Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon on Monday 5th December 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Members Present: Councillor Tony Ferguson  
Councillor Sean McDermott  
Councillor Sinead Guckian  
Councillor Martin Kenny  
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

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  
Ms Katrina Murphy, Head of Finance  
Mr John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure  
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services  
Mr Shay O’Connor, Senior Engineer  
Mr Ciaran Tracey, Senior Planner  
Mr Paudge Keenaghan, Assistant Planner  
Mr Darragh O’Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms Carmelita Caslin, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr Vincent Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator

11/496  
05/12/2011  
Deimhniu Miontuairisci

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor John Ward AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon on Monday, 7th November 2011, be adopted.”
The Cathaoirleach, Councillor John McTernan advised that a request had been received from the Carrick on Shannon Chamber of Commerce to facilitate a deputation prior to the Council considering Budget 2012. He advised that, given that the Budget meeting is scheduled for 19th December 2011, he was prepared, with the approval of the Members, to receive the deputation at today’s meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor John Ward AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That a deputation from Carrick-on-Shannon Chamber of Commerce in relation to the Leitrim County Council Budget 2012 be facilitated at today’s Council meeting”.

Adjournment of Meeting

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

“That the Meeting be adjourned for fifteen minutes as a mark of respect to the late Mr Michael Guckian, Drumsna, former Member of Leitrim County Council.”

The Members and the County Manager paid tribute to the huge amount of work which Mr. Guckian had done both for his local community and for the County at large and outlined that he had left a lasting legacy. They expressed their condolences to his wife Colleen, his daughter and successor as Member of Leitrim County Council, Councillor Sinéad Guckian, and to the entire Guckian Family.

Councillor Sinéad Guckian thanked the Elected Members, the Manager and the Staff of Leitrim County Council for all their kind works and support.

Votes of sympathy were also expressed to the following;

- Mr Francis Fox, Aghnahaha, Glenaniff, Rossinver, Co Leitrim on the death of Mrs Rose Fox.
- Mr Eugene Gilbridge, Lissinagroagh, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim on the death of Mrs Brigid Gilbride.
- Mrs B McLoughlin, Drumlummon, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of Brendan McLoughlin.
- The McGoldrick Family, Church Street, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim on the death of T.P. McGoldrick.
- The Guckian Family, Drumsna on the death of Michael Guckian.
- Jim Sommers, McDermott Terrace, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim on the death of Mary Sommers.
- The Higgins Family, Dristemnan, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim on the death of Mrs Francie Curry.
- Michael McGowan, Dristemnan, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim on the death of Patsy McGowan.
- Leo McDonald, Gurteen P.O., Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim on the death of Kevin McDonald.
• John & Annie McGowan, Cloonawillian, Kinlough and Paddy & Marie McGowan, Kinlough on the death of Maggie B McNulty.
• Gerard Rooney, Killea, Kiltyclogher, Co Leitrim on the death of Thomas Rooney.
• Mai Reagan & Family, Tawley, Castlegar, Co Leitrim on the death of Oliver Reagan.
• Treasa Hill, Glenview, Kinlough, Co Leitrim on the death of P.J. Rodgers.
• Mrs Helen Harte, Willowfield Road, Ballinamore on the death of Eileen Doherty.
• Hugh McCartin, Ardunsonagh, Drumreilly on the death of Joe Maguire.

11/499
5/12/2011 Proposal to proceed to public display in relation to Draft Variation to Carrick-on-Shannon Local Area Plan 2010-2016

Proposal to proceed to public display in relation to Draft Variation to Carrick-on-Shannon Local Area Plan 2010-2016 as circulated to each Member appears as Appendix 1 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, Seconded by Councillor John Ward AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the proposal to proceed to public display in relation to Draft Variation to Carrick-on-Shannon Local Area Plan 2010-2016 be approved”.

11/500
05/12/2011 Section 138(1) of the Local Government Act 2001

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

11/501
05/12/2011 Corporate Policy Group Report

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

- **Update from SPC’s**

Ms. McGovern advised that the Corporate Policy Group had received an update in relation to the Housing and Corporate Services SPC meeting which had taken place earlier today. She advised that the SPC had considered an update in relation to the following:

- Housing Grants activity
- Treanmore Remedial Works Scheme
- Disability Implementation Plan
- Mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme.

She advised that the outcome of review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme will be brought before the SPC, the Corporate Policy Group and the full Council in the New Year.

The SPC had also considered the Revised Tenant Handbook which is to be printed and issued to tenants in the coming weeks. In this context she advised that members of the SPC had expressed concern in relation to the definition of Anti-Social Behaviour which is as per
the legislation and had requested that a letter issue to the Minister in relation to reviewing the wording in this regard. The SPC had also raised the issue of rental income going to fund wider local authority costs and the wider general issue in relation to Local Government Funding and had outlined the need for greater funding to be reinvested in estates under the Estate Management Programme and asked that this be considered in the context of Budget 2012.

This update was noted by the Members.

- **Budget 2012**

Ms. McGovern advised that the Corporate Policy Group had also received an update regarding the preparation of Budget 2012.

- **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.

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**11/502**

5/12/2011 **Conferences**

*Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloon, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;*

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

“Attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson, Councillor Gerry Dolan and Councillor John McCartin at the Conference on Being positive in a Negative Climate in Bunrattty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co Clare on the 9th December 2011 to 11th December 2011.

*Proposed by Councillor Gerry Dolan, seconded by Councillor Sean McSharry AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;*

“Attendance of Councillor Gerry Dolan at the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland 98th Annual Conference in Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co Meath on the 8th September to 10th September 2011 be retrospectively approved”.

“Attendance of Councillor Gerry Dolan at the National Tourism Conference in the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co Clare on the 24th to 26th November 2011 be retrospectively approved”.

*Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloon, seconded by Councillor Frank Dolan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;*

“Attendance of Councillor Gerard Reynolds at the National Tourism Conference in the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co Clare on the 24th to 26th November 2011 be retrospectively approved”

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The following items of correspondence were circulated to the Members


   Councillor Gerry Kilrane expressed his disappointment with the reply and stated that he considered that this would present a fantastic opportunity for employment.

2. Letter dated 7th November 2011 from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality in relation to the obligation of the state to protect the constitutional rights of its citizens.

3. Letter dated 16th November 2011 from ASH Ireland in relation to introducing a smoking ban in all children’s playgrounds.

   Councillor Gerry Kilrane proposed that this item be listed on the Agenda for the next Community, Cultural and Enterprise Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting. This was agreed by the Members.

4. Letter dated 10th November 2011 from the Office of the Minister for Health concerning the reduction in bed numbers in St Patrick’s Hospital, Carrick-on-Shannon.

   Councillor Francis Gilmartin stated that it is inadequate that the Minister refers correspondence directed to him for response by the HSE rather than responding directly to correspondence issued.

5. Letter dated 9th November 2011 from Damien McCallion, Area Manager, Health Service Executive – West in relation to the Health Centre in Dromod.


7. Letter dated 16th November 2011 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills in relation to the increase in the qualifying distance criterion for entitlement to the non-adjacent rate of grant for the 2011/12 academic year.


11. Letter dated 18th November 2011 from Damien McCallion, Area Manager, Health Service Executive – West in relation to the reduction in Bed numbers in St Patrick’s Hospital, Carrick-on-Shannon.
Councillor Francis Gilmartin expressed his dissatisfaction with the response received which he stated was inadequate. He requested that a further letter issue outlining dissatisfaction with the response and requesting a full and comprehensive response to all of the queries raised.

12. Letter dated 22nd November 2011 from the Office of Public Works in relation to the motion passed by Leitrim County Council seeking information on any proposals to have a single body take responsibility for water levels on the River Shannon.


15. Letter dated 25th November 2011 from Damien McCallion, Area Manager, Health Service Executive – West confirming that the HSE has no plans to withdraw the NowDOc service in Carrick-on-Shannon.


17. Letter dated 29th November 2011 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to CLAR funding for Local Improvement Schemes.

18. Correspondence from the Office of the Attorney General regarding the Statute Law Revision Bill 2011 proposing to repeal the remaining spent and obsolete legislation from 1751-1922.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager informed the members of correspondence received from the Office of the Attorney General regarding the Statute Law Revision Bill 2011. She advised that the Bill proposes to repeal the remaining spent and obsolete legislation from 1751 -1922. She advised that this Statute Law Revision Project has provisionally identified 4 Acts which may be of relevance to Leitrim. She outlined the Acts proposed for repeal and the aspects of those Acts relevant to County Leitrim together with the preliminary findings of the Office of the Attorney General. She also advised that it is proposed to retain the Shannon Water and Electric Power Act 1901. She advised that, following review, it is not considered that there is any issue in relation to the proposed repeals and retention as outlined above and that she would be notifying the Office of the Attorney General accordingly. She advised that there is a requirement that the response be put before the Members.

The Members noted the proposed response.

The following items were also raised under Meetings Correspondence:

**Closure of Garda Stations**

Councillor Mary Bohan outlined that she had just learned of the announcement that the garda stations in Drumkeerin and Kiltyclogher are to close. She stated that this is a shocking announcement and is devastating for the communities involved. She stated that Drumkeerin
Garda station serves a rural area and a very dispersed population and the decision will cause distress. She stated that this is a further attack on people in rural areas and called on the support of the Members in calling on the Minister for Justice and Equality to reverse the decision. She also requested that the Resolution from the meeting be forwarded to the local Oireachtas Members calling for their support.

Councillor Sean McDermott supported the motion and stated that the decision in relation to Kiltyclogher Garda station is terribly disappointing. He outlined that this is a Border Garda Station which has been very important in years gone by. He stated that a lot of crime can be traced across the border. He stated that it is very important that we continue to have rural Garda Stations operating in rural Ireland and that the minister must row back on this decision.

This was supported by all the Members.

**Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

“That Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister for Justice and Equality to reverse the decision in relation to the closure of Garda Stations in Drumkeerin and Kiltyclogher and that the resolution be forwarded to TD’s and Senators in Roscommon South-Leitrim and Sligo North-Leitrim calling for their support “.

**Joint Policing Committee Meeting**

Councillor Francis Gilmartin requested that a meeting of the Joint Policing Committee be scheduled without further delay. Mr. Joseph Gilhooley, Director of Services, Planning, Community and Economic Development confirmed that a meeting of the JPC could be arranged for early January. He advised however that issues around operational and staffing arrangements and assignment of resources were not matters for the JPC.

**Shale Gas Extraction – proposed meeting with Fermanagh District Council**

Councillor Mary Bohan queried if any response had been received from Fermanagh District Council in relation to the requested meeting in relation to the proposed Shale Gas Extraction Project in the Lough Allen Basin. Ms Jackie Maguire, County Manager advised that Leitrim County Council are in communication with Fermanagh District Council in this regard and advised that the Chief Executive is to discuss the matter with the Members with a view to facilitating a meeting.

Councillor Sean McSharry suggested that Arlene Foster, Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland be invited to make a presentation to the Council on the matter.

**11/504 5/12/2011 Deputation from Carrick-on-Shannon Chamber of Commerce**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor John McTernan welcomed Mr. Gerry Faughnan, President, Mr. Terry Casey and Mr. Fintan Cox of Carrick on Shannon Chamber of Commerce to the
meeting. He invited Mr. Casey to make a presentation to the meeting on behalf of the Chamber.

Mr. Casey thanked the Cathaoirleach and the Elected Members for affording the Chamber of Commerce the opportunity to address the meeting. He outlined the difficulties faced by the local business community over recent years and in particular over the past year with decreasing footfall, significantly reduced turnover etc. He outlined the serious concerns in relation to the proposal by Government to increase the VAT rate to 23% which he advised the Chamber is concerned will again drive shoppers across the Border. He outlined that businesses have cut their costs to the greatest extent possible but one area that they have no control over is in relation to rates. He outlined two cases where the annual rates bill represents three months and four months of these local businesses’ profit respectively. He stated that a rates system based on turnover and not on square footage would be a more equitable situation. He outlined that the Chamber is very appreciative of all Leitrim County Council has done for and in the town in recent years and cited a range of initiatives undertaken. He stated that Carrick on Shannon is arguably the most attractive medium-sized town in the West of Ireland. He outlined that the Chamber is hopeful that the Carrick on Shannon 400 Year Celebrations in 2013 will bring additional business to the area but stated that it is a matter of survival for many businesses until then. He outlined that the Chamber of Commerce is calling for a 15% one-year-only reduction in rates for 2012. He stated that this would be revenue-neutral for the Council as it will mean that businesses can continue to operate in 2012. He stated that in 2013 the Chamber has no issue with the rates being brought back to 2011 levels.

Mr. Casey again thanked the members for the opportunity to address the meeting and the Cathaoirleach and Members in turn thanked the Chamber of Commerce for their presentation.

Part I - Notices of Motion.

11/505
5/12/2011  Layout of the Junction off the N4 with R201

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

"At the December meeting I will, again, ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to take immediate action to address the layout of the junction off the N4 with R201, known locally as the Mohill cross, on the N4 at Masonite. Drivers exiting the Mohill road, crossing the N4 heading West, do not have sufficient view of traffic approaching from the left to cross the road safely."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Following on the concerns raised by this notice of motion a significant amount of trees and vegetation have been removed from the road margin which has greatly improved the sight distance at this junction. This together with the road signage on the N4 should have addressed any problems at this location. The issue of excessive speed on the N4 will be taken up with the Gardai."

Councillor Sinéad Guckian welcomed and acknowledged the work that has been undertaken at the Mohill Cross junction. She outlined that a considerable amount of hedging has been removed and that this has significantly improved the situation. She acknowledged that this is
a difficult junction and accepted that the works carried out will make it significantly safer. She stated that ultimately, without a roundabout, this will be an ongoing issue. She suggested that the issue of speed at this location should be raised at the Joint Policing Committee meeting.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion and said that in the long term a roundabout would be the best solution at this location.

Councillor Enda Stenson and Councillor John Ward also supported the motion and acknowledged that the works that have been completed are of great benefit and have improved safety for motorists.

Councillor Gerard Reynolds welcomed the works undertaken. He outlined however that this junction on the N4 is very dangerous for cyclists and suggested that some form of ramp be considered for cyclists at this location.

**11/506**  
5/12/2011   **Extend Planning Permission already granted for individual houses**

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to extend the Planning Permission already granted for individual houses in view of the present economic climate, as a considerable amount of people who have permission now find that they are unable to get the necessary finance to proceed with the building of such houses."

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

"Planning Permission can only be considered for extension where an application to extend the duration of an existing permission is received by the Planning Authority. This application must be received before the existing permission expires. The Planning Authority is required to consider a range of issues in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2010 and Regulations when dealing with an application where the development has not started or where substantial works have not been completed. The applicant must demonstrate issues of a commercial, economic or technical nature, beyond their control which militated against the completion of the development within the original duration. In particular the applicant must also demonstrate ongoing consistency with the current County Development Plan which includes the provision of Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive and submission of a Site Suitability Assessment under the EPA Code of Practice where the planning permission relates to a development consisting of a stand alone treatment system and where the original site assessment did not confirm a T-Test of <90. The Planning Authority is required to assess all of the above in determining the outcome of any application for extension of duration."

Councillor Callian Ellis outlined that he accepted the position as outlined in the response. He outlined that he had been approached by a number of people in relation to this situation in recent times. He queried whether there had been any progress in relation to the proposed treatment system to address the EPA Code of Practice requirements.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Planning, Community & Economic Development confirmed that discussions are continuing with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in this regard. He stated that this is still a work in progress
and that the Council is continuing to work through issues but stated that he was happy that it was continuing to make progress.

Councillor Ellis queried if such a system, if successful, would be acceptable for extension of duration applications. Mr. Gilhooly confirmed that this would be acceptable.

11/507

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

"Will this Council please contact the Minister for Finance by letter and request him to put in place a tax incentive scheme for home owners to make their property more secure by installing alarms and security lights. This was never more important as the rise in burglaries has increased significantly."

Councillor Francis Gilmartin highlighted the recent rise in crime and called on the support of the Members in relation to his Motion.

Councillor Martin Kenny supported the motion and outlined that a new text alert system is very useful in relation to community involvement. Councillor Enda Stenson also supported the motion and stated that it was time for Community Alert to be reactivated. This was supported by Councillor Tony Ferguson who stated that every area should have Community Alert.

Councillor Enda McGloin supported the motion and suggested that an item should be included on the Agenda for the Joint Policing Committee meeting in relation to Community Alert Groups in every area in the County.

Proposed by Councillor Francis Gilmartin, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council contact the Minister for Finance by letter and request him to put in place a tax incentive scheme for home owners to make their property more secure by installing alarms and security lights. This was never more important as the rise in burglaries has increased significantly."

11/508
5/12/2011  Low Cost Selling of Alcohol

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

"In view of the up-coming review of the practice of Low Cost Selling of Alcohol in a large range of outlets by the Minister for Drugs and Alcohol, we the members of Leitrim County Council call on the Minister, and the Minister for Health, to examine the entire sales of alcohol in all types of outlets - public houses, clubs, hotels etc - as the changes to opening times etc have had a huge impact on family life in Ireland (with problems in the workforce, binge drinking and anti-social behaviour) and the cost of over €3 billion per year to the Health Services: Return to normal opening times and listen to the concerns of the North West Alcohol Forum."
Councillor Tony Ferguson outlined the background to his Motion. He clarified that the cost figure has been clarified at €3.7bn and not €3bn as stated in the Motion. He called on the Council to ask the Minister to look at the entire situation. He outlined that there is a very big lobby to fight the cause of the Vintners but the cause of all the communities and families affected must also be fought. Councillor Ferguson circulated statistics from the Health Research Board in relation to treated alcohol use in Ireland and stated that the report makes for stark reading and he called on the members to support his motion.

Councillor Frank Dolan supported the motion. He stated that a lot of education must be done in the home. He stated that the situation has to be dealt with. Councillor John Ward also supported the motion and stated that the advertising of alcohol should be banned. Councillor Enda McGloin also supported the motion and stated that the whole emphasis on alcohol on social networking sites etc by young people is very worrying.

Councillor Gerry Reynolds stated that this is a very worthwhile motion. He stated that this is a serious issue but outlined that he considered that this is a cultural problem rather than the fault of the pubs, shops etc. He stated that education is the key to addressing the problem and possibly needs to start at primary school level. He also stated that parents have a huge role to play. He also supported the idea of the National ID Card system.

Councillor John McCartin, Councillor Enda Stenson, Councillor Sean McSharry and Councillor Gerry Kilrane all supported the motion.

Councillor Ferguson stated that the issue needs to be reviewed in its entirety and suggested that the motion be amended to include a call for the introduction of a National Identification Card system.

This was agreed by the Members.

*Proposed by Councillor Tony Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Frank Dolan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;*

"In view of the up-coming review of the practice of Low Cost Selling of Alcohol in a large range of outlets by the Minister for Drugs and Alcohol, we the members of Leitrim County Council call on the Minister, and the Minister for Health, to examine the entire sales of alcohol in all types of outlets - public houses, clubs, hotels etc - as the changes to opening times etc have had a huge impact on family life in Ireland (with problems in the workforce, binge drinking and anti-social behaviour) and the cost of over €3 billion per year to the Health Services: Return to normal opening times and listen to the concerns of the North West Alcohol Forum and that a National Identification Card System be introduced."

11/509
5/12/2011 Water Services (Amendment) Bill 2011

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor John McTernan outlined that Motion No.’s 12, 17 and 23 relate to the same issue and he proposed that these three motions be considered together. This was agreed by the Members.

*To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Gerry Kilrane;*
"I am seeking the support of the Council in calling on the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to amend the Water Services (Amendment) Bill 2011 to allow for Grant Aid to rural dwellers who will have to upgrade their domestic wastewater treatment systems and any other reasonable reliefs for those affected."

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council calls on Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Mr Phil Hogan T.D not to proceed with the Water Services Amendment Bill 2011 until the following issues are resolved:

- The registration charge must be abolished.
- Clarity must be given, as to how inspections will be funded.
- The appeal fee must be eliminated.
- The regulations in relation to the maintenance of household waste water systems must be published before the Bill is passed.
- Clarification must be given on the standard to be applied by Inspectors under the Bill.
- EU approval must be given on the standard to be different from the existing standard for new houses.
- All mandatory upgrades and maintenance costs must be grant aided to a minimum of 85%.
- All mandatory upgrades must be exempt from: Planning Permission; Environmental Screening; Environmental Impact Analysis."

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Martin Kenny;

"I propose that Leitrim County Council demand that the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government €50 charge on owners of septic tanks and small treatment systems be abolished as it is another tax on rural life and will impose more hardship on families across this County which is, of course, predominantly made up of rural houses. This is part of the continuous attempts to force decent people to pay for the ruin of the economy by the well connected and the political establishment. This charge is only the start as there is a further charge of €200 being proposed for an inspection and possibly the forced upgrading of these systems. It must be abolished and instead an assistance programme for people to get grant aid for improving the sewage systems as is in the urban areas."

An Information Note from the County Manager dated 5th December 2011 in relation to information received from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to the matter, as circulated to the members, appears as Appendix 2 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Gerry Kilrane stated that the Bill is proceeding through the Seanad at present. He stated that the Bill contains wide-ranging powers for Inspectors and he outlined concern at the lack of a funding structure. He stated that the Bill requires very close scrutiny and suggested that it was worthy of a lot more debate. He outlined that the cost of retrofitting could be from €4,000 to €12,000 or even up to €17,000. He stated that there is no provision that certain defects may be outside of the means of that person and that this is unfair on that property owner. He stated that it would be a very positive step if some form of grant system were in place as people will want to comply with the requirements.

Councillor Mary Bohan stated that this is not a political issue – she outlined that there had
been motions calling on the previous Minister to introduce a grant system for the upgrading of septic tanks. She outlined that there have been grant systems for practically everything else and that people who have provided their own homes in rural areas are being penalised. She stated that this is an attack on people in rural areas and represents unfair hardship and charges when people simply don’t have the money. She outlined that the Minister hasn’t detailed the standards that will apply although he has indicated that these have been agreed with the EU Commissioner. She outlined that the Minister has given no indication as to how many Inspectors are to be employed. She outlined that the EPA Code of Practice is the most up to date standard but it has not been clarified if this is the standard that will apply. She stated that people are very concerned, that Cavan has a 25% failure rate and that the lack of clarification is a problem. She called on the full support of the Members for her motion.

Councillor Martin Kenny outlined that there is a double issue for County Leitrim with so many people who want to get Planning Permission not in a position to pass the T-Test. He queried what happens in relation to an existing system where the T-test fails? He acknowledged the Information Report from the County Manager. He stated that if the Government were to put a grant in place they would get 40% of the cost back on taxes, VAT etc. he stated that such a scheme would be almost cost negative. He stated that people simply cannot afford to address possible deficiencies and need assistance to sort out any problems. He also expressed the view that the current proposals are the thin edge of the wedge in relation to revenue generation.

Councillor Enda McGloin stated that this issue has been on the agenda as far back as April 2008. He stated that the issue for Government is the level of daily fines being imposed by the EU and the Government must deal with the situation. He stated that there has been a lot of debate on the issue in the Houses of the Oireachtas and he also stated that he understood that the systems would have to meet the standards applying at a particular time.

Councillor Francis Gilmartin sought clarification on who would be carrying out the inspections. Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager advised that it is her understanding that the inspections will be done in consultation with the EPA and that Leitrim County Council staff would be conducting the inspections.

Councillor Gilmartin outlined that the Council has a listing of approved Site Assessors and asked if this listing would be used. Ms. Maguire outlined that the Bill at the moment suggests that the EPA will determine how inspections are carried out and they will approve who is to inspect. She reiterated that she understood that it would be local authority staff.

Councillor Mary Bohan stated that obviously clean water is a priority for everyone and she stated that she was not in any way suggesting that this should be compromised. She queried the status of the report from the County Manager. Ms. Maguire clarified that this information has been supplied by the Department on foot of clarification sought.

Councillor Enda McGloin outlined that he understood that all septic tanks have to be registered and that the Department/EPA will be examining areas where there are problems with water quality.

Councillor Bohan stated that she wished her motion to proceed as listed and that the Minister be requested to respond to the specific issues raised.

All members supported the motions.
Proposed by Councillor Gerry Kilrane, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to amend the Water Services (Amendment) Bill 2011 to allow for Grant Aid to rural dwellers who will have to upgrade their domestic wastewater treatment systems and any other reasonable reliefs for those affected."

"That Leitrim County Council calls on Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Mr Phil Hogan T.D not to proceed with the Water Services Amendment Bill 2011 until the following issues are resolved:

- The registration charge must be abolished.
- Clarity must be given, as to how inspections will be funded.
- The appeal fee must be eliminated.
- The regulations in relation to the maintenance of household waste water systems must be published before the Bill is passed.
- Clarification must be given on the standard to be applied by Inspectors under the Bill.
- EU approval must be given for this standard, if it is different from the existing standard for new houses.
- All mandatory upgrades and maintenance costs must be grant aided to a minimum of 85%.
- All mandatory upgrades must be exempt from: Planning Permission; Environmental Screening; Environmental Impact Analysis."

"That Leitrim County Council demand that the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government €50 charge on owners of septic tanks and small treatment systems be abolished as it is another tax on rural life and will impose more hardship on families across this County which is, of course, predominantly made up of rural houses. This is part of the continuous attempts to force decent people to pay for the ruin of the economy by the well connected and the political establishment. This charge is only the start as there is a further charge of €200 being proposed for an inspection and possibly the forced upgrading of these systems. It must be abolished and instead an assistance programme for people to get grant aid for improving the sewage systems as is in the urban areas."

11/510

5/12/2011 Footbridge alongside the Bridge over the River Shannon at Rooskey

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

"I ask Mr.John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure to have discussions with his colleagues in Roscommon County Council in relation to having a joint approach to the Department of Transport in seeking to secure funding for the provision of a much needed footbridge alongside the Bridge over the River Shannon at Rooskey. Funding had been committed in the form of a Specific Improvement Grant in 2009 but was subsequently withdrawn with the downturn in the economy. It is extremely dangerous for the many people, both local and tourists, who use the bridge on a daily basis."
Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The matter will be discussed with Roscommon County Council when the level of funding available to both Councils becomes known in early 2012. However in the present economic climate it is highly unlikely that funding will be available."

Councillor Sean McGowan asked that the Director of Services discuss the matter with Roscommon County Council with a view to coming up with a lesser design proposal for consideration.

Councillor Enda Stenson supported the motion and stated that this is a very busy location for tourists and locals. Councillor Gerry Kilrane also supported the motion and stated that it is important that the issue is kept on the agenda.

Councillor John Ward and Councillor Gerry Reynolds also supported the motion. Councillor Reynolds queried whether a footbridge would work at this location given that the Bridge opens up to allow boat traffic to pass. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure confirmed that it is possible to provide a footbridge at this location. He highlighted however that, in the present economic climate it is highly unlikely that funding will be available.

11/511
5/12/2011 Bus Shelter in Manorhamilton

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to write to Bus Eireann to find out why no bus shelter has been put in place in Manorhamilton despite the numerous calls for this in the past. Now that there is a new wide footpath on the Sligo Road there should be no reason for not providing a bus shelter."

Councillor Frank Dolan outlined that this issue has been raised on a number of occasions and queried whether the Council had any input or any objections or any knowledge as to why the bus shelter has not been provided.

Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that Leitrim County Council has no objection to the provision of the bus shelter and confirmed that it can be accommodated at this location. He advised that this is a matter for Bus Éireann. He outlined that there is some suggestion that bus shelters require a degree of advertising to make them viable.

Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor Siobhan McGloin and Councillor Sean McSharry supported the motion.

Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council write to Bus Eireann to find out why no bus shelter has been put in place in Manorhamilton despite the numerous calls for this in the past. Now that there is a new wide footpath on the Sligo Road there should be no reason for not providing a bus shelter."
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McSharry;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to re-examine the lack of a pedestrian footpath at Castle Street, Manorhamilton. This is a very busy area of town which is close to a school. A number of parents have approached me about the fact that when vehicles meet on the bridge there is no safe route for pedestrians to take and also the poor lighting on the bridge is not helping the situation."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The road in question is the R280 on Castle Street. This is a very busy section of road and currently there is no public footpath at this bridge. An option for a one-way system on Lower Main Street is currently under consideration and may be the subject of a Public Consultation process in 2012. The provision of a footpath on Castle Street will be included as part of this consideration and an overall plan will be developed. Public lighting in this area consists of the decorative lights and were designed to ESB Standards but may need to be cleaned and this will be addressed."

Councillor Sean McSharry outlined the background to the motion. He acknowledged the reply received and asked if there was a timeframe on the plan in this regard.

Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure outlined that it is hoped to go to part VIII in the New year. He advised that funding would be part of the Roads Programme.

Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Siobhan McGloin and Councillor Sean McDermott supported the motion.

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

"I call on Leitrim County Council to review the current trading bay at Drumshanbo’s Main Street Car Park with a view to locating the trading bay at the rear of the Car Park. The current trader is located at the front of the car park and is taking up over 3 bays and is locating beside the disabled parking bay which is not acceptable."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"The trader in question occupies Bay D7 and is correctly located within the Car Park. The issue of space taken up will be investigated and if necessary the trader will be advised to remain within the parameters of the bay in question. The review of the Casual Trading Byelaws is not deemed necessary at this time."

Councillor Enda McGloin noted the response. He outlined that car parking is at a premium in Drumshanbo and stated that there is an area in the right hand corner of the car park that was
intended for flowers etc. He stated that he has no difficulty with casual trading. He outlined however that circumstances are very difficult for business people and that we must ensure that rate payers are given the opportunity to trade in fair circumstances. He proposed that the trading bay be relocated to the right hand corner of the car park and asked that the matter be reviewed. Councillor McGloin also sought clarification in relation to where exactly the trader was intended to be located.

Councillor Francis Gilmartin and Councillor Gerry Dolan supported the motion.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Planning, Community and Economic Development stated that any relocation would require a review of the casual trading ByeLaws which is a cumbersome process. He outlined a preference to negotiate with the trader involved. He outlined that the current location of the trader is well established over a period of time and that there are issues in relation to market rights etc. He undertook to review the file in relation to the exact intended location and revert to Councillor McGloin in this regard.

11/514
5/12/2011 Unfinished and Unoccupied Housing and Commercial Developments

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

"The Towns and Villages of the County are littered with unfinished and largely unoccupied housing and commercial developments. Many of these are now nothing more than worthless wastelands. They have become havens for vermin and anti-social behaviour. We must now move to ensure that these developments are either finished in full compliance with the conditions of their planning permission or that the lands are returned to their original state. I propose that we immediately commence enforcement of planning regulations to ensure that unviable developments are not allowed to become a permanent disfigurement on the County."

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

"The Planning Authority has in place a dedicated Unfinished Housing Development Resource. Their role is to work with developers, residents, receivers, banks etc to facilitate satisfactory solutions, tailored specifically to each individual case. Where enforcement action is required then the Planning Authority will act accordingly. However we must also guard against incurring significant legal fees with no satisfactory outcome possible due to the status of the development. The best results so far have been delivered by working with all stakeholders to find an agreed solution. In this regard the Planning Authority has prioritized the workload under a number of categories, including where valid taking-in-charge applications have been submitted, where taking-in-charge and bond release applications are anticipated, where developers and/or other stakeholders are otherwise working with the Council and those where prioritisation must be made relating to the date of expiry of the relevant permissions. The Planning Authority is actively pursuing the prioritised developments and it should be noted that the workload emanating from these developments will grow exponentially over the next couple of years. Resources are limited and will be managed to deliver effectively on our agreed priorities into the future."

Councillor John McCartin outlined that the response received is quite helpful. He emphasised the importance of a speedy resolution to housing estates etc and stated that issues arising must be dealt with as quickly and efficiently as possible. He stated that he wished to put on the record that he thought it regrettable that money would be spent on some of the ‘kips’ left
behind by developers.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Planning, Community and Economic Development confirmed that the Planning Authority has in place a dedicated resource since early 2011. He outlined that work is ongoing in relation to approximately 60-80 developments currently and this will be brought up to approximately 100 active files. He outlined that each case requires a Site Resolution Plan to be put in place. In relation to the most difficult developments he confirmed that discussions are ongoing with the Department around these. He outlined that developments where the Developer/Receiver is anxious to progress/resolve are being prioritised. He outlined that the Planning Authority had recently completed a legal services procurement process and in this regard will be proceeding to progress enforcement issues.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion and stated that issues need to be tackled early and forcefully.

11/515
5/12/2011 Relocation of Waterways Ireland

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

"I ask that a letter be written to the Department of An Taoiseach, the Department of Foreign Affairs and also to Waterways Ireland requesting information on the re-Location of Waterways Ireland to Carrick-on-Shannon as part of, or written into, the Good Friday Agreement."

Councillor Enda Stenson stated that this issue was raised at a recent meeting of Carrick on Shannon 2020 Vision. He outlined that he wanted to seek clarification on the issue and whether this was written into the Good Friday Agreement.

Councillor Gerry Kilrane supported the motion. He outlined that he did not think it had been written into the Agreement. He outlined that Waterways was one of the strands of the Agreement and this may be covered in the minutes of one of the meetings of the waterways sector.

Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Enda McGloin also supported the motion.

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

“That a letter be written to the Department of An Taoiseach, the Department of Foreign Affairs and also to Waterways Ireland requesting information on the re-Location of Waterways Ireland to Carrick-on-Shannon as part of, or written into, the Good Friday Agreement and that a suitable building is available in Carrick-on-Shannon for the relocation of Waterways Ireland”

11/516
5/12/2011 Area Meetings in each Engineering Area

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

"At the December meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask the Council to consider having Area Meetings in each of the Engineering Areas. I am aware that this system works very well
in neighbouring counties."

**Report by Director of Services, Infrastructure**

"The matter will be referred to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration and report back to the full Council."

Councillor Sean McDermott stated that the Area Roads Meetings held annually are very effective. He noted that the matter is to be considered by the Corporate Policy Group.

This was agreed by the Members.

**11/517**

5/12/2011  **Local Road 97 and R280 at Largydonnell**

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

"At the next meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask when do the Council propose to carry out the improvement works to the junction of Local Road 97 and the R280 at Largydonnell."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The junction in question is the humped back bridge at Largydonnell where County Road LP 2097 meets Regional Road R280. Leitrim County Council is in the process of acquiring land at present for improvement works and has purchased materials for the bridge extension. Funding will be sought under Low cost safety schemes in the 2012 Road Works programme to complete these works next year."

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

**11/518**

5/12/2011  **Moratorium on the proposed gas drilling**

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

"I call on this Council to call on Minister Rabbitte to put a moratorium on the proposed gas drilling for at least five years and then, if necessary, to have a review again"

Councillor Gerry Dolan made reference to Motion deferred from the last Council meeting and stated that he was calling on the Council and the Minister to put a moratorium in place. He stated that he was concerned for the future and that Roscommon County Council had placed a complete ban on fracking in that County. He stated that such a moratorium would give time to establish if and when there is a safe and environmental way of extracting gas, that would be of benefit to the people of Ireland.

Councillor Francis Gilmartin supported the motion.

**Proposed by Councillor Gerry Dolan, seconded by Councillor Francis Gilmartin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

"That Leitrim County Council call on Minister Rabbitte to put a moratorium on the proposed gas drilling for at least five years and then, if necessary, to have a review again".
Councillor Mary Bohan sought clarification in relation to the Resolution passed. The Cathaoirleach, Councillor John McTernan confirmed that the resolution as listed on the agenda for the December Council meeting had been passed.

11/519
5/12/2011 Single Farm Payment and Disadvantaged Area Payments Scheme

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke;

"That this Council ask the Minister to arrange that payments due to farmers under the Single Farm Payment and Disadvantaged Area Payments Scheme be made immediately in order to alleviate the hardship being experienced in many farming households. Extra staff should be deployed to assist the existing staff who are working with a backlog which has accumulated through no fault of theirs but rather comes as a result of procedures within the Department."

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke proposed that the Minister for Agriculture be called upon to arrange to have the payments that are due to farmers in respect of Single Farm Payment and Disadvantaged Area Payments paid to farmers immediately as they are suffering severe financial hardship and he asked that the Minister deploy extra staff to clear the backlog.

Councillor Caillian Ellis and Councillor John Ward strongly supported the motion.

Councillor John McCartin also supported the motion and outlined that the delay in payments also causes extreme hardship for suppliers and in all sectors of the community and the economy.

Councillor Martin Kenny also supported the motion and stated that this was a huge issue at the last IFA meeting in Leitrim. He stated that the situation needs to be resolved on an ongoing basis.

Councillor Gerry Dolan and Councillor Siobhan McGloin also supported the motion.

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That this Council ask the Minister to arrange that payments due to farmers under the Single Farm Payment and Disadvantaged Area Payments Scheme be made immediately in order to alleviate the hardship being experienced in many farming households. Extra staff should be deployed to assist the existing staff who are working with a backlog which has accumulated through no fault of theirs but rather comes as a result of procedures within the Department."

Part II - Questions.

11/520
5/12/2011 Street Lights at Rantogue Church

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;
"Will this Council please put in its estimates for 2012 an allocation for two extra street lights at Rantogue Church, as Mass occurs at 9 pm on a Saturday."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**
"The provision of two more public lights at this location can be considered in drafting the 2012 Works Programme. It is highly unlikely however that funding will be available for any additional lights in 2012."

**11/521**
5/12/2011  
**Emergency Cover**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"Could this Council please let the Councillors know who they can contact if there is an emergency over the Christmas holiday period?"

**Report by County Manager, County Manager**
"In the event of severe weather over the Christmas period appropriate arrangements will be put in place, as in previous years, and Members will be advised accordingly."

**11/522**
5/12/2011  
**Road Signs**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure when are the road signs requested in recent times to be erected."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**
"The signs in question are being manufactured at the moment and they will be erected next year as part of the Regional Road Signage Programme."

**11/523**
5/12/2011  
**Dartry Estate, Kinlough**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"I ask the Planning Section have the lighting problems in Dartry Estate, Kinlough been resolved?"

**Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development**
"I refer to your question regarding the same estate in July and unfortunately the situation remains the same.

The development appears substantially complete but the Developer has not made an application to the Planning Authority to have the estate taken in charge. Therefore, the existing infrastructure including public lighting remains the responsibility of the Developer and/or any Residents Management Company."

**11/524**
5/12/2011  
**Footpath at new cemetery in Mohill**
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Kilrane;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure if a footpath can be constructed at the new cemetery in Mohill. There are now a large number of graves not accessible due to the absence of a footpath and this is causing distress and inconvenience to relatives of those interred there."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The Cemetery would benefit from the footpaths requested and efforts will be made in the new year to provide same."

11/525  
5/12/2011                Road resurfacing in 2012

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"At the December Meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask Mr Michael Flynn, Carrick Area Engineer to carry out immediate repairs to the road from Drumshanbo South crossroads as far as the Drumlish – Mohill Road (Road No LS-5610-0) as it has fallen into a state of disrepair, and to include the road for resurfacing in the 2012 roadwork’s programme."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Routine maintenance will be undertaken as requested and the road in question can be considered for inclusion in the 2012 Annual Roadworks Programme, subject to the level of funding available in 2012."

11/526  
5/12/2011                Junction on the Carrick-Mohill Road at Laheenamona

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"At the December Meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will again ask Mr Shay O Connor, Senior Engineer Roads, to put in place a programme of works in the 2012 Roadwork’s programme, to improve the view at the Junction on the Carrick-Mohill road at Laheenamona, of the local road from Rosdoowaun-Tamlaghtavally (LS-7483-0). It is extremely dangerous for the local community coming out onto the R201 with a limited view back towards Carrick and they are concerned and fearful for their safety."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The improvements requested would be desirable. However, the scale of the work required is such that it might not qualify as a Low Cost Improvement Scheme and at this time it is unclear whether there will be any funding available for substantial realignment works in 2012."

11/527  
5/12/2011                Disabled Persons Parking Spot at the Post Office in Manorhamilton

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to consider providing a disabled persons parking spot at the Post Office in Manorhamilton. Many people have complained about the difficulty of getting parked near the Post Office on a Thursday and Friday when they go to collect their
Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"There are currently two number disabled parking bays in close vicinity to the Post Office - one at the Citizens Information Building and one outside the Laundry Building. Parking in this area is very restrictive and this proposal will have to be discussed with the business owners in the area. The number and location of disabled parking bays on this street will be reviewed."

11/528
5/12/2011 Housing Stock in Manorhamilton

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;

"I will ask the Director of Services, Housing and Corporate for a breakdown of the Council Housing stock in Manorhamilton, ie the number on the waiting list presently, the number of unoccupied houses at the moment and any other relevant information regarding housing in Manorhamilton."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing
"There are a total of 39 households on the Housing Waiting List with a first preference listed for rehousing in Manorhamilton. This figure is inclusive of 6 transfer requests from existing local authority tenants. Of the remaining 33 households on the list the vast majority of them are residing in good quality private rented accommodation and are receiving rent supplement from the Health Services Executive to assist with meeting their rental costs. Their long-term housing need will be met by the allocation of standard local authority housing from casual vacancies arising or alternatively they may be transferred onto the Rental Accommodation Scheme in their existing accommodation. Currently there are three vacant units in Manorhamilton, one which has been allocated and accepted and two additional units where allocations will be determined and offers issued in the coming days."

11/529
5/12/2011 Cois Laughta Estate, Kinlough

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McSharry;

"I ask the Housing Department, if there are any plans to improve the discolouration on the walls at Cois Laughta Estate, Kinlough."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing
"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."

11/530
5/12/2011 Speed Ramps and Signage at Taobh Estate

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McSharry;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure if there are plans to put speed ramps and signage at Taobh Tire Estate Manorhamilton. The estate is adjacent to the HSE offices and
Our Lady’s Hospital and a large number of vehicles use this lane. Signage and speed ramps would be of benefit to the residents.”

*Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing*

"The matter will be investigated."

11/531
5/12/2011  National Procurement Procedures and Guidelines

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"In relation to this Local Authority’s purchase of signage goods for the year 2010, what percentage of these goods was purchased from companies outside the County? Can the Manager assure me that local suppliers of goods and services that Leitrim County Council may from time to time require are listed within the various departments and invited to tender when the opportunity arises?"

*Report by Head of Finance, Finance*

"Leitrim County Council are obliged to comply with National Procurement Procedures and Guidelines which includes procedures in relation to tendering and quotations. All tendering contracts are advertised on eTenders as required with notice also placed in the local newspaper. It is therefore important that local businesses monitor the eTenders website - www.etenders.ie - and the local paper for tender notifications. Businesses can register on eTenders for automatic alerts in relation to tender notices relevant to their business category. Where the value of the contract only requires quotations every effort is made to ensure that local businesses are invited to quote."

11/532
5/12/2011  Sliabh an Iarainn Visitor Centre

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"I ask the Director of Services, Planning, Community and Economic Development if he could outline the plans for the relocation of the Sliabh an Iarainn Visitor Centre to the ‘Teach Ceoil’ building at Acres, Drumshanbo? Can I further ask if the current building will be knocked or re-modelled and if the funding provided will be adequate?"

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

"Leitrim County Council have successfully secured funding as part of the "Harnessing Natural Resources Project" through the Interreg IVA Programme to relocate and redevelop the Slieve an Iarainn visitors Centre to the site known as Teach Ceoil. The Council is currently preparing a Brief for the appointment of a Design Team to review the existing structure and prepare plans for the redevelopment of same. It is anticipated that the existing structure will not be demolished but used instead as the basic footprint in an amended more sustainable design capable of housing the visitors centre. However it remains a matter for the design team when appointed to come forward with the best possible design for the project."
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"When will repairs be carried out on the road from Greaghnafarna Cross to Tullynaskreena School."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Routine maintenance will be undertaken as requested in the coming weeks."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"When will repairs be carried out on the Road from Tullynaskreena to Killavoggy."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Routine maintenance will be undertaken as requested in the coming weeks."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McCartin;

"During heavy rain water builds up along LS-5501 at Derrygoan, Drumcoura, Ballinamore. The road is currently in good condition but if winter floods continue to wash across it, it will deteriorate rapidly. Could a pipe be installed to allow this water to flow under the road into Drumcoura lake?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"There is currently development works being carried out along this local secondary road. Once the dwelling is complete the drainage system in this area will be assessed and any necessary works will be carried out within the confines of the funding available."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"I ask would it be possible to have the roadway at Ussaun Mohill, that has been dug up to lay sewerage pipes, restored to its proper condition before Christmas. The residents living on this road have endured considerable inconvenience for the past 8 weeks."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The contractor on this project is responsible for both the temporary and the permanent restoration. At the moment the contractor has to carry out a CCTV survey of the sewer as laid and then rectify any snags. Until such time as these are completed he will keep the temporary restoration in as good a condition as possible. With regards to the permanent restoration this
will then be carried out when the snagging is successfully completed."

11/537
5/12/2011 Road Repairs

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"I am asking that the road from Corderoy Cross, to Meelick Keshcarrigan be included in the 2012 roads programme."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The road in question can be considered for inclusion in the 2012 Road Works Programme, subject to the level of funding available in 2012."

11/538
5/12/2011 Safety Barrier

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McCartin;

"Further to previous questions on this matter, when does the Council intend to place a safety barrier on the bridge on the R-204-15 at Mullaghmore, Corrawallen? There is no verge or battlement of any description on this bridge and it is only a matter of time before somebody falls the 12ft or so into the river below."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The bridge parapet will be replaced before the end of the year and a temporary barrier will be put in place in the mean time."

11/539
5/12/2011 Housing Waiting List

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I ask how many people are on the Council waiting list in Leitrim for Housing and also what are the figures for Manorhamilton, Kiltyclogher, Rossinver and Glenfarne?"

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing
"There are a total of 392 households on Leitrim County Council's Housing Waiting List. A significant number of these households are residing in good quality private rented accommodation and receiving rent supplement from the Health Services Executive to assist with meeting their rental costs. Their long-term housing need will be met by the allocation of standard local authority housing from casual vacancies arising or alternatively they may be transferred onto the Rental Accommodation Scheme in their existing accommodation.

There are a total of 39 households on the Housing List with a first preference of Manorhamilton. This figure is inclusive of 6 transfer applicants. There are 4 households on the Waiting List for Glenfarne, 4 Households on the waiting list for Kiltyclogher and 3 households on the waiting list for Rossinver. In all cases, with the exception of one for Glenfarne, these areas are the second or third choice preference for applicants."
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to write to the N.R.A. regarding money that has been earmarked for the N.16 in the Glenfarne area. This proposed work as a short term measure would eliminate most of the notorious bends on the N.16 in the Glenfarne area. It is crucial this work takes place?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Leitrim County Council have completed design work for the new realignment of the N16 from Cornacloy to Sradrine. The Council are ready to go to contract in the new year subject to funding being provided by the NRA. No final decision has been made yet regarding funding allocations for next year but indications at present are that this project will not receive any funding in 2012. Leitrim County Council are very anxious that this particularly poor section of the N16 would be realigned in 2012."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Kilrane;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure and Senior Executive Engineer, Carrick-on-Shannon Engineering area if some patching can be done on the road from Funshinagh Crossroads through to Doonans Crossroads and over to Corgallion Td (Gorvagh) as far as John Cannings house. Can this road be considered for inclusion in the next Roads Programme."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Routine maintenance will be undertaken as requested and the road in question can be considered for inclusion in the 2012 Road Works Programme, subject to the level of funding available in 2012."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Siobhan McGloin;

"At the next meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask this Council to carry out repairs to the bridge at Buckode on the Rossinver Road beside Joe Gallaghers lane."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"This parapet wall was damaged and needs to be re-built. These works will be carried out when resources become available."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Siobhan McGloin;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure and Senior Executive Engineer, Carrick-on-Shannon Engineering area if some patching can be done on the road from Funshinagh Crossroads through to Doonans Crossroads and over to Corgallion Td (Gorvagh) as far as John Cannings house. Can this road be considered for inclusion in the next Roads Programme."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Routine maintenance will be undertaken as requested and the road in question can be considered for inclusion in the 2012 Road Works Programme, subject to the level of funding available in 2012."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Siobhan McGloin;

"At the next meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask this Council to carry out repairs to the bridge at Buckode on the Rossinver Road beside Joe Gallaghers lane."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"This parapet wall was damaged and needs to be re-built. These works will be carried out when resources become available."

Drumgeaglom, Leitrim Road from Leitrim Village
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;

"I call on the District Engineer to have repair work carried out on the Drumgeaglom, Leitrim Road from Leitrim Village to Jim Joe Flynn's Cross. Also to have road number placed on the road leading from this road to the Canal, passing Beirnes home."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Routine maintenance will be undertaken as requested in the coming weeks. The number of this road is LS7381-0 and a sign indicating the road number is already in place at its junction with Regional road R284-2 at Battlebridge. It is Leitrim County Councils policy to erect road numbers at junctions of Regional roads only."

11/544
5/12/2011  Greaghagnullion (old Road) Drumshanbo

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;

"To have repair works carried out on the Greaghagnullion (old Road) Drumshanbo."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Routine maintenance will be undertaken as requested in the coming weeks."

11/545
5/12/2011  Drumgowa/Drumbore River

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Martin Kenny;

"I am asking the Director of Services, Infrastructure when drainage work will commence on the Drumgowa/Drumbore river as it is causing flooding in the large area it flows through."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The river referred to in this question is not the responsibility of Leitrim County Council and no funding is available for the work requested."

11/546
5/12/2011  Graffy Hill, Cloone

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Martin Kenny;

"I am asking the Director of Services, Infrastructure when road repair work will be carried out on Graffy Hill in Cloone, as there is large potholes and uneven surface on this road that need to be repaired before the worst of the winter sets in."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Routine repairs will be carried out in the next two weeks at the location referred to in this question."
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke;

"I ask that Leitrim County Council contact the Lough Oughter and District Drainage Board which is administered by Cavan County Council to express the urgency in carrying out the agreed schedule of drainage works on Cullies River and associated waterways in the townlands of Drumbreanlis, Cloughla, Drumsilla, Kilbrackan and Aughavore near Carrigallen which will lower the water table and contribute to road safety where roadside rivers are swelled to over flow during winter months."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"We will contact Cavan County Council in this regard."

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

"I ask that Road No LT 56002-0 in the Townland of Mullaghbrack, Gortletteragh receive attention before the on set of winter conditions."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"This local tertiary road is an unsurfaced gravel road. Given the reducing level of funding available annually for county road maintenance and the very extensive network of county roads in Leitrim it is unlikely that it will be possible to carry out any work on this road for the foreseeable future."

The Business of the meeting concluded at 7.50 pm.

Signed: John McTernan
Cathaoirleach

Signed: Aideen McGovern
Meetings Administrator

9th January 2012