Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday 9th May 2011

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 John McTernan  
Councillor Thomas Mulligan  
Councillor Gerry Reynolds  
Councillor Enda Stenson  
Councillor John Ward  
Councillor John McCartin  
Councillor Mary Bohan  
Councillor Siobhan McGloin  
Councillor Enda McGloin  
Councillor Francis Gilmartin  
Councillor Gordon Hughes  
Councillor Cailian Ellis  
Councillor Gerry Dolan  
Councillor Sean McSharry  

And Councillor Frank Dolan, 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. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Corporate Services & Housing  
Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure  
Mr. Ciaran Tracey, Senior Planner  
Mr. Paudge Keenaghan, Assistant Planner  
Mr. Shay O’Connor, Senior Engineer  
Mr. Brian Kenny, Senior Engineer  
Ms. Carmelita Caslin, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator  
Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr. Terry McGovern, Senior Executive Engineer
At the outset of the meeting Councillor Enda McGloin proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to Councillor John McTernan on the death of his brother Seamus McTernan. The Members and the County Manager expressed their condolences to the McTernan family.

Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

‘That the Meeting be adjourned for fifteen minutes as a mark of respect to the late Seamus McTernan.’

The Members also extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gilligan, The Ross, Manorhamilton on the death of Nan Gilligan
- Patrick Cullen, Kilcoo Road, Kiltyclogher on the death of Philip Cullen
- Margaret Earley, Monien, Kinlough on the death of James Earley
- Maria Clancy, The Ross, Manorhamilton on the death of Padraig Clancy
- Joan Kelly, Dromahaire on the death of Siobhan Kelly
- Marie McHugh, Miltron Glebe, Carrigallen on the death of Margaret Mae Madden
- Rosaleen Tiernan, Cloonsarne, Aughavas, Carrigallen on the death of Margaret Mae Madden
- Marian Clancy, The Ross, Manorhamilton on the death of Pauraic Clancy
- Glancy family, Cornastalk, Manorhamilton on the death of Michael Glancy
- McMorrow family, Carrickanurroo, Fivemilebourne, Via Sligo, on the death of Mary McMorrow
- McHugh family, Lisnabrack, Manorhamilton on the death of Tommy McHugh
- Seamus and Helen Tighe, Kiltubrid, Drumcong on the death of James Tighe
- Micheal and Marion Tighe, Drumhubbridd, Drumcong on the death of James Tighe
- McMorrow family, Kilmore, Ballintra, Co. Donegal on the death of Elaine McMorrow
- Lily Crowe, Dromod Beg, Dromod on the death of George Crowe
Local Authority Development

(i) Report Ref. No. 11/C/01 in relation to proposal for the implementation of re-alignment works and safety improvement measures on the National Primary Route N16 at Drummahan Td., Dromore Td. And Mulkaun Td., including sightline improvements, verge improvements, access upgrades, safety barriers and land fencing, 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 1 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the proposal for the implementation of re-alignment works and safety improvement measures on the National Primary Route N16 at Drummahan Td., Dromore Td. And Mulkaun Td., including sightline improvements, verge improvements, access upgrades, safety barriers and land fencing, be approved.”

(ii) Report Ref. No. 11/C/02 in relation to proposal for the implementation of re-alignment works and safety improvement measures on the National Primary Route N16 at Sradrine Td., including sightline improvements, verge improvements, access upgrades, safety barriers and land fencing, 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 Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the proposal for the implementation of re-alignment works and safety improvement measures on the National Primary Route N16 at Sradrine Td., including sightline improvements, verge improvements, access upgrades, safety barriers and land fencing, be approved.”

(iii) Report Ref. No. 11/C/03 in relation to proposal for the implementation of traffic calming measures on the national primary route (N16) through Glenfarne, including footpath improvements and traffic calming gateways, in accordance with the requirements of Section 179 (2)(B) of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as circulated to the Members appears as Appendix 3 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.
Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the proposal for the implementation of traffic calming measures on the national primary route (N16) through Glenfarne, including footpath improvements and traffic calming gateways, be approved.”

11/181
09/05/2011

Draft Variation No. 1 – Leitrim County Development Plan 2009-2015

Report regarding the Draft Variation No. 1 to the County Development Plan 2009-2015, as required under the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, was circulated to the Members and appears as Appendix 4 to the Minutes of this meeting.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Planning, Community and Economic Development advised the Members that arising from the adoption of the Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 (RPG’s) there is a requirement under the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 to develop a Core Strategy demonstrating consistency with National and Regional Guidelines. This requirement must be complied with within one year of the adoption of the Regional Planning Guidelines which were came into being on the 29th of September, 2010.

Mr. Gilhooly further outlined that a key element of the core strategy is to formulate a strategy to meet the housing land use requirements within the County for the period of the County Development Plan in accordance with the requirements of the of the RPG’s. The strategy must be evidence based in that the housing land requirements must match the residential zoning targets as set out in the RPG’s.

It is proposed to incorporate the Core Strategy into the County Development Plan 2009-2015 by way of a variation and the proposed Variation No. 1 to the County Development Plan will go on public consultation from Monday the 16th of May, 2011. A report on the outcome of the public consultation phase will be prepared by the County Manager and the report will be presented for consideration by the Members at the July Council meeting.

Councillor Reynolds queried if the Council had a statutory obligation in carrying out the Variation. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined that there is a requirement under the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 to develop a Core Strategy demonstrating consistency with the National and Regional objectives and this requirement should be complied with within one year of the adoption of the RPGs which was adopted on the 29th September 2010.

Councillor Gilmartin queried if provisions could be incorporated into the County Development Plan to deal with the large volume of planning applications for single instance dwellings in the County that fail percolation tests. Mr. J. Gilhooly responded by stating there are no provisions in the proposed Variation to the County Development Plan that specifically address the issue of percolation testing for...
planning applications. Councillor Bohan also referred to the difficulties being encountered by applicants applying for permission for one off single rural dwellings. Councillor Bohan stressed the need to retain populations in rural areas.

Councillor Ferguson stated that the refusal of planning applications has a consequential negative economic effect on the local economy and that these factors should also be taken into account in determining a planning application. Councillor Kilrane concurred with Councillor Ferguson, reiterating that the economic effect on our community must be considered.

Mr. J. Gilhooly, Director of Services, outlined that the proposed Draft Variation No. 1 to the County Development Plan will be available on Leitrim County Council website over the period of public display. The Members noted the Draft Variation No. 1 to the County Development Plan 2009-2015, for public display.

11/182
09/05/2011 Service Indicators

Report dated 4th May 2011 regarding Service Indicators 2010, as circulated to the Members appears as Appendix 5 to the Minutes of this meeting.

Motor Taxation
Councillor Kenny referred to the Motor Tax Service Indicator and proposed that Leitrim County Council write to the Minister of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

Proposed by Councillor Martin Kenny, seconded by Councillor Francis Gilmartin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

‘That Leitrim County Council contact the Minister of the Environment, Community and Local Government requesting that the Motor Tax periodic rates be reviewed to prevent people from over-paying on cumulative annual motor tax, as motorists paying on a quarterly basis pay a higher rate of motor tax

Roads
Councillor Bohan referred to the Roads Service Indicator and requested that funding be prioritised for surface dressing.

Environmental Services
Councillor Kilrane referred to the Environmental Services Indicator and noted that E.1 – Unaccounted for Water – figure was very high. The County Manager outlined that this figure is relatively good when compared with the national standards. The severe weather conditions experienced in the latter quarter of the year also impacted negatively on this indicator, however, measures are ongoing to reduce the unaccounted for water levels and a Water Conservation Programme is in place to further reduce the unaccounted for water levels.

The report as circulated was noted by the Members.
It was agreed that the 2011 Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council will take place on Monday 27th June 2011 at 12 noon in the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

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

Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator gave an overview of the items considered by the Corporate Policy Group. Ms. Flynn provided an update on the recent SPC Meetings held as follows:

**Housing & Corporate Services Strategic Policy Committee meeting on the 9th May, 2011.**

- **Social Housing Allocation Regulations 2011** – Ms. Flynn outlined that the Council are required to prepare a new Housing Allocation policy for the letting of local authority owned dwellings and also for properties rented or leased under the Rental Accommodation Scheme or the Long-term Leasing Scheme. The Members were informed that the new policy must be adopted by the 13th of June, 2011. A special SPC meeting will take place on Tuesday the 31st of May, 2011 at 4pm to consider the Draft Policy. The adoption of the Draft Allocation Policy will be listed as an agenda item at the June Council meeting for approval by the Elected Members.

- **Estate Management Grants Scheme** – the Members were informed that the SPC had agreed the format of the 2011 Estate Management Scheme which includes a proposal to re-instate the Housing Estate Awards Competition which will be run in conjunction with the Floral Pride Competition.

**Joint Meeting of the Planning, Environment & Emergency Services SPC and Community, Cultural & Enterprise SPC on the 11th of April, 2011.**

- **Draft Signage Policy** was discussed in detail and work on the preparation of the policy will continue in the coming months.

- **Draft Variation No. 1 to the Leitrim County Development Plan 2009-2015**, following a detailed discussion, it was agreed to forward the Draft Variation to the May Council Meeting, with a view to proceeding to the public consultation stage.
Report dated 9th May 2011 from the Senior Executive Officer, Planning, Community and Economic Development, as circulated to the Members appears as Appendix 6 to the Minutes of this meeting.

Ms. Flynn also advised that the CPG also agreed the lists of conferences/events for Members in line with the Training and Development Programme.

11/186 09/05/2011 Conferences

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

“That the attendance of Councillor Enda McGloin at the Kerry Environmental Conference in Tralee from 7th – 10th April 2011, be retrospectively approved.”

Proposed by Councillor John McTernan, seconded by Councillor Gordon Hughes AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

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


“Attendance of Councillor Gerry Kilrane, Councillor Mary Bohan, Councillor Sinead Guckian at the Conference on National Public Policy Making and the Councillor in Bunclody, Wexford from 20th to 21st May 2011.”

“Attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson at the Conference on Exploring the Local Government Reform in Galway from 27th to 29th May 2011.”

“Attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Gerry Kilrane at the Tipperary Peace Convention in Limerick from 2nd to 5th June 2011.”

“Attendance of Councillor Enda Stenson, Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Tony Ferguson, Councillor Mary Bohan, at the 17th Byrne Perry Summer School in Gorey, Co. Wexford from 24th to 26th June 2011.”

11/187 09/05/2011 Correspondence

The following items of Correspondence were circulated to the members;

1. Letter dated 31st March 2011 from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in connection with the grant-aiding upgrades to on-site wastewater treatment systems
2. Letter dated 4th April 2011 from the Department of Health and Children concerning the issue of medical card applications

3. Letter dated 4th April 2011 from the National Roads Authority regarding the N16 National Primary Route between Manorhamilton and Glenfarne

4. Letter dated 5th April 2011 from Elavon Financial Services in response to resolution passed at the February Council Meeting

5. Letter dated 6th April 2011 from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government acknowledging receipt of invitation on behalf of the members of Leitrim County Council for the Minister to attend a meeting in the Council Chamber to discuss the future of planning legislation


7. Letter dated 12th April 2011 from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government acknowledging receipt of our recent letter in connection with voting for Irish citizens abroad

8. Letter dated 13th April 2011 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills in relation to the Primary School Transport Scheme


10. Letter dated 18th April 2011 from the Oifig Uachtarán Fhianna Fáil regarding the EPA Code of Practice on Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems

11. Letter dated 21st April 2011 from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding the issue of using National Schools as Polling Stations

12. Letter dated 28th April 2011 from the Department of Communications, Energy and National Resources regarding the slipway in Jamestown, Co. Leitrim

13. Letter dated 4th May 2011 from Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator, advising members that it is proposed to allow Senator David Norris address members of Leitrim County Council at their next meeting

14. Letter dated 29th April 2011 from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in connection with the resolution passed by the Council regarding the employment of staff in polling stations.

15. Letter dated 3rd May 2011 from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government regarding the compulsory fitting of carbon monoxide detectors in homes
Other items raised under Meetings Correspondence

- **Gorse Fires**
  Councillor McTernan paid tribute to the work carried out by the Leitrim Fire Service during the recent gorse fires in Leitrim. The County Manager also expressed her gratitude to the fire services for their response and also acknowledged the role of the local community that had volunteered and assisted in responding to the fires.

- **Arts Awards**
  Councillor Gilmartin extended congratulations to all the staff involved in the recent Leitrim County Council Arts Awards ceremony acknowledging the contribution of the Arts to the County.

- **Ministerial Visit**
  The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Frank Dolan informed the Members that Mr. Phil Hogan, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government will visit the County on Friday the 20th of May, 2011.

- **June Council Meeting**
  The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Frank Dolan informed the Members that the June Council Meeting will take place on 13th June, 2011 in Newtownmanor, Co. Leitrim.

11/188  
09/05/2011  **Presentation – North West Alcohol Forum**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Frank Dolan welcomed Mr. Eamon O’Kane, on behalf of the North West Alcohol Forum, to the meeting and invited him to make his presentation.

Mr. Eamon O’Kane thanked the Cathaoirleach and the Members for the opportunity to address the meeting and gave a detailed presentation on the role of the North West Alcohol Forum.

The Members thanked Mr. O’Kane, for his presentation. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager proposed that some of the issues raised during the presentation could be referred to the County Development Board for discussion. This was supported by the Members.

11/189  
09/05/2011  **Votes of Congratulations**

The Members extended a Vote of Congratulations to the following:

- To Graham Golden, Glenboy, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim on representing Ireland at the recent pony-riding event in France
- To the Glencar/Manorhamilton GAA Club who were declared All Ireland Scór champions in Rince Foirne, at the All Ireland Scór finals held in Killarney recently

**Part I - Notices of Motion**

11/190  
09/05/2011  **Community Hospital in Ballinamore**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Health, Dr James Reilly to put in place funding for the Community Hospital in Ballinamore."

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

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Health, Dr James Reilly to put in place funding for the Community Hospital in Ballinamore."

11/191  
09/05/2011  **Road Signage in Drumsna Village**

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to ensure that the excessive and inappropriately large road signage within the village of Drumsna be removed."

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

"At present the NRA are carrying out a National Network Re-signing project on all National routes and are currently working on the N4 in Leitrim. The aim of this signage scheme is to standardise direction signage across the county, in response to legitimate criticism of substandard and inconsistent road signage in different counties. As part of this project the signs in Drumsna to and from the National road are being revised. These revisions will have the effect of reducing the size of the largest sign face on the Green area in the village from 8.58 sq. mts. to 3.3 sq. mts. A list of all of the proposed Sign changes in the village, which indicates the sizes of the proposed and the existing sign faces, and also included is a layout map showing their location can be made available to the Councillor."

Councillor Guckian highlighted the costly and unsightly nature of the signage in Drumsna village and stated that she considered the level of signage excessive. She also referred to the lack of public lighting at the Drumsna junction off the N4. Councillor Guckian proposed that Leitrim County Council contact the National Roads Authority requesting that they review the signage in Drumsna village and provide public lighting at the Drumsna junction onto the N4.
Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckain, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That Leitrim County Council contact the National Roads Authority requesting that they review the signage in Drumsna village and provide public lighting at the Drumsna junction onto the N4.

Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services outlined that it is necessary to have a directional signage situated in Drumsna village for the N4, however he outlined that the matter will be brought to the attention of the NRA.

11/192
09/05/2011 Rental Accommodation Scheme

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to amend the R.A.S. Scheme and purchase vacant houses in the so called ghost estates that are completed to living standards. This would give the local authority and tenants the power to purchase houses at a reasonable and affordable price rather than renting indefinitely."

Report by Director of Services, Housing and Corporate Services;

"Under a Rental Accommodation Scheme contract the local authority to enter into a contractual arrangement to meet the long-term housing need of the applicant. The legislation governing the RAS Scheme does not provide for a purchase option for RAS Tenants. Similarly the Long-Term Leasing Scheme does not provide for a right to purchase option in the standard lease contract. However, the local authority has the right to include a provision that provides a purchase option at the end of the leased term. The Council are informed that the current Minister for Housing & Planning Mr. Willie Penrose is reviewing the Long-term Leasing Scheme to consider additional leasing arrangements that may provide for a purchase option. It must be acknowledged that National Housing Policy in recent years has evolved from the traditional form of social housing supports that were financed by Capital Allocations towards Revenue Funded Streams e.g. the Rental Accommodation Scheme and the Long-Term Leasing Scheme. Furthermore the Council do not have the financial resources available from the 2011 Social Housing Investment Allocation to purchase any units for the provision of social housing in private estates."

Proposed by Councillor Sean McSharry, seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government to amend the R.A.S. Scheme and purchase vacant houses in the so called ghost estates that are completed to living standards. This would give the local authority and tenants the power to purchase houses at a reasonable and affordable price rather than renting indefinitely."
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"At the May Meeting of Leitrim County Council I will seek the support of the Members in calling on the Minister for Finance Mr. Michael Noonan T.D. to direct the banks to have a sympathetic look at mortgage holders who are caught up the negative equity trap. This is where mortgage holders took out a loan to purchase their home which was valued at say €250,000 and the same house now, since the collapse of property prices is valued at €130,000. Those unfortunate people, who are caught up in this situation, are in a terrible position where their home is worth €120,000 less than when they purchased it. I am of the opinion that we the taxpayer's who effectively own the banks now, who are pouring billions into the same financial institutions should come to the assistance of those people."

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Finance Mr. Michael Noonan T.D. to direct the banks to have a sympathetic look at mortgage holders who are caught up the negative equity trap. This is where mortgage holders took out a loan to purchase their home which was valued at say €250,000 and the same house now, since the collapse of property prices is valued at €130,000. Those unfortunate people, who are caught up in this situation, are in a terrible position where their home is worth €120,000 less than when they purchased it. I am of the opinion that we the taxpayer's who effectively own the banks now, who are pouring billions into the same financial institutions should come to the assistance of those people."

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

"That Leitrim County Council request the Minister for Agriculture to revisit the terms of the Agri-Environment Options Scheme (AEOS) for 2011. The Scheme in its current format is too restrictive and if implemented in this format will have a serious impact on farming incomes at a time when we should be promoting the Agri-Food Sector."

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call upon the Minister for Agriculture to make
available the necessary funding which was provided for in the 2011 Budget in order that the estimated 10,000 applicants to the A.E.O.S be accommodated, and at the original maximum payment of €5,000. Failure to do so will result in many farmers who had been in the REPS Scheme since 1994 opting out of practices which had huge benefits for the general appearance of the countryside and wildlife etc."

Proposed by Councillor Gerry Kilrane, seconded by Councillor Paddy O’Rourke AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That Leitrim County Council requests the Minister for Agriculture to revisit the terms of the Agri-Environment Options Scheme (AEOS) for 2011. The Scheme in its current format is too restrictive and if implemented in this format will have a serious impact on farming incomes at a time when we should be promoting the Agri-Food Sector."

11/195
09/05/2011 Reduction to Patient Services in the HSE

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

"That we, the Members of Leitrim County Council, call on the Minister for Health to insist on the HSE publicising where there has been reductions to patient services. e.g. recently Chiropody Services in this region have been halved where the treatment period has gone from every six weeks to every twelve weeks."

Proposed by Councillor Tony Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That the Members of Leitrim County Council, call on the Minister for Health to insist on the HSE publicising where there has been reductions to patient services e.g. recently Chiropody Services in this region have been halved where the treatment period has gone from every six weeks to every twelve weeks."

11/196
09/05/2011 Waterfront Estate in Leitrim Village

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

"Will the Planning Department examine the Waterfront Estate, Leitrim Village and provide a full report to confirm the position in relation to the following: if a bond is in place, if all of the planning conditions have been adhered to and if the water and sewerage facilities on site are installed correctly."

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

"Leitrim County Council are in regular contact with the Developer and his agent in relation to the completion of outstanding works on this development. The Council is
satisfied that the development is substantially compliant with the permission. However outstanding works in relation to the sewerage connection, wearing course and general tidy up remain and a legal commitment has been given by the developer to complete same. The Council will continue to pursue the developer to have these works completed."

Councillor Gilmartin sought further clarification to the reply regarding the bond, water connections and sewerage facilities. Councillor Enda McGloin, in support of the motion stated that in discussions he has had with Inland Waterways these works are to be carried out by them.

Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services outlined that there is a legal agreement in place given by the developer to complete the works.

Mr. V. Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer outlined that the Environment Department are aware of the position in relation to the water and sewerage treatment facilities and inspections and monitoring of the levels are ongoing.

11/197
09/05/2011 Car Parking in Carrick on Shannon

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to consider a proposal to introduce a half an hour of free parking for members of the public in Carrick-on-Shannon to restore business in the town. Persons parking for periods exceeding half an hour would be responsible for paying the standard costs."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The Council is willing to engage in discussions with the Chamber of Commerce and businesses in this regard."

Councillor Ward highlighted the concerns of business community in Carrick on Shannon. He requested that consideration be given to the introduction of an half hour of free parking for the public.

Councillor Guckian also supported this proposal and stated that the Members fully support the local business community. She asked if the parking meters, located in the town, could be calibrated to produce ‘free-period parking ticket’. She also requested the Council explore other options which have been implemented in other counties to alleviate this problem.

This was supported by Councillor Stenson who called on the Council to come to an agreement on this issue with the Chamber of Commerce. Councillor Kilrane suggested introducing a new system, of a free-parking period on a trial basis.

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined that the Council will engage in discussions with the Chamber of Commerce and businesses in this regard.
Garda Assistance

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

"I ask this Council to call on the Minister for Justice to make provision for people to call on their nearest Garda station for assistance in a case of an emergency and not have to wait on the present system of having to wait on Gardai to come from a station 30 miles away when they could come from another station in five minutes."

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Justice to make provision for people to call on their nearest Garda station for assistance in a case of an emergency and not have to wait on the present system of having to wait on Gardai to come from a station 30 miles away when they could come from another station in five minutes."

Universal Social Charge

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council Recognises that:
  • The Universal Social Charge is an unjust and regressive tax, bearing down most heavily on those least able to afford it;
  • The Universal Social Charge affects people earning as little as €77 per week;
  • The Universal Social Charge is indiscriminate and affects someone earning €100,000 at the same rate as someone earning €16,016;
  • Low income workers, including medical card holders, working lone parents and working widows, who were exempt from the health and income levies which the Universal Social Charge replaced, are no longer exempt;
  • Coupled with the changes to tax credits and bands introduced in Budget 2011, the Universal Social Charge has increased the burden of taxation on the working poor;
Calls on the Government to abolish the Universal Social Charge"

Proposed by Councillor Martin Kenny, seconded by Councillor John Ward AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That Leitrim County Council Recognises that:
  • The Universal Social Charge is an unjust and regressive tax, bearing down most heavily on those least able to afford it;
  • The Universal Social Charge affects people earning as little as €77 per week;
  • The Universal Social Charge is indiscriminate and affects someone earning €100,000 at the same rate as someone earning €16,016;
  • Low income workers, including medical card holders, working lone parents
and working widows, who were exempt from the health and income levies
which the Universal Social Charge replaced, are no longer exempt;

• Coupled with the changes to tax credits and bands introduced in Budget
2011, the Universal Social Charge has increased the burden of taxation on
the working poor;

Leitrim County Council calls on the Government to abolish the Universal Social
Charge"

11/200
09/05/2011  Anniversary of the Easter Rising
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean
McDermott;

"With the 100th Anniversary of the 'Easter Rising' approaching soon and one of it's
Leaders from our County of Leitrim, there is great potential for Tourism. I am asking
Leitrim Council to arrange a meeting with stake holders such as Tourism North West,
Office of Public Works, Leitrim County Council and Kiltyclogher Community Council."

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

"Leitrim County Council are currently working with Kiltyclogher Community Council
who have engaged Eileen McGloin on a consultancy basis to prepare a five year
operational marketing and development plan for the summer school in light of the
upcoming anniversary. Work is ongoing with the Department of Tourism, Culture and
Sport and other such signatory committees to develop a network joint promotion of
2016 events. Through Leitrim County Development Board a Tourism Forum made
up of all key stakeholders has been established through which such initiatives can be
discussed."

Councillor McDermott welcomed this response and requested that the Council
explore all initiatives to mark the anniversary which could contribute to developing
the tourism potential of the area.

11/201
09/05/2011  Higher Education Grants
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Enda
Stenson;

"I am requesting that we immediately contact the Minister for Education regarding his
Departments intention to remove the processing of grant applications for Third Level
Students from the local authorities and the VECs. This will cause a lot of hardship on
students, coupled with the fact it will result in the loss of jobs both in Council Offices
and VECs."

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Gerry Kilrane
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;
"That Leitrim County Council immediately contact the Minister for Education regarding his Department’s intention to remove the processing of grant applications for Third Level Students from the local authorities and the VECs. This will cause a lot of hardship on students, coupled with the fact it will result in the loss of jobs both in Council Offices and VECs."

Part II - Questions

11/202
09/05/2011 Drumshanbo Library

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"I ask the Director of Services, Environment, Emergency and Cultural Services to consider painting the Library in Drumshanbo. The Tidy Towns Committee in the town are working very hard to improve the general environment of Drumshanbo which includes encouraging business people to paint their premises therefore I would encourage our Council to play their part in this worthwhile endeavour."

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

"There is no specific allocation available in the current year’s Library Service budget to carry out a comprehensive redecoration of this building, but it is intended to paint the window sills and the plinth of the building in the near future. Extensive internal restructuring of this building will commence shortly and it is considered best to seek to provide funding for the painting of the exterior of the building after those works are completed."

11/203
09/05/2011 Public Lighting – Crow Hill, Drumsna

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure for a copy of the report on the costing of the installation of additional public lighting on Crow Hill in Drumsna. As per my Notice of Motion in February, it was agreed that costing of these works would be provided."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"It is considered that the public lighting can only reasonably be extended as far as the village extents as defined by the road speed limits signs. This would require the provision of an additional 3 no lights (5m decorative black as in per existing in village). Further, civil works involving laying of underground ducting, provision of mini pillar and micro pillar, installation of foundations for lights would be required. ESB Network connection costs and possible relocation of Eircom service are also included in cost estimate. The estimated total cost of providing these additional
lights and ancillary works is €10,860."

11/204  09/05/2011  Car-Parking in Carrick on Shannon

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;

"I ask the County Manager to meet with Members of the Chamber of Commerce to discuss further, their proposal for “One Hour Free” parking in Carrick on Shannon. The Chamber of Commerce have forwarded a copy of their request for consideration."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The Council is willing to engage in discussions with the Chamber of Commerce and businesses in this regard."

11/205  09/05/2011  Road LS6176-0 – Ross Lane, Manorhamilton

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McSharry;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure if there are any plans to improve the sharp bends on the Ross Lane above St. Clare’s Comprehensive School. This lane has seen an increase in traffic over recent months and residents are concerned about this matter."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The Road in question is LS 6176-0 known locally as “Ross Lane” Road. The section of road from R280 past the Comprehensive school was subject to a Housing development in the past few years and was re-aligned as part of these works and surfaced by Leitrim County Council in late 2009. All these works are now completed and are covered by within the 50km/hr Speed Limit Zone. The turns referred to are outside the Town Boundary Speed Limit. There is no funding available in the current year to carry out any further work at this location, but the matter can be reviewed in the preparation of the 2012 Roads Programme subject to the overall level of funding."

11/206  09/05/2011  Church of Ireland, Kinlough

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McSharry;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to examine the perimeter wall outside the Church of Ireland, Main St, Kinlough. It has been pointed out that this wall is over 6ft in height and is sloping out over the public footpath and therefore is a cause for concern to public safety."
"The wall in question is located along the main Street of Kinlough. This wall is private property and is the responsibility of the house owner as per Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993."

11/207
09/05/2011  Footpath – St. Patrick’s Terrace, Mohill

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"I ask Mr. John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure to upgrade the remaining 40 metres of footpath at St. Patrick’s Terrace, Mohill from Treanmore Cross as far as Reynolds house. This section of footpath which is in a poor condition was left undone when improvements works were carried out at this location."

"The section of footpath would benefit from improvement. Unfortunately there is no funding available for this work."

11/208
09/05/2011  Surface Repairs to Drumhirk Lane, Gortletteragh

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"I ask Mr Michael Flynn, Senior Engineer Carrick-on-Shannon to put in place a programme of works in the current year to carry out surface repairs to Drumhirk Lane (Road No LT-15722-0) in Gortletteragh."

"The road in question is a cul de sac road serving a number of houses and would benefit from improvement. In response to requests for assistance from various public representatives and local residents a pilot improvement scheme will be offered to the residents in the current year."

11/209
09/05/2011  Speed Limit Signs on Regional Roads

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"I will ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to explain the new speed limit signs on Regional Roads and the purpose and reason for these."

"A new Speed limit of 50km/hr is in place on the R280 from Glenade Water Treatment Plant to Fertagh Reservoir on County Road LP 2097 for a distance of
8KM. This is a Special Roads Speed Limit Order to facilitate the laying of new water main which will transport treated water to Fertagh reservoir and in turn this will supply Kinlough, Tullaghan and all associated GWS in this catchment area. The need for this special speed limit is part of the H&S plan associated with the water main work and is necessitated by the volume of traffic that uses the R280 and the limited road width available. It is intended to remove this temporary speed limit when the works are complete by end of year 2011.

11/210
09/05/2011 Household Waste Collection

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"How many households in County Leitrim are not availing of a bin collection service and the reason for this."

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

"It is estimated that 74% of households are using the system offered very effectively, achieving an overall recycling rate of 40.6%. However, there is an estimated 1300 tonnes per year which is unaccounted for. Data quality will be significantly improved for 2011 with the 2011 Census results, the enforcement of the new Byelaws and surveys planned for later in the year. The County is adequately serviced by privatised waste collection services and also 2 Civic Amenity Sites and a network of 37 Bring Centres. Households are obliged to comply with Waste Presentation Byelaws. While definitive data is not available on the reasons for not availing of waste collection and recycling services some reasons may include a) an inability to pay for the service and (b) a reluctance to pay, secure in the belief that they are unlikely to get caught and unlikely to be severely penalised."

11/211
09/05/2011 Re-surfacing of Annadale to Rantogue Road

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"I call on Leitrim County Council to re-surface the sections of the Annadale to Rantogue road that is subsiding."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"A restoration maintenance grant was allocated to this road in this year’s Works Programme. Maintenance works are programmed to be carried out on this road in May/June up to the value of the grant allocated."

11/212
09/05/2011 Modifications to Housing Development in Drumsna

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John Ward;
"I ask the Director of Services to lower the kerbs at the housing development owned by Ciaran Gaffney located at Main Street, Drumsna to allow occupants to park their cars beside their houses as there are no parking facilities at the rear of these dwellings. The road in front of this development is not suitable for parking."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"There are presently drop kerbs provided along the footpath to facilitate car parking to the front of the houses. The area in question will be examined to assess how the requested modifications might be achieved and the Area Engineer will revert to the Councillor."

11/213 09/05/2011 Signpost at Annaghealry Cross, Gowel

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John Ward;

"I ask the Director of Services to replace the signpost at Annaghealry Cross, Gowel. The original signpost was removed and not replaced when water works were completed at this location. The signpost should have directions on it for Kilclare, Kilnagross, Effernagh and Gowel Church. This is causing confusion for motorists not local to the area."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The signpost will be re-erected as requested."

11/214 09/05/2011 Car-Parking in Carrick on Shannon

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Kilrane;

"What are the executive’s views on the recent proposal from the Carrick-on-Shannon Chamber of Commerce in respect of a free parking period? I appreciate this has a revenue consequence but it will provide assistance to many ratepayers by increasing business."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The Council is willing to engage in discussions with the Chamber of Commerce and businesses in this regard."

11/215 09/05/2011 Reservoir at Boeshil/Canons Hill Mohill

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Kilrane;

"Can the Director of Services, Infrastructure arrange for an inspection of the Reservoir at Boeshil/Canons Hill Mohill? I have received a report from the landowner
that there is a significant leak present which is affecting his holding and he is anxious that the matter/cause be remedied."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The County Council are not aware of any significant leakage at this location but are prepared to meet with the landowner, on site, to discuss the perceived problem."

11/216
09/05/2011 Works at Gortahoose, Corrawallen

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

"I ask that Leitrim County Council complete the works at Gortahoose, Corrawallen as in lowering the earth banks at the junction with the main road and the road leading to the homes of the Murray, Holohan, Fee, Danegan and Hehle families it is causing a visual obstruction for motorists exiting the by-road."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The works referred to in this question will be completed this year as part of our programme of works. It is envisaged that the project will commence in June/July. The earth banks will be lowered and the existing pavement will be raised which will give adequate sight lines to motorists on both the side road and on the regional road at Corrawaleen/Gortahoose"

11/217
09/05/2011 2011 Energy Efficiency Programme

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

"I ask that the Council include the homes at Bredagh, Carrigallen (local authority houses) in 2011 Energy Efficiency Programme. Many of these homes are very difficult to heat and are contributing to health issues for tenants."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing;

"The allocation received in 2011 to improve the Social Housing Stock is largely committed to provide for the current phase of the Energy Efficiency Programme. The units at Bredagh, Carrigallen will be considered for inclusion in a further phase of the programme however, the limited funding remaining would not provide for the inclusion of all the dwellings in the estate in the scheme. A number of dwellings in the estate have had works completed under previous phases of the scheme."

11/218
09/05/2011 Mountain View Housing Estate Drumshanbo

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;
"I ask the Council as when it intended to have final works carried out at the Mountain View Housing Estate, Derryhallow, Drumshanbo such as lighting and other necessary works as there should be sufficient money there to do so from Development Levies for that estate."

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

"An assessment of the Mountain View estate in Drumshanbo has been carried out and it is the opinion of the Council that the works which remain outstanding are of a nature and extent that the costs will exceed the cash deposit held by the Council. Accordingly the Council will make contact with the developer to seek the completion of all outstanding works and initiate enforcement action if necessary. The development company remains listed as the registered owners of the lands and remains an active company on the companies register."

**11/219  09/05/2011  Removal of Bad Bends at Camagh, Ballinamore**

**To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Martin Kenny;**

"I am asking the Director of Services, Infrastructure to have work carried out on the bad bend on the road between Lyons shop and Padraig Priors house in the townland of Camagh Ballinamore. This is a dangerous bend that would need to have the high ditch lowered to aid visibility and widen the road in the interest of safety."

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

"The removal of the bad bends between Lyons shop and Priors house in the townland of Camagh Ballinamore is desirable however there is no funding available this year for this work. The matter can be revisited next year depending on the level of funding available."

**11/220  09/05/2011  N16 Road East of Manorhamilton at Curley Bridge**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to investigate the possibility of making the N16 road East of Manorhamilton at Curley Bridge much safer. The bridge is very narrow and has a bad bend with no space for pedestrians. In light of the good work that is ongoing on traffic calming measures from the Mart to the Roundabout, would it be possible to consider a footbridge for pedestrians on the inside of the Bridge?"

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

"A development of 7 no. residential units was granted planning permission in September 2005 on the Mart side of the Owenmore River. The developer was conditioned to provide a Pedestrian bridge at Curley Bridge to provide access for pedestrians. This Planning Permission expired on the 12th September 2010 and now
is no longer valid. In the absence of this development the need for such a pedestrian bridge is very much reduced."

**11/221**  
**09/05/2011**  
**Bridges on Local Road No. LS-6212-0**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to look at two bridges on local road No:LS-6212-0 in Glenfarne. The first bridge is between townlands of Kiltyclogher and Minkeeragh, some of the flagstones have come loose. The second bridge is in Minkeeragh at Michael Mc Loughlin's house, where some work has been done, this bridge needs to be widened?"

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

"The two bridges are located on County Road LS 6215-0. The flagstones are dislodged on the first bridge and the parapet wall has collapsed on the second bridge located on the bend of road. A safety barrier has been put in place as a temporary measure along the collapsed parapet. This Bridge would need to be widened but there is currently no funding available to carry out works on these bridges. They will have to be considered for future programme of works when funding is available"

**11/222**  
**09/05/2011**  
**Re-Surfacing of Road from Laheen to Kilnagross**

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

"I ask when is it proposed to re-surface the road from Laheen, Eslin to Killnagross P.O.?"

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

"The road in question is in need of improvement, however there is no funding provided in this years Roads Programme for this road. The road will be considered for inclusion in the next road improvement works programme. Routine maintenance work will be carried out on this road within the confines of the much reduced allocation available this year"

**11/223**  
**09/05/2011**  
**Greenfield Close Estate Mohill**

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

"Is Greenfield Close Estate, Ballinamore Road, Mohill taken in charge by the Council?"

**Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development;**
"The road in to Greenfield Close off R201 at Mohill is a public road, taken in charge 19/04/'04 – No LT-14152. The bond has been released in 2003."

11/224
09/05/2011 Signage for One-Way System Drumshanbo

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"I request Leitrim County Council to re-examine the signage for the one way system in Drumshanbo to make it more transparent as some motorists find it difficult to see some of the signage."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"An examination of the signage in the town and approach roads is currently under way which will address the Councillor's concerns."

The meeting concluded at 8.00pm.

SIGNED: Frank Dolan  SIGNED: Sinead Flynn
Cathaoirleach Meetings Administrator

DATE:  13th June 2011