Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday 7th February 2011 at 5.30 pm


Apologies: Councillor Gordan Hughes,

And Councillor Frank Dolan, Cathaoirleach presiding

Officials Present: Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager, Ms. Katrina Murphy, Head of Finance, Mr. Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Environment, Emergency and Cultural Services, Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Planning, Community and Economic Development, Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Corporate Services & Housing, Mr John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure, Mr. Shay O’Connor, Senior Engineer, Ms. Carmelita Caslin, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator, Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Ciaran Treacy, Senior Planner
Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Minutes of the Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday, 10th January 2011, be adopted.”

Rate Collection Report 2010

Report dated 31st January 2011 from Katrina Murphy, Head of Finance as circulated to the Members, in relation to the Rate Collection Report for 2010 appears as Appendix 1 to the minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The report as circulated was noted by the Members.

Councillor Gerry Reynolds requested clarification on the collection rate by comparison with previous years. Ms Katrina Murphy, Head of Finance responded by stating that the collection rate for 2010 was at 78% which compares favourably with previous years. Ms. Murphy also advised that efforts were ongoing to engage with individuals that were experiencing financial difficulty and that a number of payment plans were agreed and in place to collect monies outstanding.

Councillor Enda Stenson queried if there was any provision available to the business community to have their rates re-evaluated. Ms. Murphy stated that the only provision for doing so is in cases where there is a material change to the business premises and that the Valuation Office would be required to complete a revaluation and this would also incur a charge from the Valuation Office.

Councillor Michael Colreavy stated that the present system takes no account of the current financial difficulties encountered by the business community and asked the Members to support a motion to call on the Minster for Finance and the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to change the current system of Commercial Rate Valuations.

Proposed by Councillor Michael Colreavy, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the system of Commercial Rate Valuation is changed to reflect income or profit of said business”
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator gave an overview of the items considered by the Corporate Policy Group. Ms. Flynn advised no SPC meetings had taken place since the last meeting of the Council. The CPG had considered the items for the main Council meeting and the following items:

- The provisional dates for the annual Road Work Meetings were Monday the 28th of February and Tuesday the 1st of March, 2011.
- Notification that the American Ambassador to Ireland the Honorary Michael P. Rooney will be visiting the County on Thursday the 17th of February, 2011.
- Training for the Elected Members on the Planning and Development (Amendment Act) 2010 will take place in Sligo on Friday the 8th of April, 2011.
- The CPG had considered a report from Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Planning, Community & Economic Development, on the Core Strategy Variation to the County Development Plan. Under the Planning (Amendment) Act 2010 there is a requirement to develop a Core Strategy in the County Development Plan. The Core Strategy must be compiled within one year of the adoption of the Regional Planning Guidelines on or before the 28th of September. 2011.
- A General Purposes meeting will take place immediately prior to the March Council meeting to discuss the issue of ‘unfinished’ housing estates in the County.
- The proposed date for a meeting with a delegation from An Post and the Members was agreed.
- The official opening of Cluainin Voluntary Housing Association at Main Street, Drumkeerin by Minister Michael Finneran will take place on Friday the 18th of February at 2.30pm.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that the Council had received details of the Roads Allocation for 2011. It was agreed by the Members to hold the Area Roads meetings to consider the Draft Road Works Scheme for 2011 as follows:

- **Carrick-on-Shannon Area Meeting – Monday 28th February at 5pm** in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon.
- **Ballinamore Area Meeting – Monday 28th February at 6pm** in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon.
- **Dromahaire Area Meeting – Tuesday 1st March 2010 at 4:30 pm** in the HSE Offices, Manorhamilton,
11/034 07/02/2011  **Votes of Sympathy**

The members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Mr & Mrs Pat McGurrin, Agharroo, Tullaghan, Co. Leitrim on the death of Bridget McGowan.
- Mr & Mrs Francis & Anna Butler, Annahkeenty, Killnagross, Co. Leitrim on the death of Kathleen Butler.

11/035 07/02/2011  **Conferences**

**Proposed by Councillor Michael Colreavy, seconded by Councillor Gerry Reynolds AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

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

- Attendance of Councillor Caillian Ellis and Councillor Francis Gilmartin at Charities Act 2009 – Implications for the Voluntary Sector in Manor West Hotel, Tralee on the 18\(^{th}\) February 2011 to 20\(^{th}\) February 2011.
- Attendance of Councillor Enda Stenson at 9\(^{th}\) National Tourism Conference in The Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow on the 3\(^{rd}\) March 2011 to 5\(^{th}\) March 2011.
- Attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin and Councillor Paddy O’Rourke at Ireland’s Energy Opportunity – Corks Response in Inchydoney Hotel, Clonakilty on the 4\(^{th}\) March 201.

11/036 07/02/2011  **Meeting Correspondence**

2. Letter dated 12\(^{th}\) January 2011 from Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in relation to The Hardship Grant Scheme.
Under Meetings Correspondence Councillor Enda McGloin supported by Councillor Francis Gilmartin requested the Council to contact the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and Eircom to request an update in relation to the provision of broadband in Leitrim Village. The Members voiced their dissatisfaction that previous commitments made by Eircom to provide broadband in the area by January 2011 were not honoured. It was noted that the unavailability of broadband was having a negative impact on local businesses.

Proposed by Councillor Francie Gilmartin, seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council write to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and Eircom regarding the delay in providing Broadband in Leitrim Village, it was scheduled to be activated the first week in January 2011 by Eircom and as yet nothing has happened. This has a hugely negative effect on local business. “

Councillor Michael Colreavy asked the Members to support Waterford County Councils call on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the Licensing of On-Site Waste Water Treatment Systems and that a Grant Scheme be introduced for householders required to upgrade their systems to meet any proposed increased environmental standards.

Proposed by Councillor Michael Colreavy, seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council support Waterford County Council’s call on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the Licensing of On-Site Waste Water Treatment Systems and that a Grant
Scheme be introduced for householders who will be required to upgrade their systems to meet any proposed increased environmental standards."

Councillor Gerry Reynolds expressed his dissatisfaction with the response he received to the questions he had submitted for the meeting. A number of other Members also stated that they were not satisfied with the responses that they had received to their questions.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager stated that there was no provision within the Standing Orders adopted by the Council to debate Members Questions. The discussion and debate was restricted to each Members Notice of Motion.

**Part 1 Notices of Motion**

**11/037**
**07/02/2011**

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

"I am requesting that the Council arrange for the completion of the outstanding works due to be completed under the road widening of the R280 to the residence of Pauric Gill, Kilclare, Co. Leitrim."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"A road widening along the R209 at Drumduff south was carried out 15 years ago. Fencing was erected along Pauric Gill’s boundary at that time. It is not our intention to replace this fencing at this time."

Councillor Gilmartin expressed his dissatisfaction with the reply he received and requested that a meeting with Mr. Gill and Council officials be facilitated in order to progress the matter. Mr John McGuinness, Director of Service, Infrastructure agreed to this request.

**11/038**
**07/02/2011**

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

"Cois Locha estate in Carrigallen has been occupied for the last 4 years and, contrary to the recent norm in County Leitrim, it has been completed to a very high standard and is almost fully occupied. There remain however, a number of serious safety issues surrounding the approach and access to the estate which are the sole responsibility of the Council. These issues include the following:
1. The lack of a continuous footpath to the village
2. No safe crossing point to the Vocational School and creche
3. Broken white line and hidden entrance on the approach to the estate
4. No proper lighting between the town and the estate.
Since the developer and the residents have done so much to create a positive
environment in which to live, I propose that Leitrim County Council fulfil it's obligation and resolve these important issues."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure  
"These footpath and public lighting works can be considered as a safety scheme. Funding is not available for these works this year."

11/039  
07/02/2011  
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor John McTernan;  
"I ask that Leitrim County Council provide a new signalised pedestrian crossing at the junction of the Drumlease Road (LP 4166-1) and the Creamery Road (4165-0) in Dromahair, in order to facilitate the safe crossing of school children at this junction where sightlines for both pedestrians and oncoming traffic into the village are restricted. It has been indicated to me by the Parents Association of the school that they are very concerned in relation to the safety aspect of the above junction."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure  
"The volume of traffic currently using the Creamery road would not justify the installation of a signalled pedestrian crossing at this junction. The sight distance on the approach to this junction along the Creamery road could be improved if the landowners adjacent to the junction would cut back their boundary hedging. The Council will approach the landowners in relation to this. It is however proposed to enhance the signage and road markings at this location in the near future."

11/040  
07/02/2011  
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;  
"I call on the Director of Services, Planning to explain the reasons for not granting extensions to planning permission which have gone through the process already. It is essential to grant these extensions which may provide local employment opportunities and the finishing off of some estates etc."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development  
"The revised provisions in relation to extension of appropriate period of planning permissions came into force on 18th August 2010. The provisions allow the Planning Authority to extend the duration of permission notwithstanding that substantial works have not been carried out, which was the position heretofore, subject to the Authority being satisfied that a number of requirements have been complied with. These requirements extend beyond considerations of a commercial, economic or technical nature which is most often referred to in publicity. The applicant for an extension of duration of permission, where substantial completion has not been established to the satisfaction of the Planning
Authority must satisfy the planning authority with regard to the following:

• Provide information regarding the considerations of a commercial, economic or technical nature, beyond the control of the applicant, which substantially militated against the commencement of the development or the carrying out of substantial works pursuant to the planning permission (i.e. during the lifetime of the permission)

• Provide information demonstrating that there have been no significant changes in the development objectives of the County Development Plan or Regional Planning Guidelines which would militate against the development being consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area

• Provide information demonstrating that the development remains consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area having regard to any guidelines issued by the Minister since the grant of planning permission notwithstanding that they were issued after the grant of permission

• And where the development has not commenced that EIA and/or AA if required were carried out before the permission was granted.

The matter referred to in the motion is of particular relevance in regard to the need to demonstrate that there were reasons of a commercial, economic or technical nature, beyond the control of the applicant, which substantially militated against the commencement of the development or the carrying out of substantial works pursuant to the planning permission (i.e. during the lifetime of the permission) and also the need to demonstrate that the development remains consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in the context of both the County Development Plan and the Regional Planning Guidelines. When the planning authority is considering the application on hand in order to ensure compliance with both the CDP and in particular the RPGs regard must be had for the levels of residential vacancy, the number of commenced but not complete residential units and the number of permissions not yet commenced within the area in question. Therefore, when these matters are considered in conjunction with the other criteria set out above the planning authority on occasion conclude that the granting of an extension of duration would not be in compliance with the RPGs and the CDP as required in the legislation referred to above.

However, in specific regard to the facilitation of completion of development the granting of extension of duration for the full development is not the only option available. The applicant also has the option of the development of a Site Resolution Plan which would address issues around the curtailing of the first phase of a development to that already commenced and include works ancillary to those already carried out that would allow for the completion of the interim phase of the development which would facilitate a visually acceptable and marketable appearance to the development in question. In addition the planning authority will also be open to consideration of a further planning application for a smaller number of units where their construction would facilitate the visual completion of the development or where a market demand can be demonstrated. On these occasions the planning authority is of the view that this process provides a very sustainable and realistic programme of works in relation to residential developments under construction and is happy to engage with any developer in this regard."
07/02/2011
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;
"I call on Leitrim County Council to provide clarity as to why applicants for planning extensions under the 2010 Planning Act are asked to re-test their soil as per EPA guidelines. This is most unfair to people who have obtained planning but cannot proceed due to the current economic crisis and lack of credit in the market. It is clear that some local authorities are not requesting this and why is the policy in Leitrim?"

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"The revised provisions in relation to extension of appropriate period of planning permissions came into force on 18th August 2010. The provisions allow the Planning Authority to extend the duration of permission notwithstanding that substantial works have not been carried out, which was the position heretofore, subject to the Authority being satisfied that a number of requirements have been complied with. These requirements extend beyond considerations of a commercial, economic or technical nature which is most often referred to in publicity.

The applicant for an extension of duration of permission, where substantial completion has not been established to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority must satisfy the planning authority with regard to the following:
• Provide information regarding the considerations of a commercial, economic or technical nature, beyond the control of the applicant, which substantially militated against the commencement of the development or the carrying out of substantial works pursuant to the planning permission (i.e. during the lifetime of the permission)
• Provide information demonstrating that there have been no significant changes in the development objectives of the County Development Plan or Regional Planning Guidelines which would militate against the development being consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area
• Provide information demonstrating that the development remains consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area having regard to any guidelines issued by the Minister since the grant of planning permission notwithstanding that they were issued after the grant of permission
• And where the development has not commenced that EIA and/or AA if required were carried out before the permission was granted

The matter referred to in the motion is of particular relevance to the need to demonstrate that the development remains consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area including the context of the County Development Plan. The implementation of the EPA Code of Practice 2009 in relation to the achievement of specific ‘T’ values is therefore a requirement that the applicant must demonstrate compliance with in relation to the requested extension of duration. Where the applicant had originally provided water table and soakage tests with a confirmed ‘T’ value of less than 90 as part of the expiring permission process site re-assessment is not requested of the applicant as part of the application for extension process. However, it is found that on occasion the original application file does not
contain specific ‘T’ values and as a consequence a site assessment is required in order to demonstrate that the development of the site will not have any adverse impacts on the environment in compliance with the RPGs and the CDP as required in the legislation referred to above. These matters are explained fully in the guidance notes attached to applications forms for extension of duration."

A number of the Members voiced their dissatisfaction on the issue and made reference to the difficulties that local people were having in relation to sites that had previously had planning permission granted now failing the site assessment due to the new regulations.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development outlined in detail to the Members the requirements that must be met under the new regulations.

A number of Members suggested that their appeared to be more leniency in other local authority areas on the implementation of the new regulations.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager stated that the Council are bound by the legislation and the legislation as published requires that these applications are treated in this manner and that she was not prepared to ‘break the law’.  

11/042  
07/02/2011  
**To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Martin Kenny;**

"I propose that Leitrim County Council seek a written commitment from the leader of each party contesting the next election that they will immediately introduce legislation or amend exiting legislation to accommodate the use of engineering solutions for the treatment of sewage effluent in ground conditions where the percolation test has failed. The request needs to make a strong case for the circumstances in Leitrim where we have practically all rural planning applications being refused. The commitment needs to come from the parties within one week of the request."

*Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing*  
"No reply required."

**Proposed by Councillor Martin Kenny, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

“That Leitrim County Council seeks a written commitment from the leader of each party contesting the next election that they will immediately introduce legislation or amends exiting legislation to accommodate the use of engineering solutions for the treatment of sewage effluent in ground conditions where the percolation test has failed. The request needs to make a strong case for the circumstances in Leitrim where we have practically all rural planning applications being refused. The commitment needs to come from the parties within one week of the request."

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

"I again ask the County Manager what steps have been taken by Leitrim County Council to address the obvious concerns locally arising from the current status of the large housing development off the old N4 at Rooskey. There is considerable concern within the local community that there are no efforts been made to finish the houses and complete the estate! What is the status of the Developer, have the council engaged with him, to try and resolve the problem?"

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

"With reference to the Member’s previous Notice of Motion and reply of 6th September 2010 I can confirm that this matter continues to be subject of legal proceedings and is in the hands of the Council Solicitor."

Councillor Sean McGowan requested further clarification on the response as outlined and referred to the urgency of the situation for the individual home owners concerned. Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development replied that as outlined in the response this estate in addition to a number of other unfinished developments in the County is subject to legal proceedings. Mr. Gilhooly went on to state that the legal proceedings may be protracted however the Council were required to follow due procedure on the matter through the proper legal redress available.

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

"Job creation in Leitrim throughout the past number of years has being non-existent. Members here have raised this issue on an ongoing basis, but no help is forthcoming from anybody, again I am appealing for help from Government, I.D.A. and any organisation that can help rescue our County. We need meaningful employment here to stem the flow of young people from here. Otherwise we won't need new schools, pitches or post offices. What can we do to help?"

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

"Leitrim County Council continues to work closely with the relevant job creation agencies on an ongoing basis both directly and through the County Development Board's Economic Development Group. This group meets on a regular basis most recently today. In addition the County based agencies meet on a more frequent basis. The Council makes every effort to support any additional job creation initiatives in the County."

Councillor Enda Stenson voiced his concern on the rising levels of
unemployment in the County and the lack of job creating opportunities. Councillor Stenson also expressed concern that the staff currently employed in the FAS office in Carrick-on-Shannon are to be re-deployed to the Sligo office. If this move takes effect then it will result in further job losses for the Carrick-on-Shannon area.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager stated that she was in regular contact with FAS and that she was not aware of the proposals. Ms. Maguire agreed to contact FAS requesting an update on the matter.

11/045
07/02/2011
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;
"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to have the bridge at Kiltubrid Station repaired and some form of crash barriers erected before a serious crash happens."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The parapet walls on the bridge at the junction of the R208 and the R210 have been damaged recently. Repairs to the parapet walls will be carried when the work programme permits. It is not considered necessary to install any crash barrier at this location. The warning signage on the approaches to this junction will be assessed shortly and additional signage erected if deemed necessary."

11/046
07/02/2011
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;
"I ask the Director of Services, Roads and Infrastructure to provide for additional public lighting in Drumsna along Crowhill. I will ask that the money would be provided from the Development Contributions paid by the number of new residents along Crow Hill. There is no existing public lighting in this area of the village and the lack of any illumination is dangerous for residents, particularly school children as during the winter months they have to walk to and from their homes on Crowhill, in the dark, to Quay Street where they access the school bus."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"While the need for lighting in the area in question is desirable there is no funding available in the immediate future for these works. A proposal and costing of these works will be provided and the works can be considered for a future safety scheme."

11/047
07/02/2011
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Michael Colreavy;
"I ask that Leitrim County Council calls on the incoming Government to
discontinue the run-down of services at Sligo General Hospital and restore Breast Cancer services.”

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing
"No reply required."

Proposed by Councillor John Ward, seconded by Councillor Martin Kenny AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;
“That Leitrim County Council calls on the incoming Government to discontinue the run-down of services at Sligo General Hospital and restore Breast Cancer services.”

Councillor Mary Bohan informed the Members of the Government’s recent announcement of approval for funding for the provision of an extension to Sligo General Hospital. Councillor Bohan also expressed her gratitude to Deputy Eamon Scanlan stating that he was instrumental in sourcing the funding for the project.

Councillor Michael Colreavy challenged Councillor Bohan’s assertion in relation to the funding and a heated exchange between the two Members ensued. Councillor Bohan strongly objected to Councillor Colreavy’s comments. Councillor Bohan called upon the Cathaoirleach Councillor Frank Dolan to request Councillor Colreavy to retract his comments.

Councillor Colreavy refused to retract his statement.

11/048
07/02/2011
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Paddy O’Rourke;
"I call upon Leitrim County Council to resist in the strongest possible terms the proposal to remove the function of administering third level education grants from Local Authorities and VEC’s. The proposal represents a further erosion of Local Authorities, along with the fact that functions which have been centralised in the past have resulted in much a poorer service to the public. Local Authorities and VEC’s have been delivering this service since grants were introduced with a very large degree of satisfaction to all.”

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing
"No reply required."

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O’Rourke, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;
"I call upon Leitrim County Council to resist in the strongest possible terms the proposal to remove the function of administering third level education grants from Local Authorities and VEC’s. The proposal represents a further erosion of Local Authorities, along with the fact that functions which have been centralised in the past have resulted in much a poorer service to the public. Local Authorities and VEC’s have been delivering this service since grants were introduced with a very large degree of satisfaction to all.”
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan:
"I ask the Director of Services, Roads and Infrastructure to have the "Chapel Line" from the Shrine to the Church in Glencar resurfaced as it is in very poor condition."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The Road in question is County Road LP 4142-0 known locally as “Chapel Line”. This road is due for surfacing in the 2012 Restoration Maintenance Programme which is part of the three year programme, subject to funding being available. Routine Road maintenance will be carried out on this road in the meantime."

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott:
"I raise 'The Danger of Carbon Monoxide' which is a toxic gas that can leak from boilers and fire heaters and is very dangerous. I am asking Leitrim County Council to write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to make it compulsory for homes to be fitted with Carbon Monoxide detectors."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing
"No reply required."

Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor Siobhan McGlone AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;
“I ask Leitrim County Council to write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to make it compulsory for homes to be fitted with Carbon Monoxide detectors."

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor John Ward;
"I ask Leitrim County Council to contact US Bancorp to obtain clarification and assurances that the 46 jobs currently at the Bank of America site in Carrick-on-Shannon will stay in County Leitrim for the long term. Following an article in the paper announcing the transfer of 38 jobs to US Bancorp from Bank of America and the reference to their other site in the east of the country, will they retain the jobs in Carrick-on-Shannon. A loss of this number of jobs to County Leitrim would have a devastating effect to the local economy."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"The Council have been in contact with the IDA in relation to this matter and the IDA continues to be in discussion with the parties concerned."
Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;
"That Leitrim County Council contact US Bancorp to obtain clarification and assurances that the 46 jobs currently at the Bank of America site in Carrick-on-Shannon will stay in County Leitrim for the long term. Following an article in the paper announcing the transfer of 38 jobs to US Bancorp from Bank of America and the reference to their other site in the east of the country, will they retain the jobs in Carrick-on-Shannon. A loss of this number of jobs to County Leitrim would have a devastating effect to the local economy."

Part II - Questions.

11/052
07/02/2011
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McCartin;
"Following the wedding of Brian O'Driscoll and Amy Huberman, it has come to light that there is little or no signage for Aughavas or Gortletteragh in the County. The absence of signage in these parishes does not take from the fact that they are major focal points in the County with thousands of people attending weddings, funerals and other community occasions in both parishes every year. This problem needs to be addressed."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"In the present climate there is no funding available to identify every church in the County, but the Council would be willing to work with the parishes if they wish to provide such signs."

11/053
07/02/2011
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;
"Firstly I would like to thank Padraig MacShera and all the staff of Leitrim County Council for the work done on the Mong Road and to suggest completing the good work that he would see to it that the potholes on this road are repaired."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Road number LS 7420 at Sheemore will be assessed shortly and maintenance works carried out if required subject to the availability of funding."

11/054
07/02/2011
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;
"Can the Council provide me with an update of the main provisions relating to the Non Principle Private Residence (NPPR) charge for persons that own a property in Ireland and are residing abroad. Are such households liable for the
charge or fines where the fee was late owing to the household not being aware of their obligation to pay the fee?"

**Report by Head of Finance, Finance**

"Under the Local Government (Charges) Act 2009 if a property owner owns a qualifying property, regardless of its status of occupation, and regardless of where the property owner actually resides, on the liability date, then that property is liable to the NPPR charge for that year. Therefore, if a property owner has a qualifying property, on the liability date, and actually resides outside the jurisdiction in a separate property, regardless of whether they own the property they reside in, they are liable under the legislation for the NPPR charge on the qualifying property. For example, if an individual owns a qualifying property within the jurisdiction (say in Co. Leitrim), and this property is not their Principal Private Residence, then it is deemed a qualifying property for the purpose of this charge. This is the case even if they are tenants in their Principal Private Residence (say Dublin). Late payment fees of €20 per month, or part of a month, falling after the liability date accrue on the qualifying property. These fees are payable by the property owner regardless of domicile. There is no facility for waiver of such penalties."

**11/055**  
07/02/2011  
*To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McTernan;*  
"What is the position in relation to the replacement of solid fuel cookers in the Drumlease Housing Estate, Dromahaire as many are worn out and not functioning to their full potential."

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

"The Council are not in a financial position to replace all solid fuel cookers in Drumlease Housing Estate, Dromahaire. Where complaints arise regarding cookers, they are examined on an individual basis to establish what if any action is required regarding repair/replacement."

**11/056**  
07/02/2011  
*To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McTernan;*  
"I am requesting immediate repair works to be carried out on the road leading from Killenummery Church to Ballintogher as there is an extremely dangerous part of this road beyond Leydons house."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Road number LP 4262 at Killenummery will be assessed shortly and routine maintenance works carried out if required within the confines of the availability of funding."
11/057
07/02/2011
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;
"I ask the Director of Services Infrastructure when it is proposed to complete the surface dressing of the Northern end of the "Barr Road", Rossinver leading to Kinlough - Rossinver Road."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The Road in question is County Road LT 21062-1. The Southern end of this road was surfaced as part of the 2010 Roads Programme. It was proposed to surface the Northern end of this road as part of the 2011 Roads Programme but this will have to be reviewed in light of the 7% reduction in Roads funding available this year."

11/058
07/02/2011
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;
"I ask the County Manager to request the HSE West to provide full details of their proposals with regard to the presently unused Health Centre in Kinlough? [The building has a negative impact on the village in its present condition."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing
"A letter will issue in this regard to the HSE West."

11/059
07/02/2011
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;
"I ask the Director of Services Infrastructure to give a comprehensive report on the recent damage done to the bridge on the Ballinamore Road, Drumshanbo. Furthermore if the Council would ensure that a pedestrian footpath is put in place in tandem with whatever works takes place?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The bridge on the R208 on the Ballinamore approach to Drumshanbo has been extensively damage and is currently in poor condition. Both support walls have been undermined due to flood damage. The wall on the southern side of the bridge has collapsed. Work is currently under way to make the bridge safe. As part of this work Leitrim County Council will ensure that the road is widened at this location to allow for the provision of a pedestrian footpath."

11/060
07/02/2011
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;
"I ask the Director of Services for Infrastructure to include for repair the road
from Packie Joe Keanes house to the LS 7389 (Cornacranaghy road) in this
years road works programme?"

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Funding for road works for 2011 has been reduced by some 7% from last
year and this will have an obvious effect on the programme that can be
delivered. Road number LS 7389 will be assessed shortly and considered for
inclusion in the 2011 Programme of works subject to priority. Routine
Maintenance will be carried out until funding becomes available."

11/061

07/02/2011

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

"I again ask Mr John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure has
there been any further response from the NRA with a view to securing funding
and putting in place a programme of works, to provide a hard shoulder at the
Sligo end of the Dromod-Rooskey by-pass, from the exit of the old N.4 as far
as Doherty’s lane. It is extremely dangerous for motorists exiting from the old
N4, and for motorists from the Fearnaught-Moheraven road (Road No.LP-
1475-0) who are heading towards Carrick-on-Shannon. There is a lot of
concern in the locality, that the NRA has not taken steps to carry out
improvements at this location."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"This junction has been the subject of numerous notices of motions and the
Councillors’ concerns have been repeatedly raised with the NRA.
A provisional figure has been provided in this year's allocation for this junction
and the Design Office is in discussion with the NRA in relation to proposed
works at this location. Councillors will be kept informed of progress."

11/062

07/02/2011

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

"I ask the County Manager to again contact Waterways Ireland requesting
them to provide additional mooring facilities on the River Shannon at Rooskey
and to upgrade the existing facilities that are there at present, which have
fallen into a state of disrepair."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"A letter will issue in this regard to Waterways Ireland."

11/063

07/02/2011

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

"I have a number of people that have applications for an L.I.S and are now
waiting 7 years. Could I have the present updated situation regarding waiting
time and how many were completed last year."
Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"This Council carried out works on 11 schemes in 2010 on foot of the Grant allocation of €233,000. There are in excess of 200 applications for Grants under the Local Improvements Scheme with this Council at present. The allocation for 2011 is €233,000."

11/064
07/02/2011
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;
"I have requested in the past that the R201 from The N4(Masonite) to Mohill receive major restoration in the 2011. I am renewing this request as parts of this stretch of road are very dangerous particularly at McLouragh and Laheenamona."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"These sections of the R201 do require major improvement works. The prioritisation of roads for such improvement can be considered at the upcoming Area Roads meetings."

11/065
07/02/2011
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Martin Kenny;
"I am asking the Director of Services, Infrastructure to have safety works carried out at the junction of the LP3310 and the LP3365 at Kiltynashinnagh Aughnasheelin. This is a very dangerous junction just beside Pollanas, it is on a bend with a very poor view, where traffic coming from the Drumshanbo side attempting to cross the road on to the LP3365, have to cross in front of traffic coming from Ballinamore. There have been several accidents at this junction and this work is urgent."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"While the improvement of the design of this junction would be desirable, no funding is available in 2011 for this work."

11/066
07/02/2011
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Martin Kenny;
"I am asking the Director of Services, Infrastructure to rise the very low part of the road that floods regularly along R202 at Annaghmacullen Cloone."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The matter can be included for consideration in the 2011 roads programme however it must be noted that the 2011 allocation is 7% down on the 2010 allocation and this will have obvious implications for the extent of the roads programme possible this year."
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan:
"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to have the Coolnagrain Dowra Road repaired."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Road number LP 4228 to Coollegreane will be assessed shortly and routine maintenance works will be carried out within the confines of the reduced budgets available in 2011."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan:
"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to have repair works carried out on the Laragan Drumshanbo road."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Road number LT 73051 at Largan will be assessed shortly and routine maintenance works carried out if required within the confines of the reduced budgets available in 2011."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;
"I ask the Carrick on Shannon, Area Engineer what actions were taken, as per my pre-Christmas requests, to protect the old drinking well adjacent to locally known Peyton Estate on the Castlecarra Rd, Carrick on Shannon. I raised concerns with regard to the engineering works that were in progress at the time, in the area and requested that special attention would be given to the drinking well, which has historical importance."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The works have not impacted on the well in question."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;
"I ask the Director of Services, Roads and Infrastructure what is the up to date position with regard to addressing the dangerous state of the “cut-away” hill, on the N4 Dublin Road, Correen, Carrick on Shannon. It is my understanding from discussions last year, that Leitrim County Council had advised the NRA of the soil movement and were awaiting NRA approval and funding to address same."
Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Remedial works at this embankment will be carried out in the near future."

11/071
07/02/2011
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Michael Colreavy;
"I ask that Leitrim County Council initiate a review to bring electoral register addresses more in line with postal addresses? The present registers are confusing and it is difficult for people to check whether they are registered; particularly if they are searching on-line www.checktheregister.ie."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing
"While it is acknowledged that the Register of Electors requires fundamental review this is ultimately a matter for the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government."

11/072
07/02/2011
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Michael Colreavy;
"I ask that Leitrim County Council apply to Department of Environment for funding to expedite the work on improving the energy efficiency of our housing stock?"

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing
"It is anticipated that funding will be available for energy efficiency works in 2011 and confirmation regarding the allocation is awaited. The Council has stressed the need for continued funding in this area to ensure upgrade of Council housing stock."

11/073
07/02/2011
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke;
"I ask when the necessary road repairs will be carried out along road 5596-0 in the townland of Aughavore, Carrigallen."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Routine maintenance work will be carried out on this road within the confines of the reduced budgets available in 2011."

11/074
07/02/2011
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke;
"I ask when the necessary road repairs will be carried out on Road No. 55812 in townland of Aughakiltubrid, Cloone."
**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**
"Routine maintenance work will be carried out on this road within the confines of the reduced budgets available in 2011."

11/075  
07/02/2011  
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Reynolds;  
"I ask the Director of Services for Infrastructure when the work will be completed on the bicycle lane from Attyrory to the Tesco Roundabout and when the work on dropping the kerbs at Attyrory will be started?"

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**
"Works on the Cycle lane project continue and the particular works requested will be undertaken in the coming months."

11/076  
07/02/2011  
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Reynolds;  
"I ask the Director of Services for Infrastructure why over 60% of the lights on the pathways and River Walkway in Carrick on Shannon are not working?"

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**
"There are ongoing maintenance problems with the lights in question. Maintenance works will be undertaken to repair the lights as necessary."

11/077  
07/02/2011  
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;  
"I ask the Area Engineer Manorhamilton to investigate the reason why James Gilmartin's field at Pullboy, Shanvass is now flooding."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**
"These lands are located off the Regional Road R286 in Shanvass. While Leitrim County Council have not carried out at any road works at this area we will inspect the culverts to see what is causing this localised flooding."

11/078  
07/02/2011  
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;  
"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to have a look at two bridges in the townland of Matuagh and Glenaniff where the sidewalls of these bridges have slipped into the river and are dangerous. Would it be possible as a temporary measure to erect security fencing?"

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**
"The road in question is County Road LP 2644-0 located in townlands of
Matuagh/Glenaniff. The bridge parapet walls have collapsed into the river. Temporary safety barriers will be erected at these locations. The replacement of the parapet walls will be dependant on sourcing funding for such work.”

11/079
07/02/2011
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I ask Leitrim County Council to investigate the possibility of increasing public lighting at Mullies Church, Manorhamilton. The community has provided a carpark which has no public lighting. As the Church is celebrating its "Centenary" this year it would be appropriate to have lighting installed in the carpark."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Mullies church is located on County Road LP 2127-1/2. There are two car parking areas located on opposite sides to this County road, one adjacent the church and one directly opposite the church. Mullies Church Committee applied for Planning Permission PL 08/723 back in August 2008 to carry out works on both car parking areas which included public lighting to the car parks. Public Lighting of these two Church ground car parks is a matter for the church committee"

The meeting concluded at 8:10 pm.

SIGNED: Frank Dolan
Cathaoirleach

SIGNED: Sinead Flynn
Meetings Administrator

DATE: 7th March 2011