**27\_Defining diaphragms**

In define menu there is an option to define diaphragms. Here we can add/edit or delete diaphragms.

After defining these diaphragms we will be assigning it points and slabs.

In simple words a diaphragm is something that connects vertical elements such as columns or walls. For example a slab is a diaphragm. Now this slab can be very rigid or less rigid depending upon its thickness or openings in it. Lateral load is transferred to vertical elements based on their stiffness or by tributary area of slab above they are supporting. Which way the load will be transferred depends upon the type of diaphragm we are using.

In code there are two types of classifications for diaphragms, rigid and flexible. In ETABS you have two options; either to assume that the diaphragm is very rigid having infinite in-plane stiffness or ask ETABS to calculate actual diaphragm stiffness. This second option is called semi-rigid option.

We have 200mm solid slab without opening and that is safe to assume that this diaphragm is rigid so use d1 as rigid diaphragm.