

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE,  
HELD IN THE CATHEDRAL HALL, RAPHOE, ON THURSDAY, 23RD MARCH  
2006.**

***LEC 11/06*     MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

***LEC 12/06*     OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Charlie Cannon, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation  
Brian Cullen, Chief Technician, Marine Section  
Rosaleen Gallagher, Youth Council  
Pat Gillespie, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation, Letterkenny &  
Inishowen Electoral Areas  
Jim Hyland, Executive Engineer, Water, Environment & Emergency Services,  
Catriona Kelly, Enforcement Technician, Planning & Economic Development  
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate Services, Letterkenny & Inishowen  
Electoral Areas  
Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager, Housing, Letterkenny & Inishowen Electoral Areas  
Garry Martin, Senior Executive Officer, Community, Enterprise & Cultural  
Karen McCafferty, Executive Engineer, National Road Design Office  
Con McLaughlin, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency Services,  
Letterkenny & Inishowen Electoral Areas  
Tommy McNulty, Clerk of Works, Housing  
Aidan O'Doherty, Senior Engineer, National Road Design Office  
Jack O'Doherty, Youth Councillor  
Daire O'Neill, Youth Councillor  
Rose Patton, Staff Officer, Corporate Services  
Ronnie Sayers, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation  
Frank Sweeney, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development

**Apologies**

Liam Edwards, Senior Resident Engineer, NRDO

Cllr Tony Mc Daid chaired the meeting.

***LEC13/06*     SYMPATHY**

A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect for the recently  
deceased Mr Sam Kelly, father of Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate  
Services.

***LEC 14/06***     **CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2006.**

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

***LEC 15/06***     **HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES**

***15.01***            **Central Heating Programme 2005**

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that works were now completed under this Programme.

Mr Lafferty also stated that expressions of interest would shortly be sought to enable a list of Contractors to be selected from which tenders will be sought for the Central Heating Programme at Croaghan Heights in Lifford. He agreed to update the Members in due course.

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

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that Tender prices have now been received and the contractor will commence next week with a completion time of approximately six weeks.

The Members welcomed this.

***15.03***            **Allocation of Houses**

The Committee was informed that the new scheme at Raphoe (Páirc na Bealtaine) was not yet ready for allocation as a number of issues had yet to be finalised.

The process of assessing the applicants has already begun and the Members will be informed of any progress.

**15.04**      **Voluntary Housing - Sheltered Development for Elderly at Fortwell Letterkenny**

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that the Council submitted a funding application to the Department on behalf of North and West Housing Association in November 2005 for the development of a Sheltered Housing Project for the elderly at Fortwell, Letterkenny.

The sum of €3,490,556.00 has now been approved by the Department for the Project.

The Complex will be provided and maintained by North and West Housing Association, and will comprise the following:

- 25 Independent Living Units of accommodation for elderly.
- Communal Facilities / Rooms for the residents.

Mr Lafferty stated that he is advised that construction should commence this summer, with an anticipated construction period of 18 months.

The Town Centre location of the facility will be particularly suitable for the future residents.

This development was welcomed by the Members who also emphasised that accommodation for single and separated younger applicants needs to be encouraged.

**15.05**      **Dr. McGinley Road, Letterkenny**

Cllr Dessie Larkin requested that consideration be given to providing Name Plates at the entrances to Dr. McGinley Road.

Patsy Lafferty agreed to follow up on this matter.

**LEC 16/06**      **COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND ENTERPRISE SERVICES**

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

**16.01**      **Rapid Programme**

Garry Martin informed the Committee that a letter had been sent to Minister O’Cuiv’s Office seeking a meeting with him regarding designation of Rapid Area in Letterkenny but as yet no response had been received.

Mr Martin agreed to follow up on this matter.

**16.02**      **Skateboard Park**

Cllr Dessie Larkin advised the Committee that consideration is being given to moving the proposed Skateboard Park from the Proposed Town Park at Ballymacool to the new Leisure Centre at Ballymacool and requested that the Youth Council be informed and asked for their comments.

**16.03**      **Peace 11 Task Force**

Garry Martin informed the Committee that over 140 applications with a total value of c. €8.5m were received under Peace 11. An Evaluations Panel had gone through each application and a Meeting of the Committee was to be held on 24/03/06 to select the successful applicants.

The Committee were to be kept informed.

**16.04**      **Donegal Youth Council**

Jack O'Doherty and Daire O'Neill updated the Committee on the recent countywide meeting of the Donegal Youth Council at which a work plan for the 2006 was drawn up, the main areas of work would include:

- ❖ School transport,
- ❖ Youth facilities and opportunities,
- ❖ Mental health issues for young people,
- ❖ Road safety and working with An Garda Siochana
- ❖ Looking at providing a central base for summer work and part time work for young people.

Letterkenny Youth Council agreed to move forward on the issue of looking at providing a central base for summer work and part time work for young people.

The Committee were informed that the new Chairperson of the Donegal Youth Council is Ms Jackie O'Connell from the Letterkenny EA, while the Vice Chair is Aisling Ui Fhrighil from the Glenties EA.

The Members requested that the Priority list be circulated to the Committee. Cllr Ciaran Brogan urged that the Youth Council continue to highlight Road Safety in schools and Cllr Tony McDaid suggested that they work with the local Press to have regular features on young people and to highlight the positive work being done by the Youth Council.

The Members thanked the Youth Council Members for attending and wished them well in their Projects for the coming year.

**16.05**      **Development Contribution Scheme**

Garry Martin, Divisional Manager outlined the plans of the Community, Culture & Enterprise Directorate to complete a detailed and robust policy that would be brought to the full Council in late May for their consideration and

which would put in place the template through which the members could prioritise projects for support under the Development Contribution Scheme as provided through the Community & Enterprise heading and across areas such as Community Enterprise, Community Infrastructure, Cultural/Heritage and Play, Recreation, Amenities.

He further outlined that the already prioritised projects under the Playgrounds multi-annual programme would fall within the categorisations of projects in this instance and these would also be re-visited as part of the review.

**16.06**      **Fearsaid Mor**

Cllr Dessie Larkin requested that the Heritage Officer examine the possibilities of marking the site of the Battle of Fearsaid Mor and also wished to congratulate those involved in organising the Easter Rising Exhibition in the County Museum.

**16.07**      **Per Cent for Art Scheme**

The Committee requested regular updates on projects to be provided under the Per Cent for Art Scheme as outlined on the Agenda. Garry Martin agreed to follow up on their request.

**16.08**      **Congratulations**

The Committee passed on their congratulations to Aideen Doherty on the recent birth of her baby boy.

**LEC 17/06**      **WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Committee considered the Progress Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 that was circulated at the meeting (Appendix 1)

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

Con McLaughlin informed the Committee that they would be advised when approval for Lagan Water Phase III is received.

**17.02**      **Letterkenny Water Supply**

Con McLaughlin presented in his report, an update to the Committee on the South Letterkenny Water Supply.

The Members commended the staff on works already done and agreed that a follow-up Meeting with the Lismonaghan residents and the Town Council would take place on 04/04/06.

**17.2.1 Emergencies**

Cllr Tony McDaid expressed his concern at the fact that out of date information is being given out by the Call Centre and requested that up to date/current information needs be given to the Centre on all disruptions to the Water Supply.

Cllr Dessie Larkin suggested that consideration should be given to the introduction of a Text Alert System to update Members and staff on any disruptions to the supply.

Con McLaughlin in response reminded the meeting of the call service provided by DCC at present, which was a point of contact for the public to report any interruptions to water service after office hours. He went on to note that DCC regrettably were not in a position to extend that service to one that provided regular updated information.

It was acknowledged that issues in recent times with the Call Centre service needed to be addressed and that the service offered would continue to be monitored.

**17.03 Lough Greenan**

Con McLoughlin informed the Committee that Donegal County Council have presented proposals to the Northern Regional Fisheries Board, detailing an abstraction regime designed to lessen any negative impact on the Arctic Char fish species.

The NRFB are to consider the proposals and revert to the Council shortly, if that process proves positive the Council will be in a position to progress the relevant statutory procedures (Part 8 Planning, etc.) followed by construction.

The members expressed their dissatisfaction at the lack of progress and asked that the Council follow up with N.R.F.B on approval to advance this scheme.

**17.04 Major Capital Programme**

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

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

Cllr Ciaran Brogan requested an update on Letterkenny Sewerage Contract No 1 including DBO Treatments, Letterkenny WS Augmentation No 2 Borehole DBO and on extending sewer to Bunnagee to be circulated to the Members.

In response Con McLaughlin referred to the Progress Report and noted that the Letterkenny Sewerage DBO project was, at the request of the DoEHLG being considered for bundling with the Gweedore S.S. as one contract – this is with DCC for consideration.

Regarding Letterkenny WS Borehole Project – he noted the latest information from Capital Design office is that the Contractor (EPS Limited) has been appointed and will be starting works in May.

Regarding an extension of the sewer to Bunagee, Mr McLaughlin referred to earlier report circulated to the EAC at the November meeting.

**17.05**            **Small Capital Schemes**

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

**17.06**            **Serviced Land Initiative Schemes**

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

**17.07**            **Group Water Schemes**

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

**17.07.1**         **Drumoghill/Labbadish GWSS**

Cllr Dessie Larkin asked whether Drumoghill/Labbadish G.W.S.S would be included as part of Lagan Water Supply Phase III or progress separately.

Con McLaughlin stated that the water source for the GWSS was Phase III and both projects would progress in parallel.

**17.08**            **Kerbside Recycling**

The Committee were informed, in the Progress Report to the meeting on the roll-out of Kerbside recycling in the electoral area.

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

The Committee recommended that consideration should also be given to applying for Part 8 Planning to provide a temporary Civic Amenity Site at the Old Fire Station Site or at the Pearse Road site in the interim.

In response Con McLaughlin noted that negotiations re the land transfer were being 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.

In the mean time DCC were finalising the Contract Documents.

**17.10**            **Staffing Structure**

Cllr Brogan requested details on the Staffing Structure involved in Water Service.

In response Con McLaughlin confirmed the staffing structure as it currently exists in that service, including relevant support staffs from the Laboratory Service (Quality Control) and Special Projects Unit in Lifford (Water Conservation).

**LEC 18/06**    **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**18.01**            **Fairways Estate**

Frank Sweeney informed the Committee that a meeting was being arranged between the Developer and the Golf Club regarding the outstanding issue of the buffer zone and it would take place within the next two weeks.

**18.02**            **Ard na Mealla, St Johnston**

The Committee were informed that Enforcement Action would proceed in this case, and that the applicants are likely to go into liquidation in the near future. However there is a bond in place of €36,000 that can be used to carry out outstanding works.

**18.03**            **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.

**18.04**            **Cathedral Hill**

Frank Sweeney informed the Committee that an application was submitted in February, which encompassed most of the unauthorised issues regarding levels of houses, outstanding roadworks, footpaths and public lighting. This application was invalidated and the developer has had recent discussions with the Roads Section and an application is due to be lodged imminently.

**18.05**            **Non-Compliance with Planning Conditions at Highland View and at Rareagh, 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.

Follow up is also required with 11 houses at Rareagh Road, which have not complied with Planning Conditions.

**18.06**      **Enforcement Technician**

The Committee welcomed Catriona Kelly, Enforcement Technician to the Meeting and wished her well in her new Post.

Ms Kelly informed the meeting that she would carry out inspections; issue Warning notices etc., on receipt of complaints regarding Unauthorised Development and Non-Compliance with Planning Conditions.

The Members requested that consideration be given to including an advise with all Planning Permissions to the effect that Enforcement Officers is now in place.

**18.07**      **Quarry Registration**

Details were circulated outlining the 9 Quarries, which have been placed on the Register in the Letterkenny Electoral Area.

The Committee were informed that the Planning Authority shall publish notice of the registration of a quarry in one or more newspapers circulating in the area, stating the status and intentions of the Planning Authority regarding the quarry. Submission can be made for 4 weeks after the publication of the notices,

**18.08**      **Consideration of Recent Refusals**

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

Cllr Ciaran Brogan urged that instead of refusing applications outright, further information should be requested.

Cllr Tony McDaid stated that consideration should be given to simplifying the language used in Planning correspondence, as some of the terms used are difficult to understand.

**LEC 19/06**      **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

**19.01**      **Harbour Bye-Laws**

Brian Cullen from the Marine Section addressed the Committee regarding the proposed introduction of Byelaws and Harbour Dues at 14 specified ports in the County; however there are none listed for Letterkenny Electoral Area.

There are 153 harbours in the county. These harbours are identified as being strategic, with significant commercial and leisure potential. The introduction

of by-laws will facilitate the efficient operation of the harbours and the proposed charges are in line with other ports in the county including Killybegs.

On the proposal of Cllr Larkin and seconded by Cllr Brogan it was agreed to go to public consultation including making the draft By-Laws available for public inspection and requesting submissions from interested parties. A report on the public consultation will be presented at a future E.A. meeting and will also be presented for adoption at a full Council meeting.

The Members requested that the Council examine funding opportunities for the development of Thorn Pier for Leisure facilities and organise a Workshop to examine the potential for development of Thorn Pier and River Swilly, inviting Joe Bonner, Jack McInerney and any other interested parties.

**19.02**      **N56 Mountain Top to Illistrin Road Realignment**

The Committee considered the Progress Report that was circulated with the Agenda.

The Committee recommended that the future requirements for services including watermains, broadband etc be examined as part of the Improvements Works as well as spare ducting for future needs. They requested that a Report on these issues be presented at the next meeting, which will take place in the Letterkenny PSC on Monday 22nd May 2006.

The Committee extended their thanks to the construction team for their late night working to ease the inconvenience to motorists and asked that they examine the possibility of allowing Prumerica to have separate Entry and Exits to deal with the volume of vehicles.

**19.03**      **Strengthening Programme/Surface Dressing Programme**

Details of the Non National Roads Schemes to be funded from 2006-2008 Restoration Improvements were circulated with the Agenda, as were details of the Surface Dressing Programme for 2006, which was proposed by Cllr Larkin and seconded by Cllr Brogan.

The Members requested that this programme be circulated to Members with dates when works are expected to commence.

**19.04**      **Neil T Blaney Road**

Cllr Jimmy Harte raised the lack of footpaths on Neil T Blaney Road from JJ Reid Motors to Radisson SAS and from McEwen Electrical to the Letterkenny PSC.

Charlie Cannon stated that these would shortly be addressed but he would keep the Members informed.

**19.05**            **Road Maintenance Allocation**

Pat Gillespie circulated details of the Road Maintenance Allocation Distribution for 2006 with comprehensive notes detailing exactly how the monies are distributed.

This was welcomed by the Members, especially the additional allocation for Road Drainage. However they felt that Road Maintenance monies should be divided on the basis of the volume of traffic rather than on road mileage to properly reflect the demands on the Letterkenny Electoral Area.

Cllr Dessie Larkin asked that the approach roads to Letterkenny be looked at with a view to improving the town's image and that litter on the Dual Carriageway be given immediate attention. Cllr Ciaran Brogan stated that consideration should be given to Litter Wardens patrolling and issuing fines to tackle the problem and that planting on the Central Margin of the Dual Carriageway should also be considered.

Cllr Tony McDaid asked that the surface water lying on the road to Murlog Chapel be investigated and also sought clarification on whether or not the ESB are responsible for repairing public lighting at Park View, Raphoe. The Members also recommended that the cleaning of gullies on Letterkenny Main Street be given priority.

The Road Maintenance allocation was proposed by Cllr Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr Jimmy Harte.

**19.06**            **Members Allocation**

The Members expressed dissatisfaction at the delay in erecting Members lights and asked that this be followed up with ESB.

**19.07**            **Lurgybrack**

The Committee expressed concern at the number of recent accidents at Lurgybrack especially in view of the realignment that has occurred there. Pat Gillespie stated that this has been brought to the attention of the National Roads Authority.

**19.07.1**        **Woodlands School**

The Committee requested an update on improvements at Woodlands School junction for the next Electoral Area Meeting.

**19.08**            **Roads Workshop**

It was agreed to hold a Roads Workshop on Tuesday 04/04/06 to discuss Safety Measures at Drumardagh Junction and also on Special Speed Limits outside Schools.

**19.09**            **N13/N14 Junction(Manorcunningham) to Lifford /Strabane**

Aidan O’Doherty and Karen McCafferty, NRDO were in attendance to discuss the N13/N14 Pluck to Lifford Improvement Scheme and it was agreed by the Committee that discussion take place at a Public Meeting rather than at a Workshop.

Aidan O Doherty and Karen Mc Cafferty gave the Committee a brief background to the scheme and advised that it has been re-started since 2004 and that it has been approved for Interreg Funding. There has been no change to the route since last year and the design is being finalised at the moment for a 2+1 road that will have a crash barrier along the middle and four entrances/exits along the entire length of the road. It is also hoped that the road will be upgraded to a Dual Carriageway within the next 10 years and this requires restricting accesses. The Dublin/Derry Motorway if constructed will also probably link into this road so this has also to be taken into account. The proposed route will have to change slightly to accommodate accesses.

Discussions are taking place with people who will be affected by the road and some people will be affected more than others. There was a number of public consultation sessions organised, however these were not well attended. The implications of a 2+1 road with a crash barrier and restricted access is causing some concern locally regarding access partly due to the fact that people are realising the consequences that the road will have for them.

Cllr Dessie Larkin stated that he was aware of one location where it is proposed to construct 7 lanes of traffic between two houses.

A long discussion took place on the proposed scheme and how to advance it. It was generally agreed that the scheme was needed and should proceed and staff were requested to work with the people who will be living along the route.

Aidan O Doherty and Karen Mc Cafferty agreed to attend a future LEAC Meeting when the design is finalised and to brief the Committee on progress.

**LEC 20/06**        **DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2006, commencing at 10.00 am in the Public Services Centre, Letterkenny.

**Appendix 1****WATER & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES****Report to Letterkenny EAC Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2006****AGENDA Item no.2 – Update reports from previous meeting:**

From minutes of previous meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2005, using same notation:

**06.02****Letterkenny Water Supply:**

Recent disruptions to the water supply, particularly in the Lismonaghan area were noted at the previous meeting, concerns in that regard were also raised at workshop with the Town Council (27<sup>th</sup> February 2006) and with meeting with residents from that general area on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2006. The Council acknowledged the difficulties raised in all cases and in response presented the Council's planned improvements, which are designed to address the immediate and longer-term resolutions required. To recap and update the EAC on progress, the immediate term improvements can be described as follows:

**Local response:**

The council's response in relation to ongoing problems experienced by a limited number of consumers in the area, included the following over the recent weeks:

- Installation of a number of air valves on distribution line from Listillion reservoir
- Closer monitoring of the telemetry system used to manage the Letterkenny water service. Closer contact with the consumers in question, in person and by phone.
- Construction of a temporary 2" diameter watermain to serve five dwellings at Ballyboe Road. This was to replace the existing long leads previously servicing those properties. This was completed on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2006; three of the five have availed of this improvement, however the long lead service to the remaining two dwellings remains live.
- Recent interruptions were in part due to increased minimum night flows in the local South Letterkenny network, i.e. water leakage in system raising night flow from a norm of approximately 5m<sup>3</sup>/hour to a figure doubling that amount.

That leakage was addressed through night checks, which presented staff with particular areas to concentrate leakage detection works.

Resulting improvements achieved since at:

- Top of Wood Road – hosepipe left running on more than one occasion
- Junction of Wood Road – service lead found leaking / repaired
- Cullion Road – 200lin m area identified on 24<sup>th</sup> February, burst on 4" main found and repaired 27<sup>th</sup> February 2006.
- Scour valve found partly opened by others

Minimum night flow is back in line with previous norm for Listillion area.

- Minor modifications also made to the pumping regime at Lurgybrack to offer improved flow to Listillion.
- Booster pump serving Doobalagh area (some 30 dwellings) also modified to offer local improvement.

**South Letterkenny Area Improvements:**

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 changes to the present supply regime serving the Lismonaghan area 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 ongoing, with pumps ordered and commissioning of that works anticipated in May 2006.

The second stage will involve provision of increased reservoir storage for the south Letterkenny area, which will add greater security to the system. It is intended to progress those works during the course of 2006. Wayleave negotiations are ongoing, contract documents are being finalised with works expected to go to tender shortly. That stage of works presently remains on course for construction later this year.

**06.03 Lough Greenan Emergency Works.** Donegal County Council have presented proposals to the Northern Regional Fisheries Board, detailing an abstraction regime designed to lessen any negative impact on the Arctic Char fish species.

The NRFB are to consider the proposals and revert to the Council shortly, if that process proves positive the Council will be in a position to progress the relevant statutory procedures (Part 8 planning, etc.) followed by construction.

**06.08 Kerbside Recycling**

The Waste Awareness Officer has noted the following progress on the rollout of kerbside recycling:

- St. Johnston - complete
- Manor/Lagan - this area is due to be covered week beginning 20th March.
- Newtown - complete
- Carrigans - complete

**06.10 Woodlands:**

Improvements in the water supply issues noted in the Woodlands area are catered for in the Letterkenny Water Strategy Study. It is anticipated that consideration will be given to those improvements following tendering of the works noted for South Letterkenny area.

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

See attached updated Progress Reports including:

**Capital Programmes:**

Major Capital Programme  
Serviced Land Initiative (SLI's)

**Rural Water Programme:**

Small Capital Programme  
Group Scheme Programme

*C.McLaughlin, Senior Executive Engineer,  
Area Manager, Water & Environment Service,*

15<sup>th</sup> March 2006