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Group Sewerage scheme - General Information

The information contained in this explanatory memorandum relates to a group of two or more households getting together to provide themselves with sewerage facilities where no such facilities (or seriously deficient facilities) already exist.

The provision of a small sewerage scheme by a group of neighbours to their homes can have many advantages. Compared with an individual system the cost is usually much lower. Schemes can qualify for a grant of 75% of the approved cost, subject to a limit of €2,031.58 per domestic connection, whichever is the lower. This ensures that the householder's contribution is kept to a reasonable level. The plans and design of each scheme must be examined by the technical staff of the Council to ensure that the highest standards of construction and performance are reached. The Council's engineer is available to advise groups during progress of the work on any difficulties that may arise.

How to go about it

Group sewerage schemes may be carried out: -

- (a) In areas where the Council do not propose to carry out a public scheme.
- (b) In areas which can be served by extensions of existing Council sewers.
- (c) In areas where the Council intend at a later stage to provide a public sewerage scheme.
In such cases, schemes should be so designed as to be capable of being connected to the public scheme in due course.

If you and your neighbours are interested in a scheme you should proceed as follows: -

1. The starting point is the selection of a committee comprising not more than six people and headed by an energetic group organiser who will conduct all necessary business with the group, and the County Council.
2. The organiser should contact the Council and complete Sewerage Survey Sheets.
3. A representative of the Council will call on the organiser in due course and will discuss the details of the preliminary planning and organisation procedure in regard to the Formation of the group, etc.

4. If the group decides to go ahead with the scheme the organiser will arrange for the holding of a public meeting of all the parties interested.
5. If disposal is to be by way of a combined treatment system (other than a local authority sewage treatment system) it will be necessary for the group to secure the prior permission of the County Council under the Planning and Development Act, 2000.
6. When the scheme is designed, detailed plans should be submitted to the County Council for approval.
7. The work should not be put in hands until approval is received and the availability of grants for the work is notified.
8. When this approval is received, the work can then be started. The local organiser and the committee will get the work underway. They will be in contact regularly with the County Council as the project progresses, and especially if major difficulties arise.
9. It is important to arrange money matters at the outset. The organiser will want working capital to meet the expenses involved in the preliminary stages of investigation and he would be well advised to collect a sum of money from each participant when it is decided to go ahead with the scheme. It is suggested that a practical way to apportion the individual cash contributions from participants would be (a) on a valuation basis or (b) at a flat rate per house due regard being made to the varying financial circumstances of the members of the group in each case. Money will be required as work progresses to meet the cost of materials and wages. Materials may possibly be obtained on the credit of the group as a whole, and it may also be possible to arrange temporary overdraft accommodation with a bank.
10. Portion of the grants will be paid to the group scheme's bank account from time to time as work progresses. The remaining grants will be paid when the sewerage system is installed in each house and the scheme is working satisfactorily.

For further information on Group Sewerage Schemes please contact the County Liaison Officer, at 061 496326.

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