Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon on Monday 7th November 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 William Lowe, Senior Engineer
Mr Darragh O’Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr Vincent Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator

11/452
07/11/2011

Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Mrs Mary McLoughlin & Family, Brockagh Upper, Glenfarne, Co Leitrim on the death of Seamus McLoughlin.
- Mr & Mrs John Clerkin, Deerpark, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim on the death of Joseph Keaveney.
Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager extended a special vote of sympathy to the family of the late Seamus McLoughlin, Brockagh Upper, Glenfarne. Ms. Maguire stated that Seamus was a member of the Manorhamilton Engineering Area staff. She went on to state that Seamus was a diligent and highly regarded member of staff and that his untimely and sudden death had saddened all of the staff and particularly those who had worked with him over the years.

11/453
07/11/2011       Deimhniu Miontuairisci

Proposed by Councillor Gerry Kilrane, seconded by Councillor John Ward AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in Aras An Chaontae, Carrick-on-Shannon on Monday, 10th October 2011, be adopted.”

11/454

Notice of Intention dated 27th October 2011 from Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Planning, Community and Economic Development to dispose of a plot of land comprising circa 3 acres in the townland of Townparks, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim 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 Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That disposal of plot of land comprising circa 3 acres in the townland of Townparks, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim to Inland Waterways Association (Carrick-on-Shannon) Mooring Company Ltd (Company No 82418) in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention to dispose of land dated 27th October 2011 as circulated to each Member be approved.”

11/455
07/11/2011       Local Authority Development

Report Ref. No. 11/C/10 from County Manager dated 27th October 2011 in relation to the re-alignment of a section of National Primary Road N.16, in the townlands of Cornacloy,
Barrs East, Cullentragh and Sradrine, Co Leitrim in accordance with the requirements of Section 179 (2) (B) of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as circulated to the Members appears as Appendix 2 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That the re-alignment of a section of National Primary Road N.16, in the townlands of Cornacloy, Barrs East, Cullentragh and Sradrine, Co Leitrim be approved”.

11/456
7/11/2011 **Overdraft Accommodation**

Notice to approve overdraft accommodation in the sum of €1.5 million for the twelve month period ending 31st December 2012, subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.

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

“That overdraft accommodation in the sum of €1.5 million for the twelve month period ending 31st December 2012, subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government be approved.”

11/457
7/11/2011 **Date of Budget Meeting**

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager advised that the Corporate Policy group were recommending that the Budget Meeting be scheduled for Monday 19th December 2011.

It was agreed that the Budget Meeting of Leitrim County Council be held on Monday 19th December, 2011 at 5:30pm.

11/458
07/11/2011 **Section 138(1) of the Local Government Act 2001**

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

11/459
07/11/2011 **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 Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development SPC meeting which had taken place
earlier today. The SPC had considered progress in relation to the development of the new Leitrim County Council Arts Plan 2012-2017 following public consultation meetings and invitation for submissions. She advised that these will form the basis for the development of the Draft Plan which will be brought back before the SPC and the Council early in the New Year.

The SPC had also received an update in relation to the early outcomes arising from the consultation in relation to the preparation of the Vision for Carrick on Shannon 2020. This matter will be brought before the Council early in the New Year.

This update was noted by the Members.

- **Unfinished Estate Workshops**
  Ms. McGovern advised that the Corporate Policy Group had agreed that Workshops for Members, on an Area basis, in relation to Unfinished Estates, would take place at 4.00pm on Monday 5th December 2011 prior to the December Council meeting. The Housing SPC meeting is to be rescheduled to 3.00pm that day to facilitate these workshops.

  This was welcomed by the Members.

- **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

11/460
7/11/2011  **Conferences**

*Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Siobhan McGloin 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 at the EU Interreg IVA Funded Conference in the Radisson Blu Farnham Estate Hotel, Co Cavan on the 17th November 2011 to the 18th November 2011”.

“Attendance of Councillor Siobhan McGloin at the Local Authority Budgets 2012 in the Sliver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny on the 18th November 2011 to the 20th November 2011”.

“Attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Sean McDermott at the Local Government Budget 2012 in the Carlton Millrace Hotel, Buncloody, Co Wexford on the 18th to 20th November 2011”.

“Attendance of Councillor John McCartin and Councillor Gerry Dolan at the Modern Alternatives to the Extinction of Fossil Fuels in the Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork on the 18th to the 20th November 2011.”
“Attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Frank Dolan at the Renewable Energy 20-20-20 Conference to be held in the Lucan Spa Hotel, Junction 4A, N4 Westbound, Lucan, Co Dublin on the 24th November 2011.”

“Attendance of Councillor Gerry Dolan at the War of Independence in the Midlands in the Costume Barracks, Athlone, Co Westmeath on the 26th November 2011”.

Proposed by Councillor John McTernan, seconded by Councillor Siobhan McGloin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“Attendance of Councillor John Ward and Councillor John McCartin at the Role of the Councillor in Education and the Community in the City North Hotel, Gormanstown, Co Meath on the 28th to the 29th October 2011 be retrospectively approved”.

“Attendance of Councillor John McTernan, Councillor Sinead Guckian, Councillor John Ward and Councillor Enda McStenson at the Anthony Trollope Summer Summer School from the 9th to the 10th September 2011 be retrospectively approved”.

“Attendance of Gordon Hughes at the New Government Regulations and how they effect the domestic home in the Kingsvalley Hotel, Galway from the 7th to the 9th October 2011 be retrospectively approved”.

“Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott at an ICBAN Board Meeting in Cookstown Leisure Centre on the 26th April 2011 be retrospectively approved.”

“Attendance of Councillor John McTernan at the A.M.A.I. 98th Annual Conference at the Kingsbrook Hotel, from the 8th to the 10th September 2011 be retrospectively approved.”

“Attendance of Councillor John Ward at the European Waste Water Laws - Irish Governments Decision to license septic tanks Conference at the Mill Park Hotel, The Mullins, Donegal Town, Co Donegal on the 30th September 2011 to the 2nd October 2011 be retrospectively approved”

11/461
07/11/2011 Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were circulated to the Members

1. Letter dated 17th October 2011 from the Office of the Minister for Transport regarding the representations made by Leitrim County Council regarding the N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Bypass.

2. Letter dated 25th October 2011 from the Office of the Minister for Finance regarding Leitrim County Council’s resolution referring to a specific Tax Clearance document.

3. Letter dated 26th October 2011 from the Office of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs acknowledging receipt of resolution from Leitrim County Council asking that those who accrue multiple criminal convictions be deprived of all social welfare privileges.
Councillor John McCartin noted the response received and requested that a further letter issue to the Minister requesting that Leitrim County Council be advised of the outcome in relation to the matter.

4. Letter dated 26th October 2011 from the Office of the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government acknowledging resolution from Leitrim County Council with regard to domestic water meters.

5. Letter dated 26th October 2011 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills acknowledging receipt of resolution from Leitrim County Council in relation to the inclusion of the Irish Novels of Author Anthony Trollope on the English syllabus for post primary education.

6. Letter dated 27th October 2011 from Pat the Cope Gallagher M.E.P. acknowledging correspondence in regard to securing financial assistance towards the costs that arise in the event of upgrading rural septic tanks.


Councillor Caillian Ellis expressed his disappointment at the very vague reply received in relation to Ballinamore Garda Station. He stated that the situation needed to be kept under review.

8. Letter dated 1st November 2011 from the Jim Higgins M.E.P. acknowledging correspondence in regard to the possibility of getting financial assistance to facilitate rural dwellings in upgrading their septic tank treatment systems.


The following matters were also raised under Meeting Correspondence

Turf Cutting
Councillor Sean McGowan queried if any reply had been received from the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, Mr. Jimmy Deenihan, TD, in relation to the issue on the blanket ban on turf cutting in Natural Heritage Areas. Ms Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator advised that no reply had been received to date. Councillor McGowan proposed that a meeting be requested with the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, in relation to this issue

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

“That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, to have a meeting with the members in relation to the blanket ban on turf cutting in the Natural Heritage Areas”.

Shale Gas Extraction
Councillor Mary Bohan queried if any response had been received from Fermanagh District Council in relation to the proposed Shale Gas Extraction Project in the Lough Allen
Basin. Ms Jackie Maguire, County Manager advised that no reply had been received to date. Councillor Bohan asked that this matter be followed up.

Councillor Enda McGloin outlined that a meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 15th November 2011 at 4.00pm in Government Buildings with Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Mr Pat Rabbitte T.D., Oireachtas Members and Groups opposed to fracking.

St Patrick’s Hospital
Councillor Francis Gilmartin requested that a reminder issue to Minister Reilly seeking a response in relation to the reduction in bed numbers in St Patrick's Hospital, Carrick-on-Shannon.

Closure of Vatican Embassey
Councillor Francis Gilmartin expressed his concern in relation to the Tánaiste’s decision to close the Embassy to the Vatican. He called on the support of the members in issuing a letter to Minister Gilmore outlining the Council’s concerns and objections in relation to the proposal.

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

“That Leitrim County Council write to An Tánaiste, Minister Eamon Gilmore, expressing our concerns and objections in relation to the proposed closure of the Vatican Embassy”.

Bank of America
Councillor Enda Stenson expressed concern in relation to the announcement of 102 redundancies at Bank of America, Carrick on Shannon. He asked if the County Manager could provide any clarification in relation to the matter.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager confirmed that she had been in contact with Management in Bank of America in relation to the announcement. She advised that the 102 redundancies being sought are voluntary at the moment. She advised that 90 of the redundancies would be from the UK collections area, directly attributable to the downturn in the UK market over the last two years, with a further 12 from the HR/Training function. She outlined that, on a more positive note, the sale of the business is still progressing and it is hoped that there will be a good outcome in this regard. She advised that there is no correlation between these redundancies and the sale of the business.

Higher Education Grants Scheme
Councillor Mary Bohan called for the reversal of changes made in relation to the qualifying distance criterion for the non-adjacent rate of Higher Education Maintenance Grants under the Student Grant Scheme 2011. She stated that the qualifying distance criterion for entitlement to the higher non-adjacent rate of grant has been changed from 15 miles to 45 kilometres and this applies to all students. She highlighted that this arbitrary change is causing serious hardship for many students and that the provision is also very damaging for 3rd Level Institutions such as Sligo Institute of Technology, as students will be forced to apply to other colleges in order to be eligible for consideration for the non-adjacent rate of grant.
Councillor Tony Ferguson supported this and said that the 45km distance requirement means that huge swathes of North Leitrim in particular are now ruled out in terms of the higher non-adjacent rate of grant for attendance at their nearest 3rd level Institution. He stated that this is a very crude way of determining access to grant aid and that issues such as lack of public transport in rural areas mean that prospective students are effectively being denied the opportunity to access 3rd level education.

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

“That Leitrim County Council call on Minister for Education to reverse the changes made in relation to the qualifying distance criterion for the non-adjacent rate of Higher Education Maintenance Grants under the Student Grant Scheme 2011.”

11/462
07/11/2011 **Vote of Congratulations**

The members extended a vote of congratulations to the following

- Michael D. Higgins on being elected the Ninth President of Ireland.
- Sligo Rovers on winning the F.A.I Cup.

**Part I - Notices of Motion.**

11/463
7/11/2011 **Ballinamore Courthouse**

*To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;*

"I ask Leitrim County Council to write to the Minister for Justice requesting that immediate funding be provided for the significant essential repairs that are required for the Courthouse in Ballinamore before further damage is caused. Furthermore I also call on this Local Authority to meet with the local interest groups in order that a committee be formed to decide on its future use and to secure funding for such works."

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

"The Council will write again to the Courts Service, which is responsible for the building referred to, outlining the continued concerns of the Council in regard to the state of the building. In the meantime Leitrim County Council would be very willing to engage with potential lead organisations to examine how best to move forward in regard to the future uses and funding opportunities for the building. In this regard it may be an opportune time to have a relevant community-led organisation take the lead in developing a business plan for the future of this building, dealing with the state of the building, likely structural repairs, likely potential uses and establishing what might be deemed sustainable options. I have had some preliminary discussions with Leitrim Development Company, who would see this as a proposal that could attract funding."
Councillor Hughes outlined the background to his Motion and queried whether the Courts Service has come back with any other proposals for the building. He noted the suggestion in relation to local interest groups becoming involved but stated that this would lead to issues in relation to match-funding and queried if the Council would provide some of the shortfall in this regard.

Councillor Caillian Ellis supported the motion. He stated that he wrote to the Minister after receiving a letter from Leitrim Development Company. He stated that he had spoken to the Courts Service at that time and they were happy to hand the building back to the Council. He outlined that Leitrim Development Company are anxious to get involved in the project. He outlined that a School of Literature project might have potential for funding, in partnership with Dungannon, under the INTERREG Programme. He proposed that immediate contact be made with Dungannon Borough Council with a view to taking the project forward with ICBAN.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Planning, Community and Economic Development said that the Courts Service have confirmed some time ago that they are willing to hand the building over to any interested parties, provided they take it in its current condition. He advised that the Courts Service have no funding available for any works to the building. In terms of future funding opportunities he outlined that it is critical that a robust business plan is put in place in relation to the future use of the building. He outlined that from the considerable experience to date of INTERREG, if another call opens a very strong business case and economic case will be required. He outlined that all projects are very closely scrutinised. He confirmed that contact could be made with Dungannon but the difficulty would be in relation to having a similar-type project. He stated that substantial work would be required in relation to developing a project and without this an application to any potential funder will struggle. He stated that it would be important to work with the local community in relation to bringing a project forward.

Councillor Hughes thanked Mr. Gilhooly for the detailed response. He requested that a meeting of all the local interest groups be arranged over the coming weeks. Mr. Gilhooly undertook to arrange the requested meeting in conjunction with Councillor Hughes and Councillor Ellis.

Proposed by Councillor Gordon Hughes, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Justice requesting that immediate funding be provided for the significant essential repairs that are required for the Courthouse in Ballinamore before further damage is caused”.

11/464  
7/11/2011  
Layout of Junction off the N4 with R201

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

“At the November 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**

"The sight distance available at this junction for motorists exiting the Mohill Road is adequate. The speed of the traffic travelling from the Longford direction is a concern. The hedges will be cut back to improve the sight distance in this direction. Surveys of traffic speed on the N4 will also be undertaken and if warranted extra signage will be erected to encourage traffic to slow down at this location."

Councillor Sinead Guckian had to leave the meeting and requested that this Motion be retained on the Agenda for the December meeting.

**11/465**

*7/10/2011 River Shannon*

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

"At the November meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask that the County Manager make immediate contact with the Office of Public Works to see what their plans are in relation to managing the River Shannon - that they, as the body with overall responsibility for the Shannon, would inform all interested parties what their plans are, so as to avoid the dreadful situation we faced in November / December of 2009 with the serious flooding that happened in our County and right along the Shannon Corridor at that time. As we head into another winter where we already have experienced very heavy rainfall, have they put in place a programme of works to carry out dredging and drainage on the River Shannon and its tributaries?"

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

"The concerns of the Council in relation to the regulation of water levels have been brought to the attention of the OPW. The Council is in regular contact with the Office of Public Works in relation to the River Shannon through its involvement in the Shannon River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan. These plans, when completed and adopted, will provide the necessary background information to enable the planning of appropriate works to alleviate flooding problems along the Shannon Catchment."

Councillor Sean McGowan sought clarification as to when the Flood Risk management Plans would be in place. Mr. Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Environment, Emergency and Cultural Services advised that the first stage of the River Catchment Plans came before the Council in October. He advised that it would be 2-3 years before the full study is completed and in the interim funding is being provided for some small projects.

Councillor McGowan asked who members of the public should contact in the event of flooding problems. Mr. Dolan advised that the OPW is the responsible body. He advised that the concerns of the Council in relation to the regulation of water levels have been conveyed to the OPW.

Councillor Martin Kenny supported the motion. He outlined concern in relation to the funding of small projects and stated that until the low levels on the Shannon are dredged the problem will not be resolved.
Councillor John Ward also supported the motion. He outlined that he had contacted Waterways Ireland in October in relation to a problem in Athlone where the water was two foot over the Weir wall. He outlined that Waterways Ireland said they had it under control. He stated that responsibility is being passed between the OPW, Waterways Ireland and the ESB and stated that the situation is unacceptable.

Councillor John McCartin supported the motion. He stated that the ESB have admitted that they have no strategic interest in water levels in the northern Shannon region but refuse to relinquish control. He suggested that the Council call on the ESB to relinquish control in relation to the maintenance of water levels.

Councillor Gerard Reynolds stated that the fundamental issue is control and who controls water levels on the River Shannon. He proposed that a letter issue to Minister Brian Hayes asking if there are any proposals for any single authority to take control of all aspects of levels on the River Shannon.

Councillor Mary Bohan and Councillor Gerry Dolan also supported the motion.

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

“That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for State with responsibility for the OPW, Mr. Brian Hayes, T.D., to establish if there are any proposals for any single body to take control of all aspects of water levels on the River Shannon.”

11/466  
7/11/2011                             Self Employed

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

"That Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister for Social Protection to introduce a scheme, as part of Budget 2012, for self employed people who are unemployed, have no living income and do not qualify for social welfare."

Councillor Sean McSharry called on the support of the members to write to Minister Burton to introduce a scheme whereby self employed people who are now unemployed can avail of financial assistance.

Councillor Martin Kenny supported the motion and stated that there is a huge anomaly in relation to self employed people who have paid Employers PRSI and Employees PRSI and have no recourse when they find themselves unemployed.

Councillor Stenson supported the motion and outlined that Councillors are in the same position.

All of the Members supported the motion.

*Proposed by Councillor Sean McSharry, seconded by Councillor Martin Kenny  AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;*

"That Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister for Social Protection to introduce a
scheme, as part of Budget 2012, for self employed people who are unemployed, have no living income and do not qualify for social welfare."

11/467
7/11/2011  **Flooding on the Ballyglass, Manorhamilton R280**

It was agreed to consider Motions 14 and 21 concurrently.

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to have some work carried out at Ballyglass, Manorhamilton on the R280 to try and alleviate the flooding problem that has re-arisen there."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**
"The location in question has been inspected and there is no simple solution to the recent flooding event. Flooding occurred to a depth of 600mm at this location due to the exceptional rain fall that occurred. Detailed plans will be drawn up to address the problem and the solution can be included for consideration in the 2012 Roads Programme, subject to the level of funding and the priorities at that time."

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

"At the next meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask that funding is made available to alleviate the serious flooding problem on the R280 Gortinar. This section of road is likely to cause more problems as the winter sets in."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**
"The location in question has been inspected and there is no simple solution to the recent flooding event. Flooding occurred to a depth of 600mm at this location due to the exceptional rain fall that occurred. Detailed plans will be drawn up to address the problem and the solution can be included for consideration in the 2012 Roads Programme subject to the level of funding and the priorities at that time."

Councillor Frank Dolan stated that this is not a case of flash flooding and that this had arisen previously on this section of road and has now returned. He stated that the detour in place is unsafe and unsuitable for taking the traffic off the R280. He stated that the level of the road has sunk over the years and it is exceptionally dangerous when flooded as people would not realise the depth of the water. He stated that this is something which needs urgent attention.

Councillor Siobhan McGloin concurred with Councillor Dolan. She outlined that several households have been cut off as a result of this flooding on a number of occasions. She stated that the situation must be prioritised. She advised that local residents have indicated that the road has dropped by about 3ft in recent times. She stated that this is a very important route and must be addressed.

Councillor Sean McSharry and Councillor Sean McDermott supported the motions.
Visibility at Junctions

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure what programme is in place to ensure visibility at junctions is of the very best standard - sign posts have bolts through the posts to ensure they cannot be altered re direction, hedges and overhanging bushes and trees are removed or kept cut back fully and drains and water tables are well maintained?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Funding for the type of maintenance work referred to in this motion is provided from the annual maintenance budget which has been decreasing over the last number of years. This together with the overall reduction in staff numbers employed in the areas has resulted in the local authority having to concentrate on the more important roads and junctions. It is not possible to attend to every location, and in recent years routine drainage works along roads in particular has not received the optimum level of attention. The responsibility for the maintenance of road side hedges rests with the landowners and the County Council have published notices in the local papers reminding land owners of their responsibilities under the Roads Act 1993, Section 70. Hedge Cutting Notices are also issued on a regular basis. Each Area utilises a hedge cutter to trim back hedges and cut grass at busy junctions and particularly potentially dangerous locations. Particularly difficult locations, where more substantial works are required, are included on our Low Cost Safety Programme and a number of projects are carried out each year. Any individual area of concern to the Councillor can be raised with the local area engineer who will endeavour to deal with the problem within the confines of the resources available in the area."

Councillor Tony Ferguson outlined that he understood the financial difficulties but stated that in some areas the cutting back of vegetation is essential. He asked that this would be done to the greatest extent possible. He also asked that the NRA be contacted in relation to cutting vegetation for a few hundred metres along the stretch of road in County Donegal that leads from the R280 onto the Ballyshannon By Pass, to improve visibility for motorists as this is a very busy road. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure undertook to raise this with Donegal County Council.

In relation to the signposts Councillor Ferguson stated that the interference with signposts is a very dangerous thing and suggested that this could be addressed through putting a bolt through the posts. He complimented the Area Engineer and the Staff in the Manorhamilton Area Office for attending promptly to the Directional Sign at Lennox Bridge which had been tampered with recently.

Councillor Siobhan McGloin supported the motion.

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council immediately contact the H.S.E. in connection with the withdrawal of services in February of NOW Doc, as this will create major inconveniences to all people of this area. People would have to travel to Accident and
Emergency in Sligo for service which could take up to a day or night waiting."

Councillor John Ward advised that employees of the H.S.E. have informed him that the NOW Doc Service in Carrick-on-Shannon is being withdrawn. He stressed that this would cause major inconvenience to people who would have to travel to Accident and Emergency in Sligo and called for the support of the Members in relation to his motion.

Councillor Thomas Mulligan supported the motion and stated that it would be unthinkable that this service would be removed. Councillor Francis Gilmartin supported the motion and outlined that the staff locally are very concerned. Councillor Sean McGowan stated that it would be disastrous if the service was withdrawn and undertook to raise the matter at the next Regional Health Forum meeting. Councillor Enda Stenson stated that this is an extremely important matter and proposed that a letter also issue to Minister Reilly stressing that this is an unacceptable situation.

Proposed by Councillor John Ward, seconded by Councillor Thomas Mulligan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That Leitrim County Council immediately contact the H.S.E. in connection with the withdrawal of services in February of NOW Doc, as this will create major inconveniences to all people of this area. People would have to travel to Accident and Emergency in Sligo for service which could take up to a day or night waiting."

11/470 7/11/2011 Remedial Works on local roads LS 8277-1 and LS 0827-1

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

"I ask Mr John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure to deal with a serious structural road problem regarding roads LS08277-1 and LS0827-1 in the vicinity of the Iron Bridge, Killavoggy, Dromahair, Co Leitrim. There has been 3 major land slips which threaten the stability of these 2 roads. Temporary remedial road works need to be put in place for safety reasons until such a time that major repair works can be carried out."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"Temporary remedial works will be carried out at the locations along local roads LS 8277-1 and LS 0827-1 where settlement has occurred to alleviate the safety concerns and the area can be included for consideration in the 2012 Roads Programme subject to the level of funding available and the priorities at the time."

Councillor John McTernan confirmed that he was happy with the reply received.


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

"I ask the Director of Services, Housing and Corporate Services if Council Housing estates where water pipes have given a lot of trouble due to the frost over the last two winters can be identified and if appropriate action could be taken to address the problem."
"Remedial works, including the relaying of pipes, have been carried out at a number of locations throughout the County to address this issue."

Councillor Sean McDermott confirmed that he was happy with the reply received.

11/472 7/11/2011 Housing Developments

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

"I ask for an update on the following housing developments and where the development is re-take over, and progress with the developers, or are they still prepared to co-operate with residents or Council officials - Shannagh Grove, Mohill, Cluine Ard, Rockingham, Marymount and Shannon Grove Carrick-on Shannon."

"Shannagh Grove, Mohill – The developer has been most cooperative and has completed this estate to a good standard; the process of ‘Declaration of Public Roads’ and ‘Taking-in-Charge’ has commenced.

Cluain Ard, Lisnagat – Following most recent correspondence with the developer the Planning Authority are in correspondence with the surety with a view to completing development works using the bond currently held.

Rockingham, Townparks – The Planning Authority are in discussions with the Developer regarding the completion of outstanding works.

Marymount, Townparks – Works are substantially complete by the developer and the Planning Authority is awaiting the ESB to complete lighting standard relocation.

Shannon Grove, Carrick-on-Shannon – Works are ongoing to complete this development by the developer and a meeting was held on Friday 28th October with all stakeholders to update on progress."

Councillor Enda Stenson accepted the reply and welcomed that some of the developments are progressing in this regard. He also welcomed that Workshops on the issue are to be scheduled with members prior to the December Council meeting.

11/473 7/11/2011 Surfacing on Errew Road

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

"I ask that an allocation of funds be provided to surface parts of the Errew Road which badly needs repair in order to prevent further deterioration over the winter months."
Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure  
"There is currently no funding available for a reconstruction of this local road at Errew. This issue can be assessed however for inclusion in the 2012 Maintenance Grant Allocations, subject to the level of funding available in 2012."

Hydraulic fracturing  
11/474  
7/11/2011  

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

"I wish to call on Leitrim County Council to put in place a moratorium of at least five years until the appropriate Irish and E.U. legislation and regulations are in place to safeguard the environment from the possible impact of hydraulic fracturing for gas in Leitrim."

Councillor Gerry Dolan stated that a moratorium should be put in place for at least five years until appropriate legislation and regulations are in place to protect the environment from the possible impact of hydraulic fracturing.

Repairs to Potholes  
11/475  
7/11/2011  

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

"I am concerned that the lack of manpower in the Drumshanbo/Drumcong area of the Dromahaire Engineering Area is causing delays in relation to very necessary repairs to the footpaths in the area. Also repairs to the dangerous hole outside of Drumcong Church which I was advised would be addressed in response to my Question at the October Council meeting still have not been carried out and the hole has since expanded in size."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure  
"The overall condition of the roads in County Leitrim compares very favourably with the networks in adjoining counties. For the last number of years now the level of funding available in all of the areas has been decreasing and this, together with the fact that there is a moratorium on the recruitment of staff, has meant that the level of service that this County Council can deliver has as a consequence also decreased. The Annual Roads Programme sets out the priorities for the year and these works have to be carried out
within defined timelines set out by the funding agencies. Leitrim County Council has to utilise the limited resources it has, both in terms of funding and staffing, in the best way possible to deliver this programme on time and within budget. As a consequence it is not possible to attend to every request as a matter of urgency and works have to be prioritised with a view to being in a position to retain the staff for the entire year. While it might make operational sense to concentrate all of the works into the summer months, if all of the funding were expended in this short period how would litter control, road maintenance, and winter gritting etc be dealt with? In relation to the pothole at Drumcong Church, this was in fact filled in but due to the fact that the entire area in front of the church is in very poor condition and the surface is porous the potholes are very likely to reappear. The area in question needs to be overlayed with macadam and this work can be considered for inclusion in the 2012 Roads Programme."

Councillor Francis Gilmartin expressed his anger in relation to the lack of manpower in the Drumshanbo/Drumcong area of the Dromahaire Engineering Area. He queried when the pothole outside Drumcong Church had been repaired and stated that it had not been repaired since the October Council meeting. He stated that he wanted the position checked on this. He queried whether personnel from this end of the Engineering Area had been moved.

Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that the Council did not have adequate funding earlier in the year to keep the Area Office staff employed for the full year. He advised that funding had been secured for Water Services works and staff were moved as a result to facilitate keeping the permanent workforce employed for the full year.

Councillor Gilmartin outlined that this is causing problems and cited an incident which he had witnessed on the footpath in Drumshanbo recently. He stated that it is unacceptable that it would take 3 weeks to address such an issue. He queried why this situation was not dealt with. Mr. McGuinness advised that staff were not available but that the situation has since been dealt with.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that there has been at least a 40% cut in road grants in recent years, coupled with dwindling own resources and the moratorium on staff. She advised that this has all meant that staff have to be moved around to the locations where grant aid is available if the Council is to be in a position to retain its staff. She outlined that she appreciated that there were issues arising and that we would get to these when we could.

Councillor Gilmartin acknowledged this but stated that the situation is unacceptable.

Mr. McGuinness outlined that the reply accepts that the area in front of the Church in Drumcong requires significant work. He advised that the only solution is a macadam overlay and that filling potholes is not the solution, as this area is very porous and potholes are likely to reappear.

Councillor Enda McGloin supported the motion and suggested that perhaps the situation at Drumcong Church, which deserves attention, could be looked at in conjunction with the local Parish Council. He also queried whether staff had been assigned to the Leitrim Village and Drumshanbo area in relation to recently announced funding for works. Mr. McGuinness advised that these allocations were strictly on the basis that these were contract rather than direct labour works.
Councillor Gerry Dolan also supported the motion.

11/476  
7/11/2011 Parking Facilities at Drumshanbo Acres Amenity

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Planning, Community and Economic development to look at expanding the parking facilities at Drumshanbo Acres Amenity in light of approved funding for the swimming pool there."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The parking issue here is currently being reviewed and it is proposed to revamp the off-road car park and access pathways."

Councillor Enda McGloin stated that parking has been a problem at this location over the last number of years. He stated that the proposal would be to look at moving the existing roadside fence in completely. He also requested that the Council look at engaging with the local landowner in relation to acquiring a piece of ground at this location to provide additional parking facilities. He advised that the landowner is amenable and that he would get involved in the discussion if required. He outlined that Waterways Ireland may provide a pump-out facility at this location if there was ground provided. He stated that he would like to see some car parking improvements at this facility.

Councillor Gerry Dolan and Councillor Francis Gilmartin supported the motion and welcomed the funding provided.

Part II - Questions.

11/477  
7/11/2011 Local Road LT34531

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Kilrane;

"I am seeking repairs to local road LT34531 at Corgar, Gorvagh, Co. Leitrim. In the long-term the road will require significant improvements but in the meantime the residents would be grateful if some of the worst potholes can be patched."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"This road can be included for consideration in the 2012 Roads Programme subject to the level of funding available in 2012. Routine maintenance will be carried out in the mean time."

11/478  
7/11/2011 Additional Street Lighting at Tully, Ballinamore

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;

"I ask the Ballinamore Area Engineer to install additional street lighting at Tully, Ballinamore leading up to the Gleann Dara Estate, Tully, Ballinamore from the Tesco
development in order to provide adequate lighting for pedestrians using this route."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The issue of additional lighting at this location can be reviewed and included for consideration in the 2012 Roads Programme subject to the level of funding available in 2012 and the priorities at that time."

**11/479**

**7/11/2011 Street Lighting at the Golf Links Road**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;

"I ask the Ballinamore Area Engineer when will the additional street lighting for which funding has recently been secured be installed along the Golf Links Road, Ballinamore."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The solar street lights for the Golf Links Road, as part of the Smarter Travel funding, will be installed before the end of 2011."

**11/480**

**7/11/2011 Provision of Litter Bins**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;

"At the November meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Director of Services, Environment and the Carrick Area Engineer to ensure that provision is made in next years budget for the purchase and installation of litter bins for the Shannon side amenity area, known locally as the Shannon side walk, in Drumsna. There is currently no public litter bin in this area."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The provision of litter bins at this location can be considered as part of the 2012 Area Budget provided a suitable arrangement can be made with the Tidy Towns Committee in relation to the servicing of these bins."

**11/481**

**7/11/2011 Speed Signs**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"At the November Meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Carrick Area Engineer to provide 2 No. 60 KM speed signs on the Farnaught side of Patrick Gilroy’s house, Beihy, (Mohill – Drumlish Road) and to have improvements to the sightlines on this stretch of road, included in the 2012 Roadwork’s programme. It is extremely dangerous for the Gilroy family coming onto the road - they have little or no view back in the Mohill direction and they are concerned for their safety with the speed of traffic on the road."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The improvement works requested at this location would only be possible if funding is obtained under the Low Cost Safety Scheme. The location will be added to our ever increasing list of Schemes for which funding is requested. Whether any work can be carried out in 2012 at this location will depend on the level of funding available and the
priorities at that time. A speed limit at this location would not be appropriate."

11/482
7/11/2011  Portrooske Housing Estate

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"To again ask Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Planning, Community and Economic Development have the Council made any progress with the Developers of the Portrooske housing estate in Rooskey with regard to the removal of the sewerage treatment plant and the sterilisation of the site, and that it would be reinstated and landscaped, as was promised by the Developers when the public sewerage scheme was provided.

The residents of the estate are anxious and concerned that there has been little or no progress made to have the situation resolved."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"Following the undertaking of enforcement actions by the Planning Authority, it was confirmed on 29th October 2010 that the treatment system was removed, the lands sterilized and the site fenced. The site had also at that time been cleared of vegetative waste debris. It should be noted that the area is not proposed as public open space and is subject to permission ref. no. P.10/168 for the development of 4 no. dwellings. Permission was granted 21/03/2011 and expires 20/03/2016."

11/483
7/11/2011  Gortinar, Manorhamilton (R280)

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McSharry;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to examine the road at Gortinar, Manorhamilton (R280) - the road has suffered from serious flooding recently."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The location in question has been inspected and there is no simple solution to the recent flooding event. Flooding occurred to a depth of 600mm at this location due to the exceptional rain fall that occurred. Detailed plans will be drawn up to address the problem and the solution can be included for consideration in the 2012 Roads Programme subject to the level of funding and the priorities at that time."

11/484
7/11/2011  Gortnalibbert, Glenboy

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McSharry;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to examine the lane at Gortnalibbert, Glenboy. The surface of the lane is poor and floods on a regular basis."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The road in question is LT4220-0 in the Townland of Gortnalibbert. Routine maintenance will be carried out on this road within the confines of the limited resources available, and
the road can be included for consideration in the 2012 Roads Programme subject to the level of funding available and the priorities at that time."

11/485
7/11/2011 Extensions to Planning Applications

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"I ask the Director of Services, Planning, Community and Economic Development what are the reasons for refusals of many applications for extensions of time on already granted planning applications?"

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"The Planning Authority is required to consider a range of issues under the 2010 Act and regulations when dealing with an application where 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. 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 are required to assess all of the above in determining the outcome of any application for extension of duration."

11/486
7/11/2011 Cois Laughta Estate, Kinlough

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"I ask the Director of Services, Housing and Corporate when is it planned to carry out repairs to the walls etc on the 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."

11/487
7/11/2011 C.C.T.V. in Carrick-on-Shannon

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John Ward;

"I ask Leitrim County Council what is the position regarding C.C.T.V. cameras in Carrick-on-Shannon as this has been brought to my attention for the third time."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"The previous Community Scheme for the provision of CCTV cameras has not been in operation for a number of years and as a consequence no further progress has been made on this project. It would be currently a matter for the community or business sector to pursue such initiative for alternative funding such as the Leader Program."
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John Ward;

"I ask if a pedestrian crossing could be provided at St Mary's Church, Carrick-on-Shannon, as this would be very helpful for people making their way across the street."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"This location is within a cycle & pedestrian zone with a very low speed limit of 30km/h. The traffic is one-way and more often than not gives way to pedestrian movement from one side of the street to the other. The Disability Audit called for an Uncontrolled Crossing on Main Street and an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing has duly been constructed in front of the gates to the Church. Further road marking will be added to make the crossing more visible."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"At the November Council Meeting, I will ask Leitrim County Council to seek funding to prevent the flooding that occurs when there is heavy downpours of rain on the N16 at Brockagh, Glenfarne. If the road could be raised at this point of flooding, it might solve the problem."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The solution to the flooding at this location on the N16 is being investigated and funding will be sought to address the problem."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"I ask the Carrick Area Engineer to have repair works carried out on the local road from Pauric Dunne's at Coolcrieve to Liam Guckian's at Cornagulla."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"This road will be assessed and considered for inclusion in the 2012 Maintenance Grant allocation. In the interim the road maintenance crew will be directed to this location."

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"Extensive flooding at Sholemore cross on the R201 during the recent heavy rains caused major traffic disruption and danger to motorists. I ask can this area be drained, as good
work was carried out recently improving sight lines here."

*Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure*
"The drainage in this location will receive attention with a view to preventing further flooding."

**11/492**
**7/11/11**  
**LT15112-0 at Sonnaghmore and Road No LT 55794-0 Cloone**

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

"I ask when surfacing/patching will be carried out to road No LT15112-0 at Sonnaghmore and Road No LT 55794-0 Cloone."

*Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure*
"Routine repairs will be carried out on this road in the near future."

**11/493**
**7/11/2011**  
**Cloughla, Carrigallen**

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

"When will the protective barrier which is necessary along the road (R201) in townland of Cloughla, Carrigallen be provided to prevent cars entering the river which flows parallel with the road and almost claimed a life some time ago."

*Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure*
"The road leading from Carrigallen to Kilbracken has a stream running along the edge of the carriageway. There is no funding available at present to erect a safety barrier at this location. Delineators will be erected along this stretch of road however. The provision of a barrier can be included for consideration in the 2012 Roads Programme subject to the level of funding available."

**11/494**
**7/11/2011**  
**Public Lighting at Castle Street, Manorhamilton**

*To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Siobhan McGloin;*

"At the next meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask that this Council examine how best to improve the public lighting in the Castle Street area of Manorhamilton, (particularly near the Courthouse). Currently it is very difficult to see pedestrians if they are not wearing reflectors."

*Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure*
"The lighting in question at this location was erected in accordance with the ESB guidelines. The glass in the lanterns will be cleaned initially to see if this solves the perceived problem. If not advice will be sought in order to rectify the problem."
To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Siobhan McGloin;

"At the next meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask that repairs are carried out to the Aughanvane Road, Kinlough known locally as "The 32"."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure
"The road in question is local road LT209520 in the townlands of Agharoosky and Aughadunvane. Routine repairs will be carried out within the confines of the limited funding available at this time."

The business of the meeting concluded at 6.55 pm.

Signed: Cllr John McTernan
Cathaoirleach

Signed: Aideen McGovern
Meetings Administrator

Dated: 5th December 2011