

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE,
HELD IN LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE, ON MONDAY, 22ND
MAY 2006.**

LEC 21/06 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

LEC 22/06 **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Charlie Cannon, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Liam Edwards, Senior Resident Engineer, NRDO
Richard Gibson, Acting CEDO, 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
Vincent Lynn, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Garry Martin, Senior Executive Officer, Community, Enterprise & Cultural
Niall Mc Cafferty, Technician, Roads & Transportation
Linda McCann, Staff Officer, Corporate Services
Con McLaughlin, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency Services,
Letterkenny & Inishowen Electoral Areas
Rose Patton, Staff Officer, Corporate Services
Ronnie Sayers, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Alison Steele, Clerical Officer, Roads & Transportation
Frank Sweeney, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development

ALSO PRESENT

Charlotte Connolly, Cathedral Hill Residents Association
Barney Harkin, Cathedral Hill Residents Association
Ann McGinley, Cathedral Hill Residents Association

Cllr Tony Mc Daid chaired the meeting.

LEC23/06 CONTRATULATIONS

Tony McDaid congratulated Cllr Ciaran Brogan and his wife Lorraine on the birth of their son and Linda and Liam Mc Cann on the birth of their daughter.

LEC 24/06 CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23rd MARCH 2006.

On the proposal of Cllr. Dessie Larkin and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Harte the Minutes of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 23rd March 2006 were agreed.

LEC 25/06 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

25.01 N56 Mountain Top to Illistrin Road Realignment - Phase 1

The Committee considered the Progress Report that was circulated with the Agenda and Liam Edwards explained the contents of same. The Contractor has advised that the likely completion date is now the end of July 2006. (The original contract end date was 18 July 2006).

The Committee recommended that access to the businesses in the Pinehill Industrial Estate and Blacks Centra be completed as a matter of urgency to ensure minimal disruption. It was also recommended that the Contractor consider working at night to eliminate disruptions to the flow of traffic in this area and that the location of cones and signage be kept under review.

Cllr Dessie Larkin asked the storm water drainage in the area be checked to eliminate any further flooding of raw sewage in estates in this area.

Cllr Ciaran Brogan asked that the materials stockpiled at the entrance to the Pinehill Industrial Estate be removed urgently.

The Committee extended their thanks to the construction team for the work carried out to date. Liam Edwards agreed to examine these issues but pointed out that the Contractor had a Work Programme that he was working to and that the introduction of night working and any changes to the programme would have cost implications.

25.02 Official Opening Business Park Road, Letterkenny

Pat Gillespie informed the Committee that the Business Park Road, Letterkenny would be officially opened at 4.00 p.m. that day. The Members congratulated the team of Council workers involved on this project for the dedication and commitment to completing this road.

25.04 **Road Works Programme for 2006**

Pat Gillespie circulated the Road Works programme for the Letterkenny Area for 2006 and answered a number of queries regarding it.

Cllr Dessie Larkin requested an update on the position in relation to Woodland and Cashelshannaghan roads.

Cllr Ciaran Brogan requested an update on the position in relation to Dunne's to Sallaghgrane Road and asked that the Rockhill Road be strengthened to accommodate diverted traffic when works commence on the R 250 at the O Donnell Park. The Members expressed concern about safety of motorists currently using the Rockhill Road.

Cllr Jimmy Harte asked that the road at Woodland, Raphoe (John Vance) be repaired urgently as the local are very concerned at the dangerous condition of this road.

25.05 **Roads Workshop 4th April, 2006 – Amendment to Report**

Cllr Dessie Larkin asked that the record in relation to the closing of the central median at the Drumardagh Junction should be clarified in that this was the opinion of Aidan O'Doherty, Senior Engineer and not agreed by the Members.

Cllr Dessie Larkin also requested that the record in relation to the approval of Planning Permissions in this area was stated by Frank Sweeney and was not endorsed by the Members.

25.06 **Roads Workshop Local Improvement Schemes and Development Charges**

It was agreed to hold a Roads Workshop on Thursday, 22nd June, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

25.07 **N 15 Lifford - Stranorlar/Ballybofey**

The Committee considered a Scheme Update Report on the N 15 Lifford - Stranorlar/Ballybofey Road that was circulated at the meeting. The project involves the design and construction of approximately 17km of new National Primary route bypassing Castlefinn, Liscooley and Killygordan.

The Route Selection Report is due to be completed in the Autumn and it is then intended to hold a Public Information Session to give information on the Route Selection Report. Following on from this it is hoped to progress to preliminary design/land acquisition.

LEC 26/06 **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

26.01 **Take-Over of Private Housing Schemes Programme**

Vincent Lynn circulated the following to the meeting:

1. A Copy of the Adopted Policy Document on Private Housing Takeover and the Certified Minutes of Council Meeting of 26th September 2005.
2. Application Form for Takeover of Housing Estate Services,
3. Up to date position in relation to Pre 1996 Estates,
4. Copy of the Private Housing Estate Document.
5. Basic Information on Mechanical and Electoral Plant

He advised that an agreement had been made with the C.I.F. and Developers to take over Pre- 1996 Estates, all Pre 1996 Estates in the Letterkenny E.A. that can be taken over have been taken over and a number of estates have been “parked” for various reasons. Take over of Pre 1996 Estates has to be done by Agreement and if a resident objects the Council do not get involved.

He updated the Committee on work being carried out on the takeover of Estates and answered queries raised by the Members, in relation to individual Estates, position on open spaces and encouraged developers to complete applications for takeover. He pointed out that the take over of estates would be a major issue in the future particularly in estates with Mechanical and Electrical Plant.

The Committee recommended that a register of Mechanical Plant that is acceptable to the Council for Take-Over be prepared and circulated to Developers.

The Committee also recommended that the purpose of Open Space should be defined and that unusable spaces should not be acceptable.

26.02 **Fairways Estate**

Frank Sweeney informed the Committee that he would continue to try and arrange a meeting between the Developer and the Golf Club regarding the outstanding issue of the buffer zone.

26.03 **St Jude’s Court**

Frank Sweeney advised the Committee that the public lighting was now in place in accordance with the planning conditions and the roads were cleaned up.

26.04 **Cathedral Hill**

Frank Sweeney informed the Committee that an application has been submitted and a decision was due in the next few weeks.

26.05 **Non-Compliance with Planning Conditions at Highland View, Letterkenny**

The Members requested that the Planning Section follow up on non-compliance with Planning Conditions at Highland View, and present a report to the next Electoral Area Meeting.

26.06 **Pre-Planning Consultation Procedure/On Line Planning Service**

Frank Sweeney, Area Manager, circulated details on the Pre-Planning Consultations Procedure and stated that consultations would take place on the last Wednesday afternoon of each month for the Letterkenny Area. This did not include consultations within the Letterkenny Town Council boundary.

Mr. Sweeney also updated the Members on the changes to the On-Line Planning Service and outlined the benefit this would be to the public in completing applications for planning Permission.

The Members expressed concern that time allocated was insufficient. The procedures circulated was not endorsed by the Members and stated that their enquiries would continue to be dealt with during the week.

The Members stated that the G-Plan was excellent, however, it would be a benefit if applications could be listed chronologically and not randomly as is at present. The Members also asked that the Letterkenny Town Council would subscribe to this system.

26.07 **Enforcement Technician**

The Committee requested that Catriona Kelly, Enforcement Technician, attend the next Letterkenny Electoral Area Meeting and present an update on enforcements to date.

26.08 **Consideration of Recent Refusals**

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

26.09 **Planning Statistics**

The Committee considered the report on Planning Statistics from 1/1/06 to 30/4/06, which outlined a total breakdown of applications received in each Electoral Area. Mr. Sweeney stated that the Letterkenny Area had sufficient staff to deal with applications received.

LEC 27/06 HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES

27.01 Central Heating Programme 2006

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that a select list of Contractors has been drawn up after a countywide public advertisement, which sought expressions of interest. Tenders have now been sought and a closing date for receipt of same is Friday, 9th June, 2006. It is hoped to commence this programme in July.

27.02 Remedial Works/Regeneration Programme 2005 - St Eunan's Terrace, Raphoe

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that works are ongoing and are expected to be finished before the end of May.

27.03 Allocation of Houses

The Committee was informed that the new scheme at Raphoe (Páirc na Bealtaine) has been allocated and the new tenants will receive their keys next week.

27.04 Voluntary Housing - Sheltered Development for Elderly at Fortwell Letterkenny

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that the project has commenced.

27.05 Affordable Housing

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that assessment of applicants for the 4 houses in Letterkenny has been completed and letters of offer have been issued to the successful applicants.

27.06 Grant Report

The Committee considered the Grant Report at 11th May, 2006 that was circulated with the Agenda.

27.07 Loan Report

The Committee considered the Loan Report at 11th May, 2006 that was circulated with the Agenda.

27.08 **Casual Vacancy Report**

The Committee considered the Casual Vacancy Report at 11th May, 2006 that was circulated with the Agenda.

LEC 28/06 **WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Committee considered the Progress Report dated 22nd May 2006 that was circulated at the meeting (Appendix 1)

28.02 **Letterkenny Water Supply**

Con McLaughlin presented in his report, and updated the Committee on the South Letterkenny Water Supply.

The Members commended the staff on works already done and agreed that the Council would send a letter to the Lismonaghan Residents updating them on progress made.

The Members enquired if problems associated with Woodlands area could now be looked at, where periodic interruptions of supply are reported.

28.03 **Lough Greenan**

Con McLaughlin presented his report and updated the Committee on the current position with the works proposed at Lough Greenan following extensive discussions with the Northern Regional Fisheries Board. Report on Planning Process due before July Council meeting.

28.04 **Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme Letterkenny WS Augmentation No 2 Borehole DBO**

Con McLaughlin presented his report and updated the Committee on the current position on Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme.

28.05 **Letterkenny C.A.S.**

Con McLaughlin presented his report and updated the Committee on the current position on Letterkenny Civic Amenity Site. The Members expressed their frustration at the lack of progress being made in pursuing the site with the Health Service Executive. Cllr Ciaran Brogan reminded the meeting that he had offered his service as a member of the HSE Board in the negotiations if it was felt that would help.

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan stated that if progress was not made by the next Letterkenny Electoral Area meeting that the Council would need to apply for planning to use the old Bacon Factory or other Council land for the Civic Amenity Site as a facility is urgently required in the Letterkenny area.

28.06 **Camera Survey at Hazelwood, Letterkenny**

Cllr. Dessie Larkin reported sewage problems at Hazelwood and asked that a camera survey be carried out. Jim Hyland agreed to have this attended to.

28.07 **Major Capital Programme**

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

28.08 **Small Capital Schemes**

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

28.08.01 **Coolatee and Lifford Sewerage Schemes**

Cllr. Gerry Crawford asked for an update on the current position of the Lifford Sewerage Scheme listed in the major capital programme, in particular progress on the preparation of the Design Brief. In response Con McLaughlin noted that with the Lifford project as part of a Major Capital Project the preparation of a Design Brief may be extensive, however he undertook to revert to the Councillor with current status.

Cllr Crawford wished to know where the €40k contributed from Housing towards the Coolatee S.S. was used, also the cost estimate for that scheme. In response Con McLaughlin noted to the meeting that it would remain in place as a contribution from Housing towards eventual upgrade of that scheme, to be used as part funding when Small Capital Scheme money is allocated to that job.

28.09 **Serviced Land Initiative Schemes**

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

28.10 **Group Water Schemes**

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

LEC 29/06 **COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND ENTERPRISE SERVICES**

Garry Martin introduced Richard Gibson Acting Administrative Officer for the Inishowen and Letterkenny Electoral Areas and advised that Richard would be deputising for Aideen Doherty whilst she is on Maternity Leave.

Garry Martin updated the Committee on a number of issues that were included in the Reports circulated with the Agenda.

29.01 **Peace II**

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan complimented the residents of Glenwood Park on improvements made within the estate using the €6,500 funding they received.

29.02 **Development Officer**

Garry Martin, Divisional Manager informed the meeting that Letterkenny Town Council have advertised the position of Development Officer for Letterkenny town and hope to have this position filled in the next few months. The Members welcomed this appointment.

29.03 **Skateboard Park**

Garry Martin advised the Department's had concern at relocating the Skateboard Park from the proposed New Town Park to within the New Leisure Complex at Sallaghgrane. The Committee recommended that this matter be resolved as soon as possible.

29.04 **HEART Project**

Garry Martin updated the Committee on the HEART – Heritage, Environment, Arts and Rural Tourism Project and informed the meeting that Raphoe was highlighted as the Heritage Town for the Letterkenny Electoral Area. A Cross Border application to Interreg has been submitted in association with Strabane District Council. The Committee recommended that the application include for the provision of a new footpath around the town. Garry Martin agreed to investigate if this would qualify for funding.

29.05 **Lough Swilly Ferry**

Garry Martin informed the meeting that the Lough Swilly Ferry, which was due to commence operation on 18th May, will not now commence until early June.

29.06 **Disability Strategy**

Cllr Dessie Larkin expressed concern at the lack of Members representation on the Donegal Disability Advisory Group. He suggested that the Chairperson

of the Housing SPC be a member of the Advisory Group to give an input on policy changes.

29.07 **Oaklands Housing Estate, Letterkenny**

Cllr Dessie Larkin asked Richard Gibson to contact Kathleen Deeney of the Oaklands Residents and advise them on proposals on how to progress the development of their open space and equipment they have purchased.

29.08 **Walking Routes**

The Committee requested that Jeremy Smith make a presentation of proposed Walking Routes at the next Letterkenny Electoral Area Meeting

LEC 20/06 **DEPUTATION FROM RESIDENTS OF CATHEDRAL HILL, RAPHOE**

Cllr Tony McDaid welcomed Ann McGinley, Charlotte Connolly and Bernard Harkin to the meeting.

Ann McGinley outlined the three major concerns that the residents of Cathedral Hill had as follows:

Water System servicing the houses. Water is pumped by a pumping station that is continually breaking down. The pump is not automatic and residents have to wait for the developer to turn the pump on and the residents have no access to the pump. It is a major concern for residents that if there was a fire on the Estate that the pump cannot be depended upon.

Safety for kids on footpath. Ms. McGinley circulated photographs of the overgrown trees adjacent to the footpath, which force pedestrians onto the road.

She stated that entrance to the Estate is in poor repair with potholes and raised manholes. She also mentioned the corner on the approach to the entrance to the estate.

Frank Sweeney stated that there was a planning application for Phase II at this Estate and these issues would be addressed as part of this application. Con McLaughlin stated that in their opinion the pump is inadequate and an upgrade is necessary as part of Phase II. The provision of a reservoir is also being recommended as part of Phase II.

LEC 21/06 **DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee on Monday 24th July, 2006, commencing at 10.00 am in the Public Services Centre, Letterkenny.

Appendix 1**WATER & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES****Report to Letterkenny EAC Meeting 22nd May 2006****AGENDA Item no.2 – Update reports from previous meeting:**

From minutes of previous meeting 23rd March 2006, using same notation:

17.02**Letterkenny Water Supply:****South Letterkenny Area Improvements:**

As noted previously the improvement works noted for that area in the Letterkenny Water Strategy Study include a two stage approach which are progressing as follows: The first stage of these works, which involves bringing more water into the area via the Oldtown Bridge and thereby reducing the demand on the Lurgybrack system. Those works are being progressed in conjunction with a local developer. Construction of the new watermain and pump-house are almost complete with commissioning of that works anticipated in late May / beginning of June 2006.

The second stage will involve provision of increased reservoir storage for the south Letterkenny area, which will add greater security to the system. That stage of works presently remains on course for construction later this year. Part 8 Planning advertised, Contract documents are finalised with works expected to go to tender shortly.

17.03**Lough Greenan Emergency Works**

Donegal County Council presented proposals to the Northern Regional Fisheries Board, detailing an abstraction regime designed to lessen any negative impact on the Arctic Char fish species. Indications are that the NRFB accepted those proposals, but raised further concerns re trout which the Council have addressed as far as possible in the Part 8 process. Placating them in full would result in the scheme being uneconomic as the compensation flow required to the stream would be too great. It is hoped to take a report on Part 8 to the July meeting of the Council, following which an implementation programme can be advised.

17.04.01**Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme:**

The members previously raised concern at the proposed bundling of this project with the Gweedore SS. The Council raised those concerns at the May Steering Group meeting with the DEHLG, where the Council made a further appeal to the Department to relent on their instruction to group the schemes. The Department rejected that request, insisting that the bundled projects will offer benefit to the Council going forward with reduced operation and maintenance costs.

Letterkenny WS Augmentation no 2 (Borehole DBO):

Bonds, insurances and contract agreements being prepared by Councils solicitors and access arrangements being agreed with St. Eunan's GAA club.

17.09**Letterkenny C.A.S.**

As noted at Special Council meeting (8th May 2006) where quarterly reports on all capital projects were presented, negotiations re the land transfer continue to be progressed at two levels between DCC and the HSE, including continuation of local contact but also with HSE central with a view to finalising this matter at the earliest. Contract Documents are being finalised. Regarding planning for a temporary site, that matter has been referred for consideration to Capital Design, however initial feedback suggest that this option might prove difficult to achieve and that efforts should continue to secure required progress on the permanent site.

AGENDA Items no. 3-6 - Progress Reports:

Updated progress reports circulated with agenda, including:

Capital Programmes:

Major Capital Programme
Service Land Initiative (SLI's)

Rural Water Programme:

Small Capital Programme
Group Scheme Programme

*C.McLaughlin, Senior Executive Engineer,
Area Manager, Water & Environment Service,
22nd May 2006*