

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE,
HELD IN LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE, ON MONDAY, 24TH
JULY 2006.**

***LEC 32/06* MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

***LEC 33/06* OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Paddy Doherty, Town Clerk, Letterkenny Town Council
Ruth Diver, Executive Planner, Planning & Economic Development
Richard Gibson, Acting CEDO, Community Enterprise & Cultural Services
Pat Gillespie, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation,
Jim Hyland, Executive Engineer, Water, Environment & Emergency Services,
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate Services,
Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager, Housing,
Sinead McClafferty, Assistant Planner, Planning & Economic Development
Con McLaughlin, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency Services,
Rose Patton, Staff Officer, Corporate Services

APOLOGIES

Frank Sweeney, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Karen McCafferty, Executive Engineer, Donegal National Road Design Office
Aidan O'Doherty, Senior Engineer, Donegal National Road Design Office
Liam Edwards, Senior Resident Engineer, Donegal National Road Design
Office
Tommy McNulty, Clerk of Works, Housing

ALSO PRESENT

Heather Browne, Parents Association, Ray National School
Helen Gardiner, Board of Management, Ray National School
Karen Devenney, Acting Principal, Ray National School
Jim Devenney, Ray National School

***LEC34/06* ELECTION OF AREA CHAIRPERSON**

On the proposal of Cllr Ciaran Brogan, seconded by Cllr Dessie Larkin, Cllr Gerry Crawford was elected as Chairperson for the coming year. There were no other nominations for the position of Chairperson.

Cllr Tony McDaid as outgoing Chairperson thanked the Members, the Staff and the Press for their support over the past year and wished Cllr Crawford well in his position as Chairperson for the coming year.

Cllr Crawford thanked his Proposer and Seconder and commended Cllr McDaid for his efficiency and fairness as Chairperson over the past year. The other Members echoed this.

LEC 35/06 CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22nd MAY 2006.

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Harte and seconded by Cllr. Tony McDaid the Minutes of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 22nd May 2006 were agreed.

LEC 36/06 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

36.01 Roads Workshop

It was agreed to hold a Roads Workshop in the Letterkenny PSC on 28/07/06 commencing at 10.00 a.m. followed by a meeting of the Letterkenny Electoral Area Meeting at 11.00 a.m.

36.02 N56 Mountain Top to Illistrin Road Realignment - Phase 1

The Committee considered the Progress Report prepared by Liam Edwards, Senior Resident Engineer that was circulated with the Agenda. Cllr Dessie Larkin asked where the safety barrier, guardrails etc would be erected. Pat Gillespie agreed to follow up on this matter with Liam Edwards, and to advise the Committee.

36.03 N14/N13 Junction (Manorcunningham) to Lifford/Strabane

The Committee considered the Progress Report that was circulated with the Agenda and welcomed the progress to date. Cllr Dessie Larkin emphasised the importance of consultation with the local residents. Following further queries from Cllr Tony McDaid, Pat Gillespie stated that he would contact the DNRDO regarding a map of the Preferred Route.

36.04 Trimragh Junction Options

The Committee considered the Progress Report that was circulated with the Agenda. Cllr Dessie Larkin was critical of the lack of progress on this project. Cllr Jimmy Harte stated that in light of the recent tragic accident at Trimragh Junction, it was important that local residents were consulted as to the best plan for the junction. Cllr Harte extended his sympathy to the families involved in the tragedy.

Pat Gillespie stated he would contact the DNRDO regarding the Trimragh Junction in advance of the Roads Workshop on 28/07/06.

36.05 **LIS Schemes**

It was agreed that the Letterkenny LIS list 2006 circulated with the Agenda would be discussed at the Roads Workshop on 28/07/06.

36.06 **Bomany/Kirkstown Roads**

Cllr Dessie Larkin requested that urgent attention be given to the Rockhill Road as it is in a serious state of disrepair. This was emphasised by Cllr Brogan and Cllr Harte who stated that the Kirkstown Road and Bomany Road also need immediate attention.

36.07 **Signage**

The Committee recommended that signage be erected at the Roundabout at the Junction of Neil T Blaney Road and Paddy Harte Road and also at the new Roundabout on the Kilmacrennan Road.

Cllr Crawford requested that Yield Signs be erected at Maggie's Corner, St Johnston.

LEC 37/06 **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

37.01 **Highland View**

The Committee requested that the Planning Section follow up on the Enforcement Action at Highland View in Letterkenny and carry out an inspection after eight weeks. Cllr Dessie Larkin requested an up to date letter on it.

37.02 **Cathedral Hill**

Ruth Diver informed the Committee that Further Information had been requested on this application and this has not yet been submitted.

37.03 **Ard na Mealla, St Johnston**

Cllr Gerry Crawford requested an update letter on the situation at Ard Na Mealla.

37.04 **Enforcement Technician**

The Members were disappointed to learn that the Enforcement Technician was involved in other duties at present and requested that she attend the next Electoral Area meeting with an updated report on progress made.

37.05 **Consideration of Recent Refusals**

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

Cllr Jimmy Harte requested that application 06/40278 be re-examined.

37.05.01 **Monthly Planning Meetings**

Cllr Dessie Larkin requested that consideration be given to holding planning meetings on a monthly basis with the members.

37.06 **Planning Statistics**

The Committee considered the report on Planning Statistics circulated with the Agenda.

LEC 38/06 **HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES**

38.01 **Central Heating Programme 2006**

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that the Contractor had been selected and they are currently awaiting confirmation of relevant tax and insurance requirements as well as a start date. Works are due to commence in August.

38.02 **Remedial Works/Regeneration Programme 2005 - St Eunan's Terrace, Raphoe and Fr. Arnold Tce. Manorcunningham**

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that works are complete and some funding is remaining.

On the proposal of Cllr Dessie Larkin, seconded by Cllr Tony McDaid the Committee recommended that the remaining funding be spent on similar works at Fr Arnold Tce. in Manorcunningham.

38.02.01 **Footpath at Corkey, Manorcunningham**

Cllr Gerry Crawford requested that a footpath be provided at Corkey, Manorcunningham and asked that part of the excess funding be spent there. Patsy Lafferty advised that it was unlikely that Housing could spend this money as all houses had been purchased and were not longer owned by the Council. He said that he would discuss this with Pat Gillespie Roads Section

38.03 **Capital Progress Report**

The Committee considered the Capital Progress report circulated at the Meeting (Appendix 2). Following a query from Cllr Dessie Larkin, Patsy

Lafferty confirmed that the Fortwell Scheme is made up of 25 units suitable mainly for the elderly.

Cllr Larkin also sought clarification on whether or not a playground is to be incorporated into the new Housing Scheme at Manorcunningham. Patsy Lafferty agreed to check this issue and to advise Cllr Larkin.

38.04 Grant Report

The Committee considered the Grant Report at 14th July, 2006 that was circulated with the Agenda.

38.05 Loan Report

The Committee considered the Loan Report at 14th July, 2006 that was circulated with the Agenda.

38.06 Casual Vacancy Report

The Committee considered the Casual Vacancy Report at 14th July, 2006 that was circulated with the Agenda.

LEC 39/06 WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Committee considered the Progress Report dated 24th July 2006 that was circulated at the meeting (Appendix 1)

39.01 Lough Greenan

Con McLaughlin presented his report stating that the report on Part 8 Planning Process for the proposed works was to be presented to the Council on 27/07/06 following which an implementation programme can be advised.

39.02 Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme

Con McLaughlin presented his report stating that the DOEHLG have indicated that Letterkenny S.S. and Gweedore S.S. are to be bundled as one contract and that Contract Documents are now being prepared.

The Committee requested an update on the Gweedore Scheme be presented at the next Letterkenny EAM and were anxious to know if this would delay the Letterkenny Scheme.

39.03 Letterkenny C.A.S.

The members expressed their frustration at the continued delay in providing a Civic Amenity Site for Letterkenny.

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan stated that if progress was not made by the next Letterkenny Electoral Area meeting that he would pursue a motion that the

Council should 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.

39.04 **Camera Survey at Hazelwood, Letterkenny**

Cllr. Dessie Larkin thanked Con McLaughlin and his staff for their efficient response in dealing with the sewer problem at Hazelwood.

39.05 **Major Capital Programme**

The Committee were informed that Progress Reports on Major Capital Schemes and Serviced Land Initiatives would in future be included in Quarterly Capital Reports to Council Meetings.

Cllr Dessie Larkin asked that Members be updated on what has been approved recently at Lough Mourne.

39.06 **Small Capital Schemes**

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

This included a proposed priority listing for Small Capital Schemes as follows:

- Coolatee SS
- Raphoe Water Supply
- Lifford SS
- Raphoe SS

On the proposal of Cllr Gerry Crawford and seconded by Cllr McDaid the Committee recommended that the list circulated be agreed.

Cllr Tony McDaid sought clarification on whether proposals for Lifford Common have been discussed by Sanitary Design and Planning.

39.07 **Group Water Schemes**

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

Cllr Dessie Larkin requested an update on the Rareagh GWSS for the next LEAC Meeting.

39.08 **Level 3 Clean Up**

Con McLaughlin in his report listed the following areas of illegal dumping in the Letterkenny EA:

- Stumpy's Brae
- Coravaddy, Letterkenny
- Castletown, St Johnston

Mr McLaughlin stated that these areas had now been cleaned up.

On the proposal of Cllr Dessie Larkin, seconded by Cllr Ciaran Brogan the Committee recommended that a Level 3 Clean Up be carried out at Difflin, Raphoe.

39.08.01 **Illegal Dumping**

The Committee commended the Litter Wardens and staff on good progress being made in regards to illegal dumping and urged that a message be sent out to the effect that the Council will not tolerate illegal dumping.

Cllr Dessie Larkin stated that consideration should be given to requesting households to show how household waste is being disposed of.

LEC 40/06 **COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND ENTERPRISE SERVICES**

40.01 **Development Officer**

Richard Gibson informed the meeting that Letterkenny Town Council have advertised the position of Development Officer for Letterkenny town with a closing date of 28/07/06. The Members welcomed this development.

40.02 **Skateboard Park**

Richard Gibson informed the Members that the DOEHLG had indicated there was no objection regarding a proposed change of location for the Letterkenny Skate Park from Ballymacool to the site at Sallaghgrane subject to Donegal County Council having agreed to it.

On the proposal of Cllr Dessie Larkin, seconded by Cllr Ciaran Brogan, the Committee recommended the relocation of the Skate Park to the New Leisure Centre at Sallaghgrane.

40.03 **HEART Project**

Richard Gibson 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. Mr. Gibson stated that a dedicated Project Officer was to start in August and that a community consultation process would be initiated with works subsequently agreed with respect to the budget available.

40.04 **Disability Strategy**

Richard Gibson informed the Committee that a Disability Advisory Group had been set up and was hoping to bring the Chairpersons of the three Disability Agencies operating locally together to suggest improvements.

Mr. Gibson stated that it may be more appropriate for a member to be nominated to the proposed 'umbrella' committee and that that committee could consider a nomination on a countywide basis.

40.05 **Oaklands Housing Estate, Letterkenny**

Richard Gibson informed the Committee that he had been in contact with Oaklands Park Resident Association who have identified a potential site for the playground and the Council will be working directly with them focusing on issues like planning, design etc.

On the proposal of Cllr Dessie Larkin, seconded by Cllr Ciaran Brogan it was agreed to bring Oakland Park onto the Priority List for funding should it become available.

40.06 **Walking Routes**

It was agreed that Garry Martin and Jeremy Smith would attend the Meeting on 28/07/06 to discuss the Development Contribution Scheme and Walking Routes.

40.07 **Cultural Services**

Richard Gibson informed the Committee that it was the intention of the Cultural Services Division to make a presentation to the Committee at the September Electoral Area Meeting. The subject of the presentation is to include topics such as the Draft Heritage Plan and Public Art Policy.

LEC 41/06 **DEPUTATION FROM RAY N.S., MANORCUNNINGHAM**

Cllr Gerry Crawford welcomed Jim Devenney, Heather Browne, Helen Gardiner and Karen Devenney to the meeting.

The Deputation, in turn, outlined the major concerns they had and action required to ensure the safety of the children, parents and staff of Ray N.S, namely:

Provision of a bus bay and disabled parking bay.

Provision of footpaths and drainage to relieve flooding.

Provision of School warning signs and speed limit reduction signs on approach to school.

Provision of additional lights outside the school building.

Resurfacing of the approach road

Speed Ramps

Erection of an 80Km/hr Sign on road to Ray N.S.

Advance Warning Signs to be provided
Provision of a Right Turning Lane at junction of Main Lifford Road and road to Ray N.S.

The Members thanked the Deputation for their detailed Presentation and Pat Gillespie agreed to visit the school around 3.00 p.m. on a school day and view the situation for himself and address the issues raised.
Cllr Larkin agreed to allocate public light at the school.

It was agreed that the Planning Department would check if Planning conditions in respect of Ray N.S. in 2000 and the extension to the school in 2005 have been complied with.

Jim Devenney, on behalf of the Deputation, thanked the Committee for their time and hoped that the issues raised could be resolved.

LEC42/06 CORPORATE SERVICES

It was agreed that a Deputation from Manorcunningham Community Development Association be invited to attend the September Letterkenny Electoral Area Meeting.

LEC 43/06 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee on Monday 18th September, 2006, commencing at 9.30 am in the Public Services Centre, Letterkenny.

Appendix 1

WATER & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES**Report to Letterkenny EAC Meeting 24th July 2006****AGENDA Item no.2 – Update reports from previous meeting:**

From minutes of previous meeting 22nd May 2006, using same notation:

17.03 Lough Greenan Emergency Works

The report on Part 8 planning process for the proposed works is to be presented to the Council on the 24th July 2006, following which an implementation programme can be advised.

28.04 Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme (Contract 1 DBO Treatment):

DEHLG have indicated that Letterkenny and Gweedore are to be bundled as one contract; contract documents are now being combined to reflect that.

Letterkenny WS Augmentation no 2 (Borehole DBO):

CPO submitted to An Bord Pleanála, meanwhile lease agreements being finalised in parallel with local objector.

28.06 Sewer problem at Hazelwood, Letterkenny

Survey identified debris, bricks etc causing obstruction, which was since removed.

AGENDA Items no. 3-4 - Progress Reports:

Updated progress reports circulated with agenda, including:

Capital Programmes:

[NOTE – not included here are the capital Programmes, (including Major Capital Programme and Service Land Initiative (SLI's)), which will in future be included in quarterly progress reports to Council Meetings]

Rural Water Programme:

Small Capital Programme
Group Scheme Programme

AGENDA Items no. 5 - Small Capital Scheme Review

The following for your consideration is a review of the projects in the Letterkenny Area, which should be considered for funding under the small capital scheme programme. See further information on pages 141-145 in Budget book 2006.

Existing priority lists (those in italics from reserve list):

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| ○ St Johnston Sewerage Scheme | <i>Construction expected 2006 / 7</i> |
| ○ Lifford SS | } <i>Schemes to be determined as needs arise</i> |
| ○ Raphoe SS | |
| ○ Coolatee SS | |

Proposed priority listing:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| ○ Coolatee SS | |
| ○ Raphoe Water Supply | Increased storage (from 450m ³) |
| ○ Lifford SS | |
| ○ Raphoe SS | |

Comments:

- *The recommended number one priority to follow St Johnston SS is the upgrade of sewerage scheme arrangements at Coolatee, Lifford.*
- *Raphoe WS included towards addressing the emerging problems in that area meeting peak demands.*
- *Lifford SS is already listed on the Water Service Investment Programme as a Major Capital Project*

Funding allocations under the rural water programme under the heading of small capital schemes is currently €650,000 for the County for 2006.

AGENDA Items no. 6 – Environment (Level 3 Clean-up)

The Litter Warden has identified the following areas of illegal dumping in the Letterkenny EA:

- *Stumpy's Brae, Lifford;*
- *Coravaddy, Letterkenny*
- *Castletown, St. Johnston*

See photographic evidence of scale in each case. These sites have since been cleaned up by the Mobile Litter Unit, with any evidence found used to pursue those responsible.

A further illegal dump site, at Difflin, Raphoe is beyond the capability of the MLU and has thus been recommended for a Level 3 Clean-up by the Litter Warden

*C.McLaughlin, Senior Executive Engineer,
Area Manager, Water & Environment Service,
24th July 2006*