown of Teresa Duffy's home and the damage caused. Ms Duffy spoke about the trauma suffered by herself and her young family during these incidents and the ongoing fear that it may occur again if all measures possible are not put in place by Donegal County Council and the OPW as a matter of urgency.

Stuart Dunlop outlined the main areas of concern for the people of Raphoe namely:

- **Ongoing maintenance of gullies and drains**
Many of the drains around the town are blocked/overgrown. Gullies are also blocked. Routine maintenance must be more frequent in order to facilitate the town's flood protection.
- **Quality of short-term remedies**
Some of the short-term remedies appear to be poorly designed and their efficiency in case of further flooding is doubted.
- **Planning for new housing schemes and single dwellings**
Surface water from these new developments needs to be diverted away from the town, not towards it. New houses are building driveways over drains. Planning Permission is being granted for houses in bogs and as bogs are a natural sponge for surface water, continued granting of permission will increase the surface water in times of flood.
- **Sewer Capacity**
New housing developments are putting strain on the town sewers and in times of flood the sewers overflow and untreated sewage is discharged into the Swilly Burn. This is a very serious issue.

In conclusion the Committee urged the Council to do all in its power to relieve the stress being caused to all residents and progress matters to remedy the situation.

Pat Gillespie, in reply to some of the queries raised, stated that two issues involving blockages will be addressed in the Swilly Burn area within the next

few weeks, and he appreciated that this would not solve problems identified by the June 2007 flooding. He stated that a lot of other people apart from the Council are involved in this issue including farmers, landowners etc who are responsible for diverting streams, blocking gullies etc. He agreed that maintenance could be improved but that this would not address all the issues. He also stated that the OPW were awaiting a report from the Road Design Section to address other concerns.

Mr Gillespie is to arrange a meeting with the Committee next week to see at first hand the issues raised.

Cllr Jimmy Harte highlighted the insurance issues that the people of Raphoe now face in light of the flooding problems experienced. He also felt that the flooding seems to be worse in recent years.

Cllr Gerry Crawford urged that the Maintenance issue is very important in keeping drains and gullies clear and also stated that Planning issues need to be addressed and followed up on as a matter of urgency.

Cllr Tony Mc Daid stressed the human suffering involved and stated that work needs to commence immediately to alleviate the problems including the cleaning of water tables.

Cllr Dessie Larkin, in conclusion, asked that all matters raised be replied to within 4 to 5 weeks by the various services and asked the Committee to revert to the Members after a few months to report on progress made.

Cllr Larkin asked that the Report from Road Design be circulated as soon as it becomes available.

LEC 50/07 DEPUTATION FROM ST EUNANS GAA CLUB

The Committee welcomed Cathal Greene, Chairman and Paddy Mullen, Secretary of St Eunan's GAA Club to the Meeting and invited them to make their Presentation.

Mr Greene thanked the Committee for allowing them to attend the meeting and for their support for the club throughout the years and in particular for the financial contributions from Member's Development Funds and the Development Fund Initiative throughout the years.

Mr Mullen stated that the club have a membership of over 400 adults and over 500 juveniles competing in up to 25 teams. The main reason they requested this meeting was to in some way formalise the link between the club and the Council and to inform members of their hopes and plans for the club in the years ahead.

Mr Mullen also stated that a number of the issues, which they planned to discuss, have since been discussed with Council officials over the last few weeks and are being progressed, but highlighted these issues:

Road Improvement Works:

An article appeared in the paper after a previous Electoral Area Meeting, which stated that there were problems with land negotiations, which were

holding up the construction of the Roundabout at Ballymacool. They wanted to inform Members that in no way were the club responsible for holding up or delaying the scheme and since they requested this meeting, they are delighted that an agreement has been reached with the Roads Section, and they look forward to having this work completed soon as it will greatly improve the safe access into and out of the park for members of the club.

Possible Future Access.

As members are aware, the Donegal vs. Kerry game in March was a huge success and it is their hope that there will be many more such games coming to the O'Donnell Park in the years ahead. They see this as being of great benefit to the town with many new visitors coming for day or weekend trips. As they try to increase the capacity of the ground, and so attract bigger and bigger games, alternative access routes, particularly into the riverside of the ground, would be a major advantage. They would therefore request that possible future access to the O'Donnell Park would be kept in mind when the Council are deciding on any future road designs or riverside improvement schemes or whatever in this area.

They have already met with Eunan Quinn, C.P.U. and have given their support for the Gateway project he is involved in.

Facilities for Gaelic Games and the Town and Environs Development Plan.

Their members have asked them to express their disappointment at the lack of provision for Gaelic Games in the new Leisure Centre and also the small amount of green space being provided in estates throughout the town.

They request that as the new Town Development Plan is drawn up, some way of increasing the green spaces/play areas in estates be examined.

With the new Leisure Centre and the O'Donnell Park side by side, and the new Town Park and proposed riverside walkway, they would ask that the Council maintain the current zoning of lands on the river side of the Conwall Road, and indeed investigate the possibility of increasing again the sporting facilities in this area and making it the centre for recreational excellence in the whole North West.

Cllr Dessie Larkin thanked the Deputation for their presentation thanked the club for their assistance in advancing the Borehole Scheme. He also commended them on the great work being done for the youth of Letterkenny and added that the Letterkenny Environs Plan was an ideal opportunity to enhance this area as the Greenbelt area of the Town.

Cllr Jimmy Harte asked that any matters raised would be resolved where possible and stated that this is a much needed and worthwhile facility.

Cllr Jean Crossan commended the Committee on the great work done to date.

Cllr Tony Mc Daid congratulated the Committee on their commitment and appreciated all the time and effort involved.

LEC 51/07 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee on Tuesday 20th November, 2007, commencing at **9.30 am** in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

APPENDIX 1

Appendix 2

Letterkenny Electoral Area

Proposed List Of Local Improvement Schemes for 2007

<u>Scheme No.</u>	<u>Promoter</u> <u>Value</u>
0/3733	Mary McDaid, Foxhalls, Newmills €4,103.20
0/3824	Robert Kiilpatrick, Habitstown, Raphoe €9,778.45
0/3930	James McMenamin (Snr), Kirkstown, Letterkenny €7,619.33
0/4065	David White, Calhame, Letterkenny €1,821.25
0/4249	Mary Sweeney, Castlegrove, Ballymaleel €8,826.65
0/4250	Daniel Langan, Rahan, Letterkenny €3,185.50
0/4253	Patrick Kelly, Correnagh, Letterkenny €8,802.50
0/4320	Samuel Laird, Ardvarnock, Convoy €4,678.03
0/4834	Maureen Spratt, Letterleague, Letterkenny €3,965.54
0/4837	Mary McDermott, Glencar Scotch, Letterkenny €2,448.98
0/4839	Samuel Whyte, Tullygay, Letterkenny €3,443.10
0/4841	Cormac Curran, Drumnaskea, Letterkenny €1,628.80
0/4842	Margaret Doherty, Correnagh, Letterkenny €1,628.80
0/4843	Marie Patterson, 2 Glenmaquin Lower, Letterkenny €4,211.76
0/4844	Noel Arthur, Trentamucklagh, St. Johnston €9,171.24
0/4846	Eugene Dooher, Lehnabraid, Ballindrait €36,587.94
0/4847	Michael McMonagle, Burnside, Raphoe €8,812.06
0/4848	Alice Lynch, Carrickmore, St. Johnston €10,374.84
0/4849	John Russell, Ballylawn, Manorcunningham €8,894.10
0/4850	Enda McClafferty, Maymore, St. Johnston €10,028.00
0/4851	Lexie Gilfillian, Lettergull, St. Johnston €16,984.81

0/4852	Teresa Coyle, Cooladerry, Raphoe €6,693.00
0/4853	Rose Gallagher, Ballymonaster, Ballindrait €2,386.18
0/4856	Sharon Black, Castleshanaghan, Letterkenny €15,630.80

Clar Area Funding

0/4845	Thomas Hay, Galdonagh, Manorcunningham €9,580.00
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