Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon on Monday 10\textsuperscript{th} October 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

\textit{Members Present:} Councillor Tony Ferguson  
Councillor Sean McDermott  
Councillor Sinead Guckian  
Councillor Gerry Kilrane  
Councillor Paddy O’Rourke  
Councillor Sean McGowan  
Councillor Frank Dolan  
Councillor Thomas Mulligan  
Councillor Gerry Reynolds  
Councillor Enda Stenson  
Councillor John Ward  
Councillor Enda McGloin  
Councillor John McCartin  
Councillor Mary Bohan  
Councillor Siobhan McGloin  
Councillor Francis Gilmartin  
Councillor Gordon Hughes  
Councillor Caillian Ellis  
Councillor Gerry Dolan  
Councillor Sean McSharry  

And Councillor John McTernan, Cathaoirleach presiding

\textit{Apologies:} Cllr Martin Kenny

\textit{Officials Present:} Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager  
Mr. Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Environment, Emergency and Cultural Services  
Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Planning, Community and Economic Development  
Mr John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure  
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services  
Mr. Shay O’Connor, Senior Engineer  
Mr Brian Kenny, Senior Engineer  
Mr William Lowe, Senior Engineer  
Mr Ciaran Tracey, Senior Planner  
Mr Francis Gaffney, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr Darragh O’Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr John McKeon, Management/Financial Accountant  
Ms Carmelita Caslin, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr Vincent Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator

11/392  
10/10/2011 \textbf{Votes of Sympathy}

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- The Family of the Late Cissy Bohan, Corgeen, Mohill on the death of Cissy Bohan.
• The Family of the Late Peter Prior, Kiltymooden, Ballinamore on the death of Peter Prior.
• Eugene & Loretta Quinn, Fenagh, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim on the death of Vincent Quinn.
• Sean McWeeney & Family, Drimna, Gorvagh, Co Leitrim on the death of Anna McWeeney.
• The Family of the Late Elizabeth McNamara, Gortinure, Kilnagross, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Elizabeth McNamara.
• Gerry & Sheila Carty, Derrinaseer, Ballyshannon P.O., Co Leitrim on the death of Patricia McGrory.
• Mrs Marie Ward, Derrybrack, Aughamore, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of P.J. Ward.
• John Joe Lynch, Annaduff Glebe, Drumsna, on the death of Laurence Lynch.
• Bernard McKeon (Snr), Brooklawns, Keshcarrigan, Co Leitrim on the death of Anne McWeeney.
• Michael McCabe, Rossan, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of May T.McCabe.
• Peter Murray, Aughavore, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of Michael Murray.
• Bridie Doran, Shefield, Leitrim P.O., Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of Peter Burke.
• The Patrick Shanley & Family, Corderrry, Killargue, Dromahair, Co Leitrim on the death of Betty Shanley.
• Fr Brady, Keelda, Cloone on the death of Mel Brady.
• Mary McTernan, Flaughanagh, Kilcoon, Dromahair, Co Leitrim on the death of Bridget Kelly.

11/393
10/10/2011 Deimhniu Miontuairisci

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon on Monday, 5th September 2011, be adopted.”

11/394
10/10/2011 Proposal to Increase Water Abstraction Order

Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure outlined that it is proposed to increase the existing water abstraction order by 2,500m³/day for the North Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme – Phase II in accordance with the provisions of the Water Supplies Act 1942, Water Supplies (Application for Provisional Order) Regulations 2000, Water Services Act 2007 and Planning and Development Acts 2001. A copy of the Proposal document as circulated to the Members appears as Appendix 1 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. McGuinness outlined that Departmental approval has been secured to increase the size of the North Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme Treatment Plant and part of this process requires an increase in the existing water abstraction order from 5,500m³/day to 8,000m³/day. He introduced Mr. Conor McCarthy, Director, Jennings O'Donovan & Partners, Consultants and invited him to outline the details of the proposal to the members. Mr. McCarthy gave a presentation to the Members in relation to the proposal and the process
involved – a copy of the presentation appears as Appendix 2 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book. Mr. McCarthy advised that a resolution of the Members is required to set the process in train.

Proposed by Councillor Tony Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the proposal to increase the existing water abstraction order by 2,500m$^3$/day for the North Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme – Phase II in accordance with the provisions of the Water Supplies Act 1942, Water Supplies (Application for Provisional Order) Regulations 2000, Water Services Act 2007 and Planning and Development Acts 2001 be approved.”

Councillor Tony Ferguson queried whether the Fisheries Boards would be consulted in relation to the proposal. He also requested that the possibility of linking the Erriff Group Water Scheme back into the Regional Scheme be explored.

Mr. McCarthy confirmed that wide consultation would take place as part of the process including, in particular, with Inland Fisheries Ireland. Mr. McGuinness confirmed that the issue in relation to the Erriff Scheme would be looked into.

Councillor Mary Bohan sought clarification on the timescale involved to complete this process assuming that there are no major objections. She also outlined that it is very disappointing that after such a long wait for this original project it is already at borderline capacity. Councillor Bohan also queried the cost of the project.

Mr. McCarthy outlined that if there were no objections the proposal could be advertised by the end of November and the Order could come into force early in the New Year. He outlined that if there are objections the process would move to An Bord Pleanala and could take 6 to 9 months. He also outlined that the original proposal for the scheme had been significantly larger but that tremendous restrictions had been placed on the scheme as approved. He advised that costings have not been finalised in this regard but the estimate for the Treatment Plant would most likely be in the region of €3m.

Mr. John McGuinness advised that the original design for the Scheme was for the full scheme but this had been cut back due to financial constraints. He outlined that the design of the Treatment Plant will be going ahead in tandem with the Abstraction Order proposal.

11/395
10/10/2011 Local Authority Development

Report Ref. No. 11/C/09 from County Manager dated 27th September 2011 in relation to the demolition of old semi derelict stores building, construction of new stores building and construction of a covered pipe storage area at Townspark Td, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim in accordance with the requirements of Section 179 (2) (B) of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as circulated to the Members appears as Appendix 3 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;
“That the demolition of old semi derelict stores building, construction of new stores building and construction of a covered pipe storage area at Townspark Td, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim be approved”.

Councillor Sinead Guckian requested that the Part 8 for the Playground in Drumsna be progressed as soon as possible.

11/396  
10/10/11 Declaration of Public Road

Report dated 28th September 2011 from John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure as circulated to the Members appears as Appendix 4 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the declaration as a public road of the Road off Local Road LT -14863-0 in the townland of Drumod Beg, Dromod at Ascaill Loch Bofinne Estate for a distance of 195 metres under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 and Article 5 of the Roads Regulations 1994 be approved”.

11/397  
10/10/2011 Taking in Charge

Report dated 28th September 2011 from Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Planning, Community and Economic Development as circulated to the Members appears as Appendix 5 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Gerry Kilrane AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Taking in Public Charge of Ascaill Loch Bofinne (Phase 3) Housing Estate in the Townland of Drumod Beg, Dromod in accordance with the provisions of Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2010 be approved”.

11/398  
10/10/2011 CFRAM Draft Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment and Public Consultation

Report dated 4th October 2011 from Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Environment, Emergency and Cultural Services as circulated to the Members appears as Appendix 6 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Dolan advised that the documentation and associated maps were available on public display from the 29th August 2011 to the 7th October 2011 and that the documentation and maps are also available for examination on the CFRAM website – www.cfram.ie. He outlined that the local authority is obliged to consider and submit comments on the maps and
supporting documentation. He outlined that the documentation had been considered by the Planning, Environment and Emergency Services SPC meeting held on the 3rd October 2011. Mr Dolan confirmed that the SPC meeting considered in detail the identification and categorisation of Probable Areas for Further consideration and Possible Areas for Further Consideration. He outlined that the locations listed as Probable Areas for Further Consideration in County Leitrim as per the maps are Carrick-on-Shannon, Mohill, Drumshanbo and Manorhamilton and the locations listed as Possible Areas for Further Consideration are Dromod, Rooskey, Leitrim Village, Jamestown, Keshcarrigan, Ballinamore and Tullaghan. He advised that the recommendation from the SPC meeting is that Dromod, Rooskey, Jamestown and Leitrim Village be upgraded from the “Possible” category to the “Probable” Category and that those already in the “Probable” category remain as such. He advised that it was also recommended that Drumsna be added to the “Possible” list. Mr. Dolan advised that it was also recommended by the SPC that the Council consider passing a resolution that the Office of Public Works will have the sole co-ordinating powers in relation to the regulating of water levels on the entire Shannon.

Mr. Dolan advised that the recommendations from the SPC had been considered by the Corporate Policy Group who were recommending that a submission be made on the basis as recommended by the SPC subject to the inclusion of Ballinamore and Keshcarrigan in the ‘Probably’ rather than the ‘Possible’ category.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council make a submission in relation to the Draft Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment in line with the recommendation of the Planning, Environment & Emergency Services SPC as amended by the Corporate Policy Group”.

Councillor Tony Ferguson outlined an issue of flooding on the Gortinar Road between Kinlough and Manorhamilton and asked that the situation receive attention.

11/399
10/10/2011 Winter Service Maintenance Plan 2011/2012

Report on Winter Service Maintenance Plan 2011/2012 as circulated to the Members appears as Appendix 7 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that the Winter Service Maintenance Plan 2011/2012 had been considered at a recent meeting of the Infrastructure SPC. He outlined that the existing priority routes for salt spreading remain the same as in previous years and these will be advertised in the local media. He advised that extra snow ploughs have been purchased and that the Council has received approval for the construction of two new salt barns. He confirmed that 2,200 tonnes of salt have been allocated from the Government national tender with extra salt available in the event of severe weather as in previous winters. He outlined that the Council will be depositing grit at 36 locations throughout the county for use by the local community if required and that these locations will be advertised in the local media.

Mr McGuinness confirmed that Leitrim County Council will, during severe weather, clear snow/ice from footpaths at strategic locations in the towns and villages. He outlined that
property owners are encouraged to clear snow from footpaths outside their property. He advised that a scheme will be introduced whereby residents associations and businesses can purchase from the Council a salt bin and salt for their housing estates or business premises at a nominal fee. He also advised that throughout the winter season Leitrim County Council will continue to liaise with adjoining counties to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the treatment of cross county routes.

Mr McGuinness confirmed that a new weather station has been constructed in conjunction with the NRA and will be commissioned shortly and a useful website is www.nratraffic.ie which allows the user to access all information on all their weather stations including up to date pictures on the road conditions.

Councillor Caillian Ellis complimented the staff of Leitrim County Council on the Winter Service Maintenance Plan for 2011/2012 and welcomed in particular the proposed 36 drop points for grit for local communities as this had been a particular problem last year.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke expressed his disappointment that the R201 from Mohill to Carrigallen was not included in the Priority 1 or 2 designated routes for treatment under the Plan. He outlined that, in view of the experiences over the severe weather of recent years, and the extent of the area involved, this end of the County must have some priority. This was supported by Councillor Mulligan. Councillor O'Rourke complimented the staff on having the document prepared well in advance of particularly cold conditions.

Mr. John McGuinness outlined that if the money was available every road could be dealt with. He advised that the R201 would receive attention in severe conditions but cannot be included in the normal winter service treatment as the resources simply are not available.

Councillor Sean McGowan sought clarification as to the location of the two new salt barns. Mr. McGuinness advised that one is to be located on the N16 and one on the N4. He advised that the precise location for the N4 salt barn has yet to be determined.

Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed the plan and in particular the proposal to provide grit at 36 locations – he queried whether there was any way that these locations could be monitored to ensure that the grit was not being taken by unscrupulous people for personal purposes. Councillor Stenson also outlined that most roads are treated in severe weather conditions.

Mr. McGuinness confirmed that Leitrim County Council will be liaising with Community Groups. He outlined that it has to be appreciated that this is an effort on the part of Leitrim County Council to get to areas that we cannot reach and we must rely on the good will of individuals in relation to the use of such supplies.

Councillor Gordon Hughes welcomed the Plan and outlined that the details will be of assistance to members in dealing with contacts from members of the public. He requested that all relevant information be made available on the Council website including links to other relevant websites eg. RSA website etc. He asked that the Area Engineers would relay to members details of the local groups being spoken to. He also queried the fee that would be charged to Residents Associations for a salt bin and salt.

Mr. McGuinness confirmed that information in relation to winter maintenance arrangements, links to other websites etc will be updated on the Leitrim County Council website. He advised
that the cost of a salt bin and salt to a Residents Association is anticipated to be approximately €150.00.

Councillor Mary Bohan acknowledged that it is not possible to prioritise all routes in the County. She outlined however that the road from Drumkeerin to Dowra carries a lot of traffic and the School bus travels along this route to Lough Allen College and the road from Dowra to Drumshanbo is also quite dangerous and she considered that both should have been included in the priority routes. This was supported by Councillor Gerry Dolan, Councillor Enda McGloin and Councillor Francis Gilmartin.

Mr. McGuinness advised that these routes could be looked at again. He outlined that in excess of €800k was spent last winter and this is not sustainable. He outlined that the Council has been left at least €100k short presently and there is no guarantee that this funding will be provided.

Councillor Bohan acknowledged this but stated that some roads that are exceptionally dangerous should be looked at again. Councillor Enda McGloin outlined that the Dowra to Drumshanbo route is the main access to Northern Ireland and should be priority 2. He requested that at a minimum some of the bad bends on this route which are problematic be addressed.

Councillor Gerry Dolan highlighted the importance of the road from Aughacashel to Drumshanbo and proposed that a bin be left at two locations – one at the Post Office and the other at Aughakilbrack – at the top of Barry’s Hill. This was supported by Councillor Francis Gilmartin who outlined that this location had been a particular issue last winter.

Councillor Enda McGloin complimented the staff on the Plan and stated that it needs to be communicated to the general public in order that people understand the limitations in this regard. He queried whether staff on the ground will be targeted out to particular areas in particularly severe conditions.

Mr. McGuinness outlined that the salt lorries operate on a prepared route. He advised that thereafter the Area Engineer will try and deal with whatever they can depending on the type of conditions. He outlined that the Areas respond to particular problems on a case by case basis.

Councillor Sean McSharry welcomed the Plan and queried if Leitrim County Council could look for double the allocation of salt. Mr. Shay O’Connor, Senior Engineer advised that any additional tonnage would have to be paid for from our own resources. He outlined that there would also be storage issues. He advised that we have sought 700 tonnes in addition to the 2,200 tonnes allocated and the NRA are also holding 70k tonnes in reserve for national distribution should the need arise.

Councillor Francis Gilmartin queried whether contractors from County Leitrim would get the opportunity to tender for the construction of the proposed salt barns. Mr. McGuinness confirmed that this will be an open tender process advertised on eTenders and in the local paper.

Councillor Siobhan McGloin outlined that any of the regional roads are important arteries and should be included on the priority list, and highlighted the Rossinver Road in particular. Mr. McGuinness confirmed that the situation could be looked at but that the resources are the issue.
Councillor Sinead Guckian welcomed the Plan and outlined that it is important to have the preparation done in advance. She outlined that the R299 Drumsna to Kiltoghert road had been the subject of discussion last year. She outlined that all large vehicles are being directed onto this route. She outlined that there had been an undertaking to consider this route in the next list of priorities and the signs were adjusted last winter as a compromise. She stated that this was a compromise option and the best option is to salt this section of road and it should be included as Priority 2. If this is not possible she stated that signage must be erected directing large vehicles not to use this road over the winter months. She outlined that road widening undertaken over recent years had resulted in the road running right up to residents' front boundaries. She stated that it is an extremely dangerous situation which must be addressed. This was supported by Councillor John Ward.

Mr. McGuinness advised that they would look at altering the signs.

Councillor Frank Dolan welcomed the Plan. He outlined however that, generally speaking, the priority routes haven’t changed. He outlined that the public are expecting more and that people in rural areas have to get to these priority routes. He also stated that there was an issue in relation to the Dromahaire to Sligo road with gritting undertaken by Sligo to the Leitrim border and no other gritting. Mr. McGuinness outlined that an arrangement had been put in place with Sligo County Council in relation to treating this stretch of road last year.

11/400
10/10/2011   Leitrim County Council Policy in relation to the Erection of Advertising and Signage on Public Lands

Report dated 4th October 2011 from Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Planning, Community and Economic Development as circulated to the Members appears as Appendix 8 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Sinead Guckian expressed her concern, as a member of the Planning, Environment and Emergency Services SPC putting the draft policy forward, that she felt that the report was premature in being presented to the Council. She outlined that everyone on the SPC is in agreement in relation to the need to address signage and that, while the document has come a long way, she considered that it still represents somewhat of a ‘one size fits all’ approach. She outlined that she was concerned in relation to the proposed enforcement and the costs that the policy would put on business, particularly the tourism industry. She acknowledged that the fees have been reduced but outlined that she would have liked if the matter had been considered for a further period prior to presentation to the Council.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Planning, Community and Economic Development outlined that the Draft Policy document had been considered at 4 SPC meetings to date following each of which it was reviewed. He outlined that it had been agreed by the SPC to put the Draft Policy to the Council with a recommendation to proceed to public display and invite comments. He advised that the matter would be coming back before the SPC and the Council following the public display period.
Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Gerry Reynolds AND RESOLVED;

“That the Leitrim County Council Draft Policy Paper Relating to the Erection of Advertising and Directional Signage on Public Land be placed on public display.”

11/401 10/10/2011 Section 138(1) of the Local Government Act 2001

The County Manager outlined that there were no commitments to report in this regard.

11/402 10/10/2011 Corporate Policy Group Report

Ms. Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator gave an overview of the items considered by the Corporate Policy Group.

- Strategic Policy Committees

Ms. McGovern outlined that the Corporate Policy Group had considered updates from the Planning, Environment and Emergency Services SPC which had taken on the 3rd October 2011 and the Infrastructure SPC which took place on 7th October 2011.

Update from the Planning, Environment and Emergency Services SPC

Ms. McGovern advised that the Planning, Environment and Emergency Services SPC had considered an update in relation to the following

- National Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
- Water Abstraction Proposals for Supply to Dublin Area
- Draft Signage Policy
- Carrick Town Plan

A copy of the report from the SPC as circulated to the members appears as Appendix 9 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Update from the Infrastructure SPC

Ms. McGovern advised that the Infrastructure SPC had considered an update in relation to the Winter Service Maintenance Plan 2011-2012.

A copy of the report from the SPC as circulated to the members appears as Appendix 10 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

- Items for Council Meeting

The Corporate Policy Group had also considered an overview of the items for the Council Meeting.
This update was noted by the members

10/10/2011   Conferences

Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin, seconded by Councillor Gordon Hughes AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

That Leitrim County Council approves the following Conferences/Events/Courses in line with the Training and Development Programme:

“Attendance of Councillor John Ward, Councillor Thomas Mulligan and Councillor Sean McGowan at the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011 Seminar on the 14th October to 16th October 2011 in the Carlton Atlantic Coast Hotel, Westport, Co Mayo”.

“Attendance of Councillor Mary Bohan and Councillor John McCartin at the Victims of Crime – The Cost to the Community Conference on the 14th October to 16th October 2011 in the Manor West Hotel, Killarney Road, Tralee, Co Kerry”.

“Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott at the Institute of Public Heath in Ireland Conference on How HIA can support local government and action on health inequalities on the 18th October 2011 in the Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal”.


“Attendance of Councillor Thomas Mulligan, Councillor John Ward and Councillor Sean McGowan at the Local Government Powers to create/abolish rights of way Conference on the 4th November 2011 to the 6th November 2011 in the Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway City”.


“Attendance of Councillor Thomas Mulligan and Councillor John Ward at the Local Authority Budgets 2012 Conference on the 18th November 2011 to the 20th November 2011 in the Sliver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny”.

“Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott and Councillor Thomas Mulligan at the National Tourism Conference on the 24th November 2011 to 26th November 2011 in The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co Clare”.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Tony Ferguson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“Attendance of Councillor Mary Bohan at the Role of Tourism in Economic Recovery LAMA in Clonea Strand Hotel, Dungarvan, Co Waterford on the 23rd to 24th September 2011 be retrospectively approved”.
Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin, seconded by Councillor Siobhan McGloin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“Attendance of Councillor Siobhan McGloin and Councillor John McTernan at the Local Government & Planning Seminar at the Patrick Punch Hotel in Limerick on the 7th to 9th October 2011 be retrospectively approved”.

Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan, seconded by Councillor John Ward AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“Attendance of Councillor Thomas Mulligan at the European Water Legislation Seminar on the 30th September to 2nd October 2011 in the Mill Park Hotel, Donegal be retrospectively approved”.

11/404
10/10/2011 Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were circulated to the Members

1. Letter of acknowledgement dated 9th September 2011 from the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health & Children in relation to resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding a policy for hospital car parking and management.

   Councillor Sinead Guckian welcomed this acknowledgement and the indication that the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health & Children have this item on their Agenda for discussion.


3. Letter dated 21st September 2011 from the Border Regional Authority confirming that Cllr Tony Ferguson is the nominee from Border Regional Authority for County Leitrim to the Association of Irish Regions 2011 Seminar to be held on the 21st October 2011 in the Marine Institute, Oranmore, Galway.

4. Letter dated 22nd September 2011 from the Office of the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to the upgrading of Septic tanks.

   Councillor Enda Stenson confirmed that if households are not in receipt of grants or funding from the Government to upgrade their septic tanks most people will not be able to afford the necessary works.

   Councillor Gerry Kilrane expressed his disappointment with the response received. He stated that the Code disproportionally affects County Leitrim and outlined that some type of funding must be made available and that this issue needs to be re-visited.

   Councillor Enda McGloin proposed that a letter should issue to the three local MEPS - Pat the Cope Gallagher, Marian Harkin and Jim Higgins - to raise the issue at
European Commission level with a view to making some proposal or identifying some mechanism to provide funding support in this regard.

Councillor Francis Gilmartin outlined that he had raised this possibility previously at a public meeting with Marian Harkin MEP and the advice was that the EU could not provide such funding but that national Government could take money out of the financial provision for schemes.

Councillor Enda McGloin stated that other mechanisms needed to be looked at and that the MEP’s had a role to play in this regard.

Provision by Councillor Enda McGloin, seconded by Councillor Gerry Kilrane AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That a letter issue to the three local MEP’s requesting that they raise this issue at European Commission level with a view to making some proposal or identifying some mechanism to provide funding support in this regard.”

5. Letter dated 23rd September 2011 from the Department of Health in relation to the Community Hospital in Ballinamore.

Councillor Gordon Hughes noted the reply and welcomed the progress in relation to this project and outlined that he was looking forward to seeing the development completed.

Councillor Caillian Ellis also welcomed the progress in this regard and outlined that this is a very much needed project in the area.


Councillor John Ward expressed disappointment with the response and outlined that he had understood that a Civil Defence Ambulance was on stand-by in Carrick on Shannon at all times.

7. Letter from Paul Kirkpartick, Community Development Team, Leitrim County Council dated 4th October 2011 to the members confirming that Leitrim County Council has been invited to consider endorsing the Dublin Declaration.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that the Dublin Declaration, containing a set of basic principles and commitments to make communities more age friendly, is a WHO initiative and that towns and communities are encouraged to adopt the Declaration. She outlined that Leitrim County Council already seeks to apply many of the principles and stated that she was hoping that members would support the initiative.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Gerry Kilrane AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Councils give their full support to the World Health Organisations Age Friendly Cities/County Initiative and endorse the Dublin
Declaration”.


   • SI No 454 of 2011: Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2011
   • SI No 456 of 2011: European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment)(Agriculture) Regulations 2011
   • SI No 464 of 2011: European Communities (Amendment to Planning and Development Regulations) Regulations 2011

**Leitrim Arts Plan 2012-2017**

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager confirmed that Leitrim County Council is currently in the process of developing its third Arts Strategy. She outlined that the plan will set out the strategy, policies and programmes for the development of the arts that Leitrim County Council will follow for the next five years. She outlined that, given that the Arts Plan shapes the direction of the Council’s arts policy for the next number of years, it is important that sufficient time and effort is given over to reviewing progress over the last few years, consulting with stakeholders and the general public and providing the opportunity for people to comment on plans for the future.

She advised that, to start the process, the Arts Office will host a series of four public consultation sessions.

   • 7pm, Tuesday 11th October – Leitrim Sculpture Centre, Manorhamilton
   • 7pm, Wednesday 12th October – The Dock, Carrick on Shannon
   • 7pm Thursday 13th October – Cornmill Theatre, Carrigallen
   • 7pm, Friday 14th October – Drumkeeran Community Centre, Drumkeeran

This update was noted by the Members.

**11/405**

**10/10/2011 Vote of Congratulations**

The members extended a vote of congratulations to the following:

   • Glencar/Manorhamilton Senior Football team on winning the Connacht Gold Senior Championship 2011, 4 in a Row.
   • Dromahair Ladies on winning the Ladies GAA Senior County Final.
   • Melvin Gaels on winning the Intermediate County Final.
   • Melvin Gaels on winning the Junior County Final.
   • Jamie Murray and Martin Raftery on their recent handball final.
   • Mohill Community Network on winning the overall Floral Pride Award.
The Cathaoirleach, Councillor John McTernan welcomed Ms. Aedín McLoughlin, Glenwood Research to the meeting and invited her to make her presentation on Shale Gas Extraction.

Ms. McLoughlin thanked the Cathaoirleach and the Elected Members for affording her the opportunity to make a presentation. At the outset she outlined that she was not attending the meeting on behalf of any so-called ‘anti-fracking’ group and that she was attending and making her presentation as a private citizen.

Ms. McLoughlin proceeded to give a detailed presentation on ‘Shale Gas Extraction – The Future for Leitrim?’. A copy of the presentation appears as Appendix 11 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked Ms. McLoughlin for her insightful and thought provoking presentation. Ms. McLoughlin then responded to comments and queries from the Members in relation to her views on the following:

- Whether the Irish & EU regulatory framework is adequate/robust enough?
- What can be done to influence the decision makers in Northern Ireland?
- Any alternative to the number of pads that would be necessary?
- Ministers decision to refer the matter to the EPA move in right direction?
- French ban on fracking but embracing nuclear energy?

Members expressed the view that the second licensed company should make a presentation to the Council. Members also expressed the view that it was necessary to meet with colleagues in Fermanagh to express our concerns in relation to the issue.

The Cathaoirleach again thanked Ms. McLoughlin for her presentation and for her responses to the queries raised.

**Part I - Notices of Motion.**

**11/407  10/10/2011   Road Development in the County of Leitrim**

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

“I propose that we the Members of Leitrim County Council call on the Government Ministers of Finance, Transport and Environment to reverse the shocking decisions on Road Development in County Leitrim and affecting our County in particular N16, N15 and N4, the Carrick & Manorhamilton By-Pass projects and the improvements to the R280. All of these works are essential to the County's progression and are very good job creation works. We also call on the Government to ensure that all these schemes are given priority status in any new National Development Plan.”

Councillor Ferguson stated that nothing will create jobs and employment more than roadworks and if the Government is serious about job creation this is the route and that the decisions affecting Leitrim must be reversed. He outlined that a new National Development Plan is in progress and he urged the members to ensure that these projects are given priority
by the Minister. He stated that the fight for a better deal for Leitrim must continue to be fought.

Councillor Enda McGloin supported the sentiment of the motion. He outlined however, in the context of the budgetary situation, that there is very limited scope for major capital projects being funded. He outlined that the Government have committed to financial spend on local and regional roads.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported the motion and stated that the proposals will have a major impact on the County. She also expressed her dismay at the cancellation of the Regional Road Bridge inspection programme which was another valuable employment opportunity.

Councillor Gerry Kilrane also supported the motion and stated that roads projects provide invaluable employment in addition to the longer term impact of improved accessibility etc. which is so critical for Leitrim.

Proposed by Councillor Tony Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Gerry Kilrane AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council call on the Government Ministers of Finance, Transport and Environment to reverse the shocking decisions on Road Development in County Leitrim and affecting our County in particular N16, N15 and N4, the Carrick & Manorhamilton By-Pass projects and the improvements to the R280. All of these works are essential to the County's progression and are very good job creation works. We also call on the Government to ensure that all these schemes are given priority status in any new National Development Plan”.

11/408 10/10/2011 Domestic Water Meters

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Gerry Kilrane;

“Domestic Water meters are to be rolled out to more than one million homes from early next year. I ask for the Council’s support in seeking written confirmation from the Minister for the Environment as to who will be installing these meters?”

Councillor Gerry Kilrane outlined that a state-run Utility Company is to be in place by the end of the year but it has not been indicated that they will do any of the installation work in relation to domestic water meters. He outlined that this is a huge undertaking and no decision has been made yet in relation to procurement. He stated that the installation project provides a rare opportunity for providing employment and it is imperative that priority be given to suitably qualified people in the local area. He outlined that the delay in the decision in this regard is causing a vacuum, with courses being offered and people being encouraged to undertake courses which are being misleadingly advertised as necessary. He stated that a decision in this regard is required sooner rather than later and that there must be a commitment that preference will be given to local people.

Proposed by Councillor Gerry Kilrane seconded by Councillor Tony Ferguson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;
"That Leitrim County Council seek written confirmation from the Minister for the Environment, as to who will be installing the Domestic Water meters which are to be rolled out to more than one million homes from early next year".

11/409
10/10/2011 Ballinamore Garda Station

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Caillian Ellis;

"I propose that Leitrim County Council immediately write to the Minister for Justice, Mr Alan Shatter, T.D. to have the present Garda presence in Ballinamore Garda Station maintained in view of the number of anticipated retirements and the lack of recruitment in the Garda Siochana."

Councillor Caillian Ellis outlined that the Garda Station in Ballinamore covers a very wide area and stated that he would like to see it manned 24 hours a day. He outlined that there are a significant number of stations with very limited cover and, particularly in the context of the increase in break-ins in recent times, the provision of full time cover would provide important confidence for local communities and particularly for more vulnerable households.

Councillor Gordon Hughes supported the motion but highlighted the significant cut in Garda numbers to be achieved under the EU/IMF agreement.

Councillor John McCartin also supported the motion and stated that there should be a campaign for more activity within Garda Stations and that better use should be made of the Force we have.

Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis seconded by Councillor Francis Gilmartin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That Leitrim County Council immediately write to the Minister for Justice, Mr Alan Shatter, T.D. to have the present Garda presence in Ballinamore Garda Station maintained in view of the number of anticipated retirements and the lack of recruitment in the Garda Siochana."

11/410
10/10/2011 Irish Novels of Author Anthony Trollope

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;

"At the September meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask for the support of members in calling on the Minister for Education to request the National Council for Curriculum & Assessment (NCCA) to consider the inclusion of the Irish Novels of Author Anthony Trollope on the English syllabus for Post Primary Education."

Councillor Sinead Guckian called on the support of the members in relation to her motion. She also requested, if appropriate, that contact be made with the President’s Office before President McAleese vacates the Presidency, requesting a letter of support in relation to the proposal.

Councillor John McTernan, Councillor Enda Stenson and Councillor John Ward supported the motion.
Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian seconded by Councillor John McTernan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Education to request the National Council for Curriculum & Assessment (NCCA) to consider the inclusion of the Irish Novels of Author Anthony Trollope on the English syllabus for Post Primary Education."

11/411
10/10/2011 Road resurfaced

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;

"I call on the Director of Services, Infrastructure to have a section of road resurfaced from Aughnacashel P.O., Jack Lee’s to partly up known as Barrys Hill to prevent any further accidents there. Also to have proper signage erected in the direction towards Aughacashel from Ballinamore, Aughnasheelin, Drumshanbo and Annadale."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The section of road number LP 3309 at Aughachashel has been inspected. The skid resistance on the existing surface has been deemed adequate. Leitrim County Council is only aware of one accident that occurred at this location recently when part of the parapet wall of the bridge was damaged. The existing road directional signage in this area will be inspected shortly and renewed if required."

Councillor Gerry Dolan stated that he was not happy with the reply. He stated that there have been regular accidents at this location and that he himself had witnessed some of these. He stated that a small section of road requires resurfacing.

Councillor Francis Gilmartin and Councillor Enda McGloin supported the motion.

11/412
10/10/2011 Social Welfare

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor John McCartin;

"In light of the on going surge in crime in the area, I propose that Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Social Protection asking that those who accrue multiple criminal convictions be deprived of all social welfare privileges."

Councillor John McCartin outlined the rationale for the motion. Councillor Gerry Kilrane stated that he couldn’t support the motion in its current format. He outlined concern in relation to prisoners drawing Social Welfare and stated that the issue of cross-checking between Departments must be addressed.

Proposed by Councillor John McCartin seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND RESOLVED;

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Social Protection asking that those who accrue multiple criminal convictions be deprived of all
social welfare privileges."

11/413
10/10/11 Public Lighting

The Cathaoirleach agreed to replace Motion No. 20 with Question No. 45 as Councillor Hughes had inadvertently submitted his Motion as a Question and vice versa.

"I ask the Ballinamore Area Engineer, in relation to the €120,000 in funding that has been allocated for a new cycle/walkway in Ballinamore alongside the Shannon-Erne waterway (from the lock beside Locoboat Marina as far as Ardrum), can he confirm when it is proposed to commence this work, what exactly will be done and when it is proposed to have same completed for use by cyclists and pedestrians?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Once the successful tenderer's Insurances have been approved by Waterways Ireland, the contractor will commence on site. It is expected that work will start shortly. A 3m wide walkway/ cycle track will be constructed from Kiltymooden to Lock 5 and onwards to Edentenny Stream. The walkway will continue up to the Carrick Road and into Ballinamore, along the Golf Links Road and will terminate at Ballyduff Bridge. Signage will be erected along the 6km route, with additional solar lighting along the very popular Golf Links Road section of the walkway. The works will be complete by the end of November."

Councillor Gordon Hughes thanked Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer and Mr. Darragh O'Boyle, Ballinamore Area Engineer in particular for their help and support on this project and he welcomed the additional solar lighting and looked forward to the project being completed.

Mr John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure confirmed that the Contractor had started on site today.

11/414
10/10/2011 Turf Cutting

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"At the October meeting of Leitrim County Council I will seek the support of members in calling on the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, Mr. Jimmy Deenihan, TD, who’s Department has responsibility for the National Heritage Areas (N.H.A areas), to revisit the issue of a blanket ban on turf cutting in those affected areas with a view to amending the legalisation, so as to allow bog owners and turf cutters the right to continue to harvest turf as their main source of fuel. There are 4 NHAs in Leitrim which will be directly affected by the ban, the areas are Cashel Bog, Corracramph Bog, Cloonageeher Bog and the bogs along the Rinn river; there are a further 2 NHAs which straddle the Leitrim / Longford border Aghnamona Bog and Wooddown Bog which will also be affected by the ban. The ban which is due to come into effect at the end of 2013 would result in an almost total cessation of turf cutting in the south Leitrim area and will cause a lot of anger within communities who have been harvesting turf on their bogs for generations."

Councillor Sean McGowan stated that the Minister must revisit this issue which will have a
serious affect on bog owners and turf cutters.

Councillor Gerry Kilrane supported the motion. He outlined that talks have broken down between the Irish Peatlands Council and the Turf Cutters Association. He outlined that the proposal is that alternative bogs are to be found within a reasonable distance or compensation is to be provided.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan seconded by Councillor Gerry Kilrane AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, Mr. Jimmy Deenihan, TD, who’s Department has responsibility for the National Heritage Areas (N.H.A. areas), to revisit the issue of a blanket ban on turf cutting in those affected areas with a view to amending the legalisation, so as to allow bog owners and turf cutters the right to continue to harvest turf as their main source of fuel. There are 4 NHAs in Leitrim which will be directly affected by the ban, the areas are Cashel Bog, Corracramph Bog, Cloonageehere Bog and the bogs along the Rinn river; there are a further 2 NHAs which straddle the Leitrim / Longford border Aghnamona Bog and Wooddown Bog which will also be affected by the ban. The ban which is due to come into effect at the end of 2013 would result in an almost total cessation of turf cutting in the south Leitrim area and will cause a lot of anger within communities who have been harvesting turf on their bogs for generations."

11/415
10/10/2011 Code of Practice for granting of Planning Permission for a rural dwelling

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"I ask the Director of Services, Planning, Community and Economic Development what is the present position regarding the Code of Practice for the granting of Planning Permission for a rural dwelling, and has any significant progress been made on this issue since the Members of this Council met with Minister Phil Hogan, T.D.."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development

"Leitrim County Council has granted planning permission for a rural dwelling on a site that failed to meet the T-Test of < 90 but utilising an internationally designed willow evapotranspiration system based on zero discharge theory. However, the site in question also provided the basis for surface water discharge for which there is provision contained within the planning permission should it be deemed necessary to use in the future, thereby complying with the Code of Practice. This zero discharge system is based on the Danish standards and has been presented to the Department and the EPA as a potential solution in follow up to the Ministers visit. While the proposal has been received well the fact that neither the Department nor the EPA are system approval bodies the transferability of this process from other European Countries has not yet been accepted by the Department. The Council will continue to pursue the acceptance of the above system as a solution.

In the meantime the Department are also mindful that the Strive Program is continuing with the objective of completing the research phase in regard to the use of zero discharge systems."

Councillor Enda Stenson urged that the Minister would look at the Danish system and make
a decision in this regard for the benefit of Leitrim. He stated that the Code of Practice is choking a lot of rural Leitrim. He welcomed the approach taken by Leitrim County Council but called on the Minister and the EPA to come on board.

This was supported by all the members.

Councillor Enda McGloin outlined that there had been a meeting with the Minister last week. He advised that negotiations are ongoing and that he understands that progress is being made.

Councillor John McCartin outlined that it is clear that neither the EPA nor the Department are approvals bodies. He stated that in that context Leitrim County Council should proceed with planning permission with zero discharge systems and it is a matter for the Department or the EPA to advise if there is something wrong with this system.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Planning, Community & Economic Development confirmed that Council will continue to pursue the acceptance of the Danish system as a solution, that we are committed to the process and that staff are also available to look at planning applications that are providing a system similar to that outlined in the response to the motion, on a case by case basis and provide advice etc.

Councillor Enda McGloin queried why questions were being raised in relation to Site Assessment Reports completed by people approved to do such tests. He outlined that he had previously raised this issue. Mr. Gilhooly outlined that there is a process involved and that other considerations may have to be taken into account on foot of a site inspection by Planning staff. He outlined that it was necessary to give applicants the opportunity to resolve issues arising and in this context clarification may be requested.

11/416
10/10/11 Signage and Road Markings

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McSharry;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to make contact with the National Roads Authority about the lack of signage or road markings at the turn off for Lurganboy Village on the main Sligo Road. This is an extremely busy junction and would benefit from increased signage and road markings."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The road markings at the junction of the N16 to County Road LP 4135 which takes you to Lurganboy Village have worn considerably and needs to be re-marked. The NRA were requested to carry out these works and include them in their road marking maintenance contract. We will discuss these proposed works further with the NRA. It is considered that the road signage at this junction is satisfactory but can be reviewed as part of the N16 Road Signage Programme."

Councillor Sean McSharry stated that a number of serious accidents have occurred at this location and this should be followed up with the NRA.

Councillor Frank Dolan and Councillor Siobhan McGloin supported the motion.
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Paddy O’Rourke;

"I ask Leitrim County Council to contact the relevant Government Department to seek further funding for FAS in our Region in order that more community employment schemes be made available. Presently, there is a large number of highly skilled persons unemployed who would like to be involved in schemes to improve their own communities. At this point in time there is insufficient funds to commence any more schemes."

Councillor Mary Bohan moved the motion on behalf of Councillor O’Rourke who had to leave the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan seconded by Councillor Gerry Kilrane AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That Leitrim County Council contact the relevant Government Department to seek further funding for FAS in our Region in order that more community employment schemes be made available. Presently, there is a large number of highly skilled persons unemployed who would like to be involved in schemes to improve their own communities. At this point in time there is insufficient funds to commence any more schemes."

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"At the October Council Meeting, I will ask Leitrim County Council to write to the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government, Mr Phil Hogan, T.D. requesting that funding under the CLAR Programme, which has been suspended some years ago, could now be reintroduced to ensure that there are more Local Improvement Schemes completed on an annual basis."

Councillor Sean McDermott said that a serious problem exists in the rural part of County Leitrim whereby there are only eight or nine schemes currently being done a year under the Local Improvement Scheme. He outlined that this is a very important scheme in the context of a rural county like Leitrim and additional funding must be provided.

Councillor Siobhan McGloin supported the motion.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott seconded by Councillor Siobhan McGloin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government, Mr Phil Hogan, T.D. requesting that funding under the CLAR Programme, which has been suspended some years ago, could now be reintroduced to ensure that there are more Local Improvement Schemes completed on an annual basis."
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor John Ward;

"I ask Leitrim County Council what is the position with the Health Centre in Dromod. Could this building be used as a Community Centre as there are no facilities to hold meetings in Dromod or for the Active Age to meet and have courses/meet to have a cup of tea, knitting or whatever is needed."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Housing & Corporate Services,
"Correspondence can issue to the HSE in this regard."

Councillor John Ward outlined that there are currently no facilities available for community meetings etc. Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion and stated that the Centre is not being used enough. He also requested that the HSE be requested to look at the possibility of a GP Clinic in the Centre once a week.

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Siobhan McGloin;

"At the next meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask the Housing Engineer to revisit the problem with the external plaster on the Laghta Estate, Kinlough and that he would outline what solutions he would recommend, and that funds would be made available in the budget for 2012 to resolve this problem. These houses are relatively new, but due to the presence of a red dye in the plaster they look to be in very poor condition and do little to show off the attractiveness of Kinlough."

Report by Director of Services, Housing and Corporate
"Options in relation to addressing this problem are being investigated and a potential solution is currently being piloted. It is hoped that this will address the situation."

Councillor Siobhan McGloin confirmed that she was happy with the reply received.

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"I propose that Leitrim County Council make a submission to the Constituency Commission under Section 5 of the Electoral Act, calling for the division of this County to be reversed. It is of the utmost importance that the County boundary be maintained."

Councillor Mary Bohan outlined that she was asking the Executive, with input from the Members, to make a very strong submission to the Constituency Commission to have the County reunited. She stated that members could also make their own individual submissions and requested that the media, arising from the meeting, request members of the public to
make submissions.

The motion was supported by all the members.

**Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan seconded by Councillor Gerry Kilrane AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

"That Leitrim County Council make a submission to the Constituency Commission under Section 5 of the Electoral Act, calling for the division of this County to be reversed. It is of the utmost importance that the County boundary be maintained."

11/422
10/10/2011                St Patrick’s Hospital, Carrick-on-Shannon

**To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;**

"I request this Council to contact Minister O'Reilly T.D. regarding the reduction in bed numbers in St Patrick's Hospital, Carrick-on-Shannon and to ask him what impact will it have on (a) a patient; (b) the hospital going forward; (c) the staff and (d) the many families who are worried that the reduction would affect in any way the excellent care which it provides for members of their family."

Councillor Francis Gilmartin stated that this was a critical issue and urged the Fine Gael members to try and talk to the Minister in relation to the situation. He stated that a straight answer is required in relation to the questions raised. He outlined that there had been proposals to extend St. Patrick’s and that he was now very fearful for the future of the Hospital to continue to give excellent care. He outlined concerns that this is the thin edge of the wedge in relation to St. Patrick’s Hospital.

Councillor Gerry Kilrane supported the motion and outlined that a HIQA report is being cited as the reason for the reduction in bed numbers. He outlined that he was not aware of what is in the HIQA report.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion and confirmed that he would raise it at the next Regional Health Forum West Meeting.

Councillor Enda Stenson also supported the motion.

**Proposed by Councillor Francis Gilmartin seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

"That Leitrim County Council contact Minister O'Reilly T.D. regarding the reduction in bed numbers in St Patrick's Hospital, Carrick-on-Shannon and to ask him what impact will it have on (a) a patient; (b) the hospital going forward; (c) the staff and (d) the many families who are worried that the reduction would affect in any way the excellent care which it provides for members of their family."
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"I call on Leitrim County Council to consider a road design for traffic calming, footpath and street lighting at Kilclare, Carrick-on-Shannon. I further suggest that this design be submitted to the Department for funding consideration over the next 2/3 years. This should encompass the area between the 2 bridges."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The funding of such works could only be considered under the Low Volume Safety Improvement Works Programme and an application can be made. However there is already a significant priority list for such works."

Councillor Enda McGloin requested that the Road Design office would draw up a blueprint for the area and that this would come before the Council for approval and would be used as a mechanism to look for funding. This was seconded by Councillor Francis Gilmartin.

Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure outlined that the works could be discussed with the Department Inspector. He outlined that it is a very large area – some 2km in length – and that to produce detailed drawings would be premature. He confirmed that efforts would be made to get it on the Low Volume Safety Improvement Works list and that the first step would be to discuss the proposal with the Department before doing any design work.

Part II - Questions.

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Caillian Ellis;

"I will ask Leitrim County Council what are their plans to have the roadside hedges cut as some roads are practically closed which causes poor sight distance visibility and damage to road surface."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Leitrim County Council routinely issue notices when it becomes aware of dangerous hedges. Councillors and members of the public are encouraged to assist in identifying such dangerous hedges and the landowners in question. The public are reminded that under the Roads Act 1993 the Landowner or Occupier is responsible for maintenance of roadside hedges and that failure to comply with a Hedge Cutting notice will result in the Landowner or Occupier of such lands being guilty of an offence."
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Caillian Ellis;

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to have the broken road signs replaced and all dirty signs cleaned as soon as possible."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Leitrim County Council will endeavour to correct broken, vandalised, and dirty signs along the R208 (Carrick to Ballinamore Road), as part of the regional road signpost scheme funded for 2011. Unfortunately Leitrim County Council does not have the resources to carry out this work for the entire network. However if there are particular locations which need attention the Area Engineer will attempt to address these locations."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Kilrane;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure, why there is an odour problem on Lower Main Street, Mohill which is emanating from the sewer line. The problem was particularly bad recently and has led to a lot of complaints by residents and business people. Is it possible for this problem to be prioritised and a solution found as it has been going on for some time now."

Report by Director of Service, Environment, Emergency and Cultural Services

"Previous complaints regarding odours at Lower Main Street Mohill were received and investigated by the Environment Department some time ago. Two problematic service connections were discovered following visual inspection and dye tests and both were rectified at that time. Further inspections will be undertaken to identify and rectify any further problem."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;

"At the October meeting of Leitrim County Council, I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure what is the up to date position regarding the agreed work of detailed structural inspections and reports on the bridges in Drumsna and Jamestown, that was to be carried out this year as part of the national survey of all Regional Road bridges."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Unfortunately the NRA have cancelled the Bridge Inspection Programme due to lack of resources and accordingly no detailed inspections of the bridges in question have been undertaken."
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;
"At the October meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Carrick Area Engineer to erect appropriate road signs at the junction of the Effrinagh road with the Annaghbradican Road and the Gowel/Annahearly road. When travelling on the Effrinagh road(LP3437-2), past the Swan Bar the road splits into two roads, one towards Gowel/Annahearly(LP3437-1) and the other a more minor road goes towards Annaghbradican(LS7422-0). There are no road signs on either road indicating "right of way" or "yield" and local residents have requested that this would be addressed immediately to prevent further accidents."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"An inspection of the junction in question has been undertaken. The junction would benefit from alignment improvements and these can be considered for inclusion under the low cost safety scheme. Additional signage will be provided as an interim measure."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;
"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure if it would be possible to have a salt bin placed near Aughacashel P.O. and kept filled with salt through wintry weather, so as to prevent a recurrence of last winter when food could not be delivered to Lee's shop and where the local people could not get shopping or collect their pensions."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"As part of the Winter Service Maintenance Plan 2011-2012, various locations have been identified around the county, where grit will be located. This grit will be available to local communities, to deal with problem areas that the County Council are not in a position to address. Aughacashel is one such area identified."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;
"I ask this Council what is the plan to clean up the mess left with the number of unfinished houses at the back of Laird House over looking the car park in Drumshanbo, as it is very unsightly for the residents there."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"Leitrim County Council are in regular contact with the Developer and other stakeholders. We expect the Developer to submit a new planning application over the coming months and we have met with their agents in this regard. The Community are in ongoing discussions with the developer with regard to the future use of the apartment block site, as part of a draft amenity plan, visible from the car park. The Developer is committed to the resolution of the overall development site."
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McCartin;

"Following the erection of a telecommunications mast at Druminshin, Carrigallen, a section of LT-55651 at Killahurk near the exit to the R-201 has broken down. This is the only access to the many houses on the road. As the deterioration of this section of road is a direct result of the development of the mast site, could the Council make the necessary repairs using the development charge?"

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development

"This Planning Authority refused permission for this development under Planning Register No. P09/283. Hutchenson 3G Ireland Ltd were granted permission by An Bord Pleanala on appeal on the 11th August 2010. The conditions, as set out in An Bord Pleanala's decision, did not provide for a bond against damage to the road arising from the development. Development contributions levied under the Council’s Development Contribution Scheme cannot be used for the purpose of damage to the public road arising from a development. These funds are ring fenced for the projects identified within the scheme. The Council will take the matter up with the Company."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McCartin;

"The LT-1587 passing Carrigallen National School is on a long straight stretch of road where traffic passes at excessive speed. Many children walk from the town and from a local housing estate to the school. There is no footpath on the school side of the road to the town so the children have to cross the road at the school. Local residents have called for a speed bump to be installed. Could the Council address this matter?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The area in question is within a 50Km/h speed limit and the matter of non observance of the speed limit will be taken up with the Garda authorities. The area is well covered by the appropriate road signage to clearly indicate the presence of the school, however the need for speed ramps will also be discussed with the local Garda."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"At the October meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Carrick Area Engineer to look at the possibility of providing a number of passing bays on the Derrywillow - Gortinee road (road number LP-34468-0), particularly at the wooded area at Derrycarne where it is impossible for two cars to pass, and that the overhanging trees and hedges be cut back which have nearly closed the road."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The road in question will be inspected in order to determine if such measures are viable and
appropriate and the road can be included for consideration in the 2012 Roads programme subject to the level of funding available. A lay-by can only be provided on roads where funding is provided in the Annual Roads Programme."

11/434 10/10/2011  **Extending footpath on the R202 road from the Roundabout on the Dromod-Rooskey By Pass to the Church**

**To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;**

"At the October meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask Mr John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure, to again look at the possibility of extending the footpath on the R202 road from the roundabout on the Dromod-Rooskey bypass at Cloonturk, as far as Cloonturk Church. The provision of a footpath at this location was to have been done in conjunction with the work on the bypass. It is extremely dangerous for the large number of local people, as well as the many tourists, who walk from the village of Dromod to attend Mass and other church services on a regular basis on this very busy stretch of roadway."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The proposed footpath extension would be desirable. It would be necessary to identify a funding stream and would also require the co-operation of landowners in the provision of necessary lands to facilitate the construction of footpaths. The possibility of a Community-led application to the Leitrim Development Company can be investigated."

11/435 10/10/2011  **Crossing at Kilnagross P.O. and National School**

**To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;**

"I ask the Senior Engineer, Roads could the very busy crossing at Killnagross P.O. and National School be properly lined in the interest of safety"

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The proposed improvements can be considered for inclusion under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme."

11/436 10/10/2011  **Crossing at Treanmore, Mohill on the R201**

**To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;**

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure has any progress been made on previous requests to make the Crossing at Treanmore Mohill on the R201 more safe for pedestrians and motorists."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Detailed plans have been prepared and Part 8 Planning approval obtained. The location in question can be included for consideration in the 2012 Roads Programme subject to the level of funding available."
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;

"I ask the Ballinamore Area Engineer if the Council will install additional lay-bys leading from Drumreilly GAA field in the direction of Carrickmakeegan Bridge in order to allow traffic pass at various points along this location."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"The Road in question is LP1502, and can be included for consideration in the 2012 Roads Programme subject to the level of funding available. It is not possible to install lay-bys on a local road unless there is a Road Grant on the road in question."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;

"I ask the Ballinamore Area Engineer to further extend the public lighting at the Golf Links Road, Ballinamore from the town out as far as the golf course, similar to the works that have previously been carried out in order to provide uninterrupted lighting for the large volume of walkers/cyclists currently using this route. This will help to compliment the cycle/walkway work due to be carried out shortly from the marina at Locoboat, Ballinamore to Ardrum which is to connect in with this existing walkway."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"It is intended to erect 10 No. additional solar public lights along the Golf Links Road as part of the Canal Bank Walk Smarter Travel project. This work will be done in November."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McSharry;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to examine the road at Gurteenagunnell in Glencar. The surface is in very poor condition."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"The road in question is LT 41421 located in Gurteenagunnell. Routine road maintenance will be carried out on this road."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McSharry;

"I ask Leitrim County Council if there are plans to provide salt bunkers to local authority estates so that residents can salt their own estates in preparation for the predicted harsh winter."
Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"As part of the 2011/2012 Winter Service Maintenance Plan it is proposed to provide Salt bins at a nominal fee to residents associations. The Residents Association can then deal with their own estates as required. While the Council will endeavour to refill these bins as required depending on the manpower resources available at the time, the Residents Association may need to make their own arrangements to collect salt from the County Council Depot whenever the Council resources are stretched dealing with salting the road network."

11/441  
10/10/2011 Salt and Grit

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke;

"I ask if Leitrim County Council have a sufficient supply of salt and grit to make our roads safe in the event of having a winter as severe as the last two."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Leitrim County Council has been allocated 2,200 tonnes of salt under the Governments contract for provision of salt for this winter. A further 700 tonnes has also been requested to equate to the quantity of salt used last year. Centrally 70,000 tonnes of salt is being reserved which the NRA will allocate if necessary during a severe weather event."

11/442  
10/10/11 Regional Road Sign Post Scheme

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke;

"I ask Leitrim County Council, if there are any plans to continue the scheme where road numbers were being placed at entry to small local roads. Residents find this very useful for many purposes including directing the Emergency Services etc. Are there any road number signs already in stock awaiting erection?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"It is expected that the regional road sign post scheme will be put in place along the R208, Carrick to Ballinamore road, in November/December this year. Future funding may be available in 2012 for the remaining regional roads."

11/443  
10/10/2011 Stone wall at entry to Tullyskeherny Td

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I ask the Manorhamilton Area Engineer if the stone wall that has been knocked down at the entry up to Tullyskeherny townland in Manorhamilton can be repaired. This wall is located as you go off the N16 roadway."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The wall in question is located at the junction of the N16 with County Road LS 6203 leading to Tullyskeherny. The stone wall will be repaired when resources become available later in the year."
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I ask Leitrim County Council if a sign can be erected at Conwal North, Glenaniff indicating the road across the mountain into Kinlough? There was a signpost there in the past."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"A sign will be erected at Conwal North, Glenaniff indicating the road across the mountain into Kinlough."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John Ward;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to carry out repairs immediately on the road from Corbeagh to Ohill as the road is unusable due to extensive potholes."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Routine maintenance will be carried out as required."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Siobhan McGloin;

"At the next meeting of Leitrim County Council, I would ask that urgent repairs be carried out to Local Road No 6078"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The road is question is County Road LS 6078 located in Unshinagh/Laughta. Routine road maintenance will be carried out on this road."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Siobhan McGloin;

"At the next meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask that the Senior Executive Engineer and the Senior Housing Engineer to examine how best to solve the flooding problem at the Monien Housing Estate Kinlough, Houses No 8 and No 9 are particularly badly effected. It is very important that this problem is sorted out before the winter starts."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Leitrim County Council Housing Department have already put drainage channels along the front of the houses in question to alleviate flooding issues. Further works are planned which will involve the replacement of the footpath at this location and will also address any drainage issues remaining."
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"I ask this Council to see that the Joint Policing Committee meet as a matter of urgency to discuss the future of some garda stations example Keshcarrigan which was crime free when the station was manned on a full-time basis by John Donohue. Now it costs more to man checkpoints after a break in than it would to man the station. The crime rate has got out of hand in the Keshcarrigan area, people are afraid in their homes and we have to demand to get a safe service back, so as the break ins stop."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"A Joint Policing Committee meeting will be called over the coming weeks. However in line with normal operating procedures and the standing orders the Gardai are prohibited from discussing sensitive operational matters such as staffing levels in individual stations or future plans in that regard."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"I ask this Council to please repair the holes outside of Drumcong Church again and do it in such a way that it will stay repaired longer than a few weeks."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Routine maintenance will be carried out as required."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"When will work commence at Drumshanbo Swimming Pool?"

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"Leitrim County Council have assessed the pool over the summer to determine the nature and extent of works to be completed. The local Community have also been met and informed of same. The Council is now in a position to proceed to quotations for the carrying out of refurbishment works at the pool. These include for the raising of the floor level, lining of interior surfaces, new fittings etc."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"Following the fine road surface laid recently on the Hill Road at Aghnagallop, Drumshanbo, has Leitrim County Council considered a grant application under the low cost grants scheme
next year to consider removing the severe turn at Hylands? This work would compliment the comprehensive work undertaken by this Council over the last four years on this road, which is to be very much welcomed."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Works of this nature are usually carried out under a Low Cost Safety Scheme. A proposal will be made to include realignment works at this location along road number LP 3385 in the 2012 list of proposed schemes for funding to the Department."

The Business of the meeting concluded at 8.50 pm.

Signed: Cllr John McTernan
         Cathaoirleach
Signed: Aideen McGovern
         Meetings Administrator

Dated: 7th November 2011