

**Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in Kiltyclogher Community Centre,
Kiltyclogher on Monday, 11th January, 2016**

Members Present: Councillor Armstrong–McGuire, Finola
Councillor Barry, Brendan
Councillor Bohan, Mary
Councillor Gerry Dolan
Councillor Dolan, Frank
Councillor Fallon, Pdraig
Councillor Ellis, Caillian
Councillor Guckian, Des
Councillor Guckian, Sinead
Councillor Gurn, Felim
Councillor Kenny, Martin
Councillor Logan, Seadhna
Councillor McDermott, Sean
Councillor McGowan, Sean
Councillor O'Rourke, Paddy
Councillor Stenson, Enda
Councillor Warnock, Justin

And Councillor John McCartin, Cathaoirleach presiding

Officials Present: Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive
Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic
Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate
Services, Culture and Emergency Services
Mr. John McKeon, A/Head of Finance & Water Services
Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure
Mr. Shane Tiernan, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

16/02

11/01/2016 Votes of Sympathy

At the outset of the meeting Councillor Justin Warnock requested the opportunity to pay tribute to the late Tony Ferguson, former Elected Member of Leitrim County Council. Councillor Warnock and the Members commended the late Tony Ferguson's outstanding contribution to public office as an Elected Member of Leitrim County Council for 35 years from 1979 to 2014 and extended their sympathy to Mrs. Carmel Ferguson and her family.

The Chief Executive on his own behalf, and on behalf of the staff, also extended his sympathy to the Ferguson family.

**Proposed by Councillor Justin Warnock, Seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan and
unanimously Resolved:-**

"That Leitrim County Council adjourns the meeting for 15 minutes as a mark of respect to Tony Ferguson, recently deceased, former Elected Member of Leitrim County Council".

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Vincent O'Rourke & Family, Corrabarrick, Keshcarrigan, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Theresa O'Rourke.
- Graham Flynn, Drumcoura, Ballinamore on the death of Sean Flynn.
- Susan Travers, Laghty, Glenfarne, Co Leitrim on the death of Charles Travers.
- Mary McGuinness, Gublaun, Rossinver, Co Leitrim on the death of James McGuinness.
- Sharon Connolly, "Fortland House", Lissinagroagh, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim on the death of Mary Connolly.
- Francis McKeon, Derrynahimmirk, Rossinver, Co Leitrim on the death of Marie McKeon.
- The Marist Sisters, Mount St Joseph's, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Sr. DeLellis Gavaghan.
- Eamon McGreevy & Family, Lisnagot, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Chris McGreevy.
- The family of the late Margaret Gill, Ballinwing, Leitrim P.O., Carrick-on-Shannon.
- Cassie McCaffrey, Kilmakerrill, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim on the death of Owen McCaffrey.
- Brigid McDermott, Ardmoreen, Glenfarne, Co Leitrim on the death of Pat McDermott.
- Mr Joseph Gaffney, Gowel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of Brigid Gaffney.

16/03

11/01/2016 **Deimhniu Miontuairisci**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That the Minutes of the Meeting of Leitrim County Leitrim held in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday, 2nd November, 2015 be adopted".

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That the Minutes of the Budget Meeting of Leitrim County Council held on Monday, 23rd November 2015 be adopted."

16/04

11/01/2016 **Construction of a Blueway Trail**

Report Ref 15-C-02 from Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive in relation to the construction of a Blueway Trail from Lock 16 Killarcan to Lock 9 Kilclare, consisting of compacted stone unbound surface measuring approximately 4.9km in length and 4m in width, following existing canal path involving a number of road crossings over the local and regional road network and the construction of steel and timber pedestrian and cycle bridge crossing adjacent to Lock 12 Lisconor, at Lisconor Td and Kilclarebeg Td in accordance with the Planning & Development Acts, 2000-2015 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2015, as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That the construction of a Blueway Trail from Lock 16 Killarcan to Lock 9 Kilclare, consisting of compacted stone unbound surface measuring approximately 4.9km in length and 4m in width,

following existing canal path involving a number of road crossings over the local and regional road network and the construction of steel and timber pedestrian and cycle bridge crossing adjacent to Lock 12 Lisconor, at Lisconor Td and Kilclarebeg Td be approved”.

The following comments/observations were made by the Members:

- Councillor Des Guckian requested details in relation to the total cost of the project and he also requested an explanation in relation to the width dimension of 4 metres for the trail.

Mr. Frank Curran confirmed that the cost of the project is estimated to cost in the region of €150,000 per km. He also outlined that the width of 4 metres is necessary to allow sufficient space e.g. for families moving comfortably on the trail and also for access purposes.

- Councillor Des Guckian stated that he considered that a width of 2 metres would be more appropriate for the trail. He also stated that while he supports the development of the Blueway Trail he also considered that additional development along the route e.g. hostels, toilets and amenities need to be provided for tourists and local people using the route.

Mr. Curran advised that that as the Blueway Trail becomes more established then additional services will build up around the trail and he stated that this had been the experience in other counties e.g. in Mayo.

- Councillor Sean McDermott agreed that it was important to ensure that the width of the Blueway Trail is adequate to accommodate further projects e.g. pony trekking etc.
- Councillor Martin Kenny welcomed the development, he queried if the project will incorporate safety rails for children.

Mr. Curran agreed to take on board Councillor Kenny’s concerns in relation to the provision of safety rails for children.

- Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed the project and paid tribute to the staff of Leitrim County Council for securing funding for the project.
- Councillor Brendan Barry welcomed the funding for the project and requested that suitable material be put in place at Lisconner Bridge for walking pets.
- Councillor Caillian Ellis also welcomed the project and referred to the walk along the Canal in Ballinamore. He stated that the walkway has become overgrown and he requested that the Council contact Waterways Ireland and request that they arrange to have the area adequately maintained.

16/05

11/01/2016 Local Economic and Community Plan

Report dated 6th January, 2016 from Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive recommending the adoption of the local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2022 as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O’Rourke, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2022 in accordance with Section 66B (1) of the Local Government Act 2001(as inserted by Section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 be adopted”.

16/06

11/01/2016 Housing Allocation Scheme

Report dated 5th January, 2016 from Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Community, Corporate, Culture and Emergency Services outlining that provision may be made in the Housing Allocation Scheme for the Allocation of Dwellings by Choice Based Letting (CBL).

Ms. Quinn outlined that this matter was reviewed by the Housing Policy, Cultural & Corporate Services SPC at their meeting on 24th November, 2015 and it was agreed to introduce Choice Based Lettings and to make the necessary amendment to the Housing Allocation Scheme to incorporate Choice Based Lettings. The report as circulated appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book. The amended "Draft Allocation Scheme" incorporating Choice Based Letting as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book. A general overview of Choice Based Lettings appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That the Housing Allocation Scheme, 2016 in accordance with Section 22 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2009 and Social Housing Allocation Regulations 2011 (S.I. No 198 of 2011) be adopted."

16/07

11/01/2016 North West Simon Community

Report dated 5th January 2016 from Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Community, Corporate, Culture and Emergency Services recommending that a loan be advanced for €152,750 to the North West Simon Community in accordance with terms of Circular/Memorandum VHU 2/02 for the purposes of the purchase of two dwellings in Carrick-on-Shannon under the Capital Assistance Scheme. The report on the acquisition of the dwellings appears as **Appendix 6** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Martin Kenny and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That the raising of a loan in the sum of €152,750 be provided to the North West Simon Community for the purposes of the purchase of two dwellings in Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim under Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992 subject to the sanction of the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government be approved".

Councillor Des Guckian raised his concern in relation to the funding mechanism in place and suggested that it should be the local authority and not the Voluntary Housing Body that deliver social housing outputs to meet housing need.

Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services responded by stating that the North West Simon Project is for the provision of housing accommodation under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS). She outlined that the CAS funding is provided by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government to the local authority and that a loan is then advanced to the Voluntary Housing Association to enable them to purchase the dwellings. Ms. Quinn confirmed that the nomination of the tenants to the dwellings will be completed by the local authority from households on the Council's Housing Waiting List.

Councillor Martin Kenny acknowledged Councillor Guckian's concerns, however, he also outlined the rationale of the Capital Assistance Scheme for Approved Housing Bodies to access funding to provide social housing units.

Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her support for the project and outlined that the mortgage agreement in place safeguards the dwellings in the unlikely event that the Voluntary Housing Body would no longer be operational and the ownership and management of the dwellings would then revert to the Leitrim County Council. Councillor Bohan also paid tribute to the contribution made by Cluainin Voluntary Housing Association in the North Leitrim where a number of voluntary housing developments have been delivered in Drumkeerin, Manorhamilton and Kinlough.

16/08

11/01/2016 New Polling Scheme for Leitrim County Council

Report dated 7th January, 2016 from Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services with regard to the Draft Polling Scheme 2016 as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 7** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book Meeting.

Ms. Quinn outlined that the current Polling Scheme for Leitrim has been in place for a considerable time and that it needs to be amended to incorporate changes made in recent years e.g. the amalgamation of Polling Districts. She outlined that the proposed introduction of a new Polling Scheme was recently reviewed with the County Registrar and it is now proposed to publish a Draft Polling Scheme in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral (Polling Schemes) Regulations, 2005.

Ms. Quinn informed the Members that the Draft Polling Scheme will be considered at the Municipal District Meetings in February, 2016 and that the closing date for receipt of submissions is Wednesday 24th February, 2016. She concluded by stating that the Draft Polling Scheme with or without amendment will then be listed as an agenda item at the March Council meeting and that it will not come into effect until after the next General Election.

This update was noted by the Members.

16/09

11/01/2016 Change of Street Name at Main Street, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim.

Proposed by Councillor Felim Gurn, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That the proposal to change street name of Lower Main Street, Manorhamilton to Street Sean McDermott (Sraid Sean MacDiarmada) be approved"

Councillor Justin Warnock referred to a similar request he had to consider renaming the R281 to Road Sean MacDiarmada could also be considered.

Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer outlined that the renaming of a Regional Road is a more complex issue than the renaming of a street. He also outlined that Regional Roads are classified by road numbers rather than specific names.

Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor Felim Gurn and Councillor Des Guckian also supported Councillor Warnock's proposal.

Mr. Frank Curran, CEO confirmed that there is provision within the legislation for a local authority to re-name a street subject to the local authority complying with the provisions contained within the legislation on the process to be followed in doing so, however, he outlined that the legislation does not provide for the renaming of a Regional Road. Mr. Curran agreed to investigate the matter further and to provide an update to Councillor Warnock.

16/10

11/1/2016 Audit Report for the Year 2014

The Statutory Audit Report for the year ended 31st December, 2014 issued in accordance with Section 120 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 8** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

The report as circulated was noted by the Members.

16/11

11/01/2016 Corporate Plan - Annual Progress Report 2015

Report dated 5th January, 2016 from Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive in relation to progress achieved in 2015 on Leitrim County Council's Corporate Plan 2014-2019, in accordance with the provisions of Section 134 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended, as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 9** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive gave a summary of the report and highlighted a number of key initiatives delivered in 2015.

The report as circulated was noted by the Members.

16/12

11/01/2016 Capital Programme for the forthcoming 3 years

Report dated 6th January, 2016 from Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive on Leitrim County Council's Programme of Capital Projects for the forthcoming three years, in accordance with the provisions of Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 10** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive outlined that the report provides an overview and estimate of capital projects that are anticipated to be progressed over the next three years. He then gave an overview of the report.

The following comments were raised by the Members:

- Councillor Brendan Barry welcomed the contents of the report and raised an issue in relation to the condition of the footpath on the Hilly Road, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim. Councillor Barry outlined that the footpath is in poor condition and requested that the matter be reviewed having regard to the number of school children that use the footpath on a daily basis walking to and from the local schools.

Mr. Frank Curran agreed to have the matter reviewed.

- Councillor Seadhna Logan queried if any financial contribution was made by Roscommon County Council in relation to the cost of the provision of road pavement works on the Drumsna Jamestown section.

Mr. Shay O'Connor responded by stating that the section referred to is located within the administrative area of County Leitrim and that in this regard the total cost of the works is funded by Leitrim County Council.

- Councillor Des Guckian noted that the progression of the Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Road Scheme is not anticipated to proceed within the next 3 years. He expressed his satisfaction that the roadworks would not proceed and he stated that the current road design of the by pass is extremely dangerous and cannot be accepted.

The report as circulated was noted by the Members.

16/13

11/01/2016 Update on the recent Flooding Event

Report dated 11th January, 2016 from Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation with regard to the recent flooding in County Leitrim, as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 11** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Shay O'Connor gave a detailed overview of the flooding events which commenced on Friday 5th December, 2015 as detailed in the report circulated to the Members.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor John McCartin thanked Mr. O'Connor for his presentation and he acknowledged the role of the local authority in responding to the severe weather/flooding events.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor John McCartin proposed that the 9 Notice of Motions – No's 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 29 and 30 relating to the severe weather/flooding incidents would be taken at this point. This was agreed by the Members.

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

"That all the Elected Members and the Officials of Leitrim County Council join together to impress upon the outgoing Government that it is most urgent that the River Shannon be immediately dredged. This is vital in order to prevent the disastrous flooding of December, 2015 and the earlier one of November, 2009 recurring."

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

"At the January meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Chief Executive if the Council's full costs for dealing with the flooding in the county, both material and manpower costs, will be met by the Government. I will also ask for the support of Members in requesting that the OPW includes as a priority, under their CFRAM project (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management project) areas where agricultural lands and public infrastructure are affected by flooding. Following the recent public consultation process, it is evident that clusters and urban centres of domestic and commercial buildings are being given priority and consideration, under the Risk Assessment reports and maps, but little regard is given to farmlands, public infrastructure (such as roads, bridges and amenities) and less densely populated communities susceptible to flooding."

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

"The Government, having sought estimated costs of exceptional costs incurred by Local Authorities that could not be met from their existing resources during the response to the flooding and in the post flooding clean up, has put in place funding of €8m in this regard. Leitrim County Council is engaging with the recoupment claims process and expect that all such exceptional costs will be covered through this fund. In addition Local Authorities have also been asked to submit estimates for any damage caused to public infrastructure in their administrative area during this period"

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn;

"In order to alleviate the effects of flooding in the coming years I propose that the Council liaise with landowners whose properties border roads that are liable to flooding and build up a database of all the drains and gullies on these roads. Where flooding is likely to occur the Council should allocate resources to ensuring these drains and gullies are free of blockages"

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

"Leitrim County Council continues to maintain drains and gullies within the resources available to the County."

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire;

"Recent flooding has been blamed on many things. How many boards, companies, authorities have studied climate, dredging, planning, building. Each county affected has personnel in their Environment Departments who have informed opinions on the causes. Please provide the Members with a short outline on what our Environment Section believe is in need of attention. Leitrim County Council cannot let the winter of 2015 be treated as unusual."

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

"The CFRAMS process led by the OPW has progressed the preparation of flood risk maps and is currently preparing options for the control of flooding across areas at risk identified through the mapping process. The Council through the Environment Department is working closely with this process and will be continuing to engage actively as same in progressed through to conclusion in 2016."

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

"I ask will the Volunteers that worked so hard to keep floods controlled over the lengthy spell of flooding, be compensated for their effort, time and materials used, from the Government Emergency Fund, throughout the County and particularly those around Carrick and Leitrim Village which were hardest hit."

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

"There are three different Schemes available to home-owners, business owners and farmer affected by flooding. Details in relation to these schemes were publicised by Leitrim County Council on our website and via our social media channels.

The schemes are as follows:

Home Owners Affected by Flooding may be able to get financial help from the Department of Social Protection's Humanitarian Assistance Scheme. The means-tested scheme provides emergency financial assistance to households who are not able to meet costs for essential needs

immediately following flooding. The scheme aims to provide financial support to people who have suffered damage to their home. It is designed to alleviate hardship rather than provide full compensation for damage.

Small Businesses affected by Flooding: Government Scheme to provide Emergency Humanitarian Flooding Assistance to small businesses affected by flooding is being administered by the Irish Red Cross. The Department of Agriculture are operating a helpline, Farmers with significant fodder losses or animal welfare concerns can avail of it."

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

"At the January of Leitrim County Council I will ask the Chief Executive to make contact the Office of Public Works and other County Councils in the Shannon region with a view to putting in place strategies for the management of the River Shannon.

I specifically would welcome plans for the setting up of a single Body to manage the river, a statutory body that will have responsibility for managing water levels on the river, and that will take on the responsibility for cleaning and dredging the main river channel and tributaries.

I call on Central Government to adequately fund such a body to also enable it to construct proper flood defences. This needs to be done now because as we have seen here in Leitrim and other counties right along the Shannon is that the record levels of flooding in 2009 and this year are no longer the one in fifty year floods we had heard of. These floods will be a recurring reality in the lives of the citizens in the riverside towns, villages, homes and farms affected and may even worsen over time. These areas cannot sustain such economic damage again and again. Common sense dictates that one body has to have overall responsibility for managing the river and protecting these vulnerable communities."

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Seadhna Logan;

"That Leitrim County Council calls on this Government to set up a single authority with sole responsibility for flood defence and crisis response nationwide."

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

"I call upon this Council to unanimously call for the setting up of one agency to control all affairs regarding the management of the river Shannon. And also the re-establishment of local drainage boards which the former Minister for the Environment, Phil Hogan abolished. These boards while grossly underfunded, managed to have some very important work carried out during their existence the absence of which is becoming evident with some very dangerous localised flooding."

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for the Environment (a) to provide emergency funding as a matter of urgency for county road repairs due to damage caused by the recent heavy rains and (b) to restore at once funding for Local Improvement Schemes."

Following on from the report presented by Mr. O'Connor a detailed discussion in relation to the severe weather/flooding crisis ensued and the following comments were made by the Members:

- Councillor Caillian Ellis welcomed the report provided by Mr. O'Connor, however, he expressed his disappointment that the R201 at Cloone was not included in the report.

Councillor Ellis outlined that the road that had been the subject of a road closure due to flooding and that the necessary road diversions had resulted in a significant volume of heavy vehicles being diverted onto local roads.

Mr. O'Connor confirmed that the R201 at Cloone had been closed due to flooding and he apologised for the error in this regard.

- Councillor Des Guckian queried if the Sewage Treatment Plants in Carrick-on-Shannon were affected by the flooding incident as had occurred in 2009.

Mr O'Connor confirmed that he was not aware of any impact on the Sewerage Treatment Plants arising from the recent flooding. He outlined that the pumping stations continued to operate on a 24 hour basis at all times.

- Councillor Des Guckian expressed his disappointment that the County Council Emergency Response Number was not immediately put in place to respond to the flooding/severe weather incident. He outlined that arrangements to have an Emergency Response Number were only put in place one week after the severe weather had commenced. Councillor Guckian went on to state that he had been unable to contact the Council and had to contact the Garda and Emergency Services.
- Councillor Martin Kenny highlighted that the adequacy of the existing car parking facilities and the three storm drains in Carrick-on-Shannon need to be examined in the context of the recent flooding in Carrick-on-Shannon. He outlined that the closure of the road to the car park at the rear of the Bush Hotel had severely impacted on the availability of parking in the town which had impacted negatively on the local business community in the lead up to the Christmas Holiday Period.

Mr Seamus O' Connor noted the comments and observations of the Members and he advised that Leitrim County Council will be reviewing all of the issues raised under the CFRAM Project.

- Councillor Sean McGowan complimented the Executive and the outdoor staff of Leitrim County Council for their role in responding to recent flooding incidents in the county. He outlined that the pumping station in Dromod was flooded and he proposed that this issue be taken up with Irish Water.
- Councillor Justin Warnock complimented the outdoor staff who responded so quickly to the significant damage caused to the Four Masters Bridge, Moy Road, Kinlough, Co. Leitrim. He also highlighted that there was a crash on this busy stretch of road yesterday which resulted in the road being closed for nearly 3 hours causing a major disruption to road users. Councillor Warnock called for a review of the traffic volumes on the bridge and he also stated that he considered that the bridge is not fit for purpose.
- Councillor Des Guckian voiced his concern over the response time nationally which he stated he considered was delayed. He went on to state that the Government failed to put in place adequate measures for the dredging of rivers which has contributed to the flooding crisis. Councillor Des Guckian stated that he was of the opinion that the CFRAM project is a stalling device and not an appropriate response to address the flooding crisis. He stated that the pollution of ground waters is a serious matter of concern. Councillor Des Guckian went on to state that the dredging of rivers ceased in 1995 and he called for these measures to be reinstated. He concluded by stating that the national weather forecasts by Met Eireann need to be more accurate.

- Councillor Sinead Guckian welcomed the report and acknowledged the effort and role of the local authority and the local community in response to the recent flooding crisis. She stated that that provision should be made to consider the raising of roads in certain locations that are prone to flooding. Councillor Sinead Guckian outlined that the impact of the flooding crisis on the business community in Carrick-on-Shannon had been significant. She stated that the perception amongst the public was that Carrick-on-Shannon was flooded and closed for business which had a negative impact on the number of visitors travelling to the town in the lead in to the Christmas Holiday season.

Councillor Sinead Guckian concluded by stating that the local authority should be fully reimbursed by Government in relation to all of the costs associated with the flooding event. With reference to the CFRAM Project Councillor Sinead Guckian acknowledged that this is her second time to participate in the public consultation process on CFRAM. She outlined that she didn't agree with all of the proposals in the Plan and she stated that she considered that it is evident that clusters and urban centres of domestic and commercial buildings are being given priority and consideration, under the Risk Assessment reports and maps, with little regard is given to farmlands, public infrastructure (such as roads, bridges and amenities) and less densely populated communities susceptible to flooding.

- Councillor Sinead Guckian proposed that the OPW be requested to include as a priority, under their CFRAM project (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management project) areas where agricultural lands and public infrastructure are affected by flooding. Councillor Sinead Guckian sought the support of the other Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District Members in support of her Notice of Motion.
- Councillor Felim Gurn outlined that the Sox Line River in Dromahair flooded in November, 2016 and that this had caused considerable inconvenience to the public in the surrounding area. Councillor Felim Gurn proposed that the Council liaise with landowners whose properties border roads that are liable to flooding and build up a database of all the drains and gullies on these roads. He also recommended that the necessary drainage works along these routes would be carried out over the summer months.
- Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire proposed that at the next public consultation phase of the CFRAM Project that the OPW should distribute leaflets to houses/schools to make members of the public more aware of this public consultation process on the CFRAM Project
- Councillor Enda Stenson paid tribute to the Volunteers that worked so hard to keep floods controlled during the flooding incident. He also called for the Volunteers to be compensated for their effort, time and materials used from the Government Emergency Fund. Councillor Stenson paid particular tribute to the communities in Leitrim Village and parts of Carrick-on-Shannon who had experienced some of the worst flooding in the county. Councillor Stenson also supported Councillor Sinead Guckian's proposal in relation to the raising of roads that are susceptible to flooding. He expressed his disappointment of the limited media coverage in the national media that had been given to the flooding crisis in Leitrim and he stated that he hoped that all applications made for assistance under the various funding streams available to the business community and individual households would be dealt with fairly and that the compensation would be paid out to those affected by the flooding.
- Councillor Brendan Barry outlined that businesses affected by Flooding can apply to the Irish Red Cross for assistance.

- Councillor Sean McGowan called for a single body to manage the river, a statutory body that will have overall responsibility for managing water levels on the river and that will have responsibility for cleaning and dredging the main river and tributaries. Councillor Sean McGowan also supported his colleagues in calling for a review of CFRAM, he expressed his concern that a number of flood relief measures proposed for Carrick-on-Shannon could have a consequential effect for Dromod and poses a flood risk for that location.
- Councillor Seadhna Logan also called for the establishment of a single body to be established to manage and flood defences and co-ordinate the emergency response when there is a flooding crisis. He also suggested that the body should also be tasked with reviewing planning decisions in relation to developments that were granted planning permission in a known flood risk location.
- Councillor Paddy O'Rourke outlined that the impact of the flooding crisis on local communities affected by the flooding Leitrim had been significant with individual homes and businesses affected. He also called on the Minister of the Environment, Community & Local Government to re-establish Drainage Boards and to provide adequate funding to enable the Board to carry out the necessary works to prevent localised flooding in many parts of the county.
- Councillor Mary Bohan called for preventive measures to be put in place to prevent flooding. She also referred to the damage to parts of the roads network that has been damaged by the recent flooding events and she expressed her concern that Leitrim County Council does not have adequate financial resources to meet the cost of these works. Councillor Bohan proposed that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for the Environment to provide emergency funding to repair county roads due to damage caused by recent heavy rain and to restore the funding for the Local Improvement Scheme's.
- Councillor Gerry Dolan proposed that ESB should arrange a controlled release of water from the Lough Allen Reservoir in August on an annual basis. He also noted that the flooding report made no reference to the fact that members of the public were unable to access the Dowra from Glangevlin road due to flooding on a section on this road outside Dowra.

Mr Shay O'Connor noted this.

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

"That all the Elected Members and the Officials of Leitrim County Council join together to impress upon the outgoing Government that it is most urgent that the River Shannon be immediately dredged. This is vital in order to prevent the disastrous flooding of December, 2015 and the earlier one of November, 2009 recurring."

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

"At the January meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Chief Executive if the Council's full costs for dealing with the flooding in the county, both material and manpower costs, will be met by the Government. I will also ask for the support of Members in requesting that the OPW includes as a priority, under their CFRAM project (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management project) areas where agricultural lands and public infrastructure are affected by flooding. Following the recent public consultation process, it is evident that clusters and urban centres of domestic and commercial buildings are being given priority and consideration, under the

Risk Assessment reports and maps, but little regard is given to farmlands, public infrastructure (such as roads, bridges and amenities) and less densely populated communities susceptible to flooding."

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

"At the January of Leitrim County Council that the Chief Executive to make contact the Office of Public Works and other County Councils in the Shannon region with a view to putting in place strategies for the management of the River Shannon.

I specifically would welcome plans for the setting up of a single Body to manage the river, a statutory body that will have responsibility for managing water levels on the river, and that will take on the responsibility for cleaning and dredging the main river channel and tributaries.

That Leitrim County Council call on Central Government to adequately fund such a body to also enable it to construct proper flood defences. This needs to be done now because as we have seen here in Leitrim and other counties right along the Shannon is that the record levels of flooding in 2009 and this year are no longer the one in fifty year floods we had heard of. These floods will be a recurring reality in the lives of the citizens in the riverside towns, villages, homes and farms affected and may even worsen over time. These areas cannot sustain such economic damage again and again. Common sense dictates that one body has to have overall responsibility for managing the river and protecting these vulnerable communities."

Proposed by Councillor Seadhna Logan, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That Leitrim County Council calls on this Government to set up a single authority with sole responsibility for flood defence and crisis response nationwide."

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan seconded by Councillor Justin Warnock AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for the Environment (a) to provide emergency funding as a matter of urgency for county road repairs due to damage caused by the recent heavy rains and (b) to restore at once funding for Local Improvement Schemes".

16/14

11/01/2016 Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1st October 2015 to 31st October, 2015 and 1st November 2015 to 30th November, 2015 by Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive, dated 11th November, 2015 and 11th December, 2015 respectively, prepared in accordance with Section 136 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, as circulated to the Members, appear as **Appendix 12** and **Appendix 13** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The reports as circulated were noted by the Members.

16/15

11/01/2016 **Section 138 (1) of the Local Government Act 2001**

Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator outlined that there were no commitments to note under this item.

16/16

11/01/2016 **Corporate Policy Group Report**

Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator gave an overview of the items considered by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting held prior to the Council meeting.

Update from Strategic Policy Committee's:

- **Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development SPC**

Ms. Flynn outlined that the Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development SPC had a meeting on 24th November, 2015 and considered the following: - Choice Based Letting Scheme, Play & Recreation Policy 2015-2019, Social Housing Strategy 2020, the new Tenant Purchase Scheme and they also considered the development of an Irish Policy.

- **Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural SPC**

Ms. Flynn outlined that the Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural SPC had a meeting on 10th November, 2015 and considered the following: Litter Management Plan 2016 – 2018, discussion on National Road Design Standards and they received presentations on Forestry Extraction Good Practice, Reed Beds and on Water Harvesting.

- **Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC**

Ms. Flynn outlined that the Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC had a meeting on 10th November, 2015 and considered the following items: Leitrim Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and the Development Contribution Scheme

Roads Workshop: Ms. Flynn informed the Members that the Corporate Policy Group agreed that the Roads Meeting Workshop would be held on Monday 1st February, 2016 at 11 a.m. in the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon.

Ethics Declaration: Ms Flynn noted that the Members were issued with correspondence in relation to the completion of their Annual Ethics Declaration Form. She requested that completed declarations be returned to the Ethics Register Mr. Shane Tiernan by 29th February, 2016.

Ms. Flynn concluded by stating that the Corporate Policy Group also considered agenda items for the Council meeting and approved the attendance of members at forthcoming conferences and training seminars.

This update was noted by the Members.

16/17

11/01/2016 **Conferences/Training**

Proposed by Councillor Martin Kenny, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the attendance of Councillor Paddy O’Rourke and Councillor Caillian Ellis at the AILG Training in the Red Cow, Dublin on the 14th November 2015 be retrospectively approved.”

“That the attendance of Councillor Justin Warnock at the Conference on “Cohesion Policy 2014-2020” in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth on the 11th to 13th December 2015 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the Chamber of Ireland Awards in the Ballsbridge Hotel, Dublin on the 12th November 2015 be retrospectively approved”.

16/18

11/01/2016

Meeting Correspondence

The following items were considered under Meeting Correspondence:

1. Letter dated 3rd December 2015 from the Office of the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to fracking.

1(b) Letter dated 27th November 2015 from the Office of the Taoiseach acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to fracking.

Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her disappointment in the manner in which this correspondence was dealt with. She outlined that the original correspondence was addressed to the Taoiseach; however, the Office of the Taoiseach forwarded the correspondence to Minister Alex White, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources for his attention. Minister White’s office then the correspondence to the Minister of State, Joe McHugh. Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that a further letter issue to Minister McHugh and the Taoiseach in this regard.

2 Letter dated 7th December, 2015 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to supports for young farmers.

3(a) Letter dated 30th November, 2015 from An Garda Síochána acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to Closure of Garda Stations in County Leitrim.

3(b) Letter dated 26th November, 2015 from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the Closure of Garda Stations in County Leitrim.

3(c) Letter dated 17th December, 2015 from the Office of the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána with regard to the Closure of Garda Stations in County Leitrim.

4(a) Letter dated 26th November 2015 from the Office of the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council seeking additional funding under the 2016 Roads Programme.

4(b) Letter dated 17th December 2015 from the Office of the Taoiseach acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council seeking additional funding under the Local Government Fund.

5 Email dated 22nd December, 2015 from Ms. Ann Warnock, Administrative Officer, Finance Department to Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator with regard to correspondence from Ballinamore Municipal District Meeting in relation to St Patrick's Hospital, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

6(a) Letter dated 2nd November 2015 from the Office of the Minister for Health with regard to funding for the upgrading of services at St Patrick's Hospital, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

6(b) Letter dated 19th November 2015 from the Office of the Minister for Health with regard to upgrading of services at St Patrick's Hospital, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

Councillor Kenny proposed that a letter be sent to the H.S.E to restore the 5 day Nurse Led Service in St. Patrick's Hospital, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

6(c) Letter dated 30th November 2015 from the Office of the Minister for Health with regard to St. Patrick's Hospital, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim.

7(a) Letter dated 26th November 2015 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to DEIS status for Drumkeerin National School, Co Leitrim.

7(b) Letter dated 1st December 2015 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills with regard to the DEIS status for Drumkeerin National School, Co Leitrim.

Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her disappointment with the reply received in this instance and she proposed that a further letter issue to the Minister for Education questioning the criteria that was used at that time and requesting that Drumkeerin National School be restored to DEIS Status under the new review.

8(a) Email from Minister Damien English dated 13th November, 2015 to Customer Services with regard to the Primary School Transport Scheme.

8(b) Letter dated 4th December, 2015 from the Office of the Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation acknowledging receipt of correspondence in relation to the Primary School Transport Scheme.

Councillor Enda Stenson proposed that a further request for a meeting with the Minister and Bus Eireann be requested given the impact of the scheme on local communities.

Councillor Brendan Barry supported this Notice of Motion.

9. Letter dated 23rd November, 2015 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the re-naming of the N16.

10. Letter dated 10th December, 2015 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to funding for local and private roads.

11. Resolution passed by South Dublin County Council dated 12th November, 2015 following a recent human rights delegation to Brussels, led by Lynn Boylan MEP calling on the Department of Foreign Affairs asking them to publicly demand the release of Ibrahim Halawa.

Councillor Martin Kenny proposed that the Resolution passed by South Dublin County Council be supported and that correspondence issue to the Department of Foreign Affairs from Leitrim County Council in this regard. This was unanimously agreed by the Members.

12. Resolution passed by Cavan County Council dated 20th November, 2015 calling on the Minister for Agriculture to consider implementing a plan for spreading slurry.

Councillor Martin Kenny proposed that the resolution passed by Cavan County Council be supported and that correspondence issue to the Minister for Agriculture from Leitrim County Council in this regard. This was unanimously agreed by the Members.

13. Resolution passed by Donegal County Council dated 3rd December, 2015 with regard to Donegal County Council appealing the global re-valuation of 6 utilities and asking Leitrim County Council to join Donegal County Council in this process.

Councillor Brendan Barry proposed that the Resolution passed by Donegal County Council be supported and that correspondence issue to Donegal County Council from Leitrim County Council in this regard.

Councillor Gerry Dolan supported this proposal and it was agreed to write to Donegal County Council in this regard.

14. Resolution passed by Sligo County Council dated 5th November, 2015 welcoming the fact that the Irish League of Credit Unions has launched a Plan to lend money to build 35,000 social houses over the next six years and calling on Minister Kelly and the Department of the Environment to engage with I.L.C.U. as they are prepared to invest a significant amount of money in Social Housing.

Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that the resolution passed by Sligo County Council be supported and that correspondence issue to Minister Kelly and the Department of the Environment in this regard. This was unanimously agreed by the Members.

15. Letter dated 7th January, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government with regard to a request from Leitrim County Council for additional funding under the Local Government Fund.

16. Letter dated 7th January, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Finance acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to additional funding under the Local Government Fund.

16/19

11/01/2016 Presentation from Irish Congress of Trade Unions

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor John McCartin welcomed, Mr Liam Berney, from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to the meeting and invited him to make his presentation.

Mr Berney thanked the Cathaoirleach and Elected Members for affording him the opportunity to address the meeting. He then proceeded to give a detailed presentation on the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. A copy of the presentation appears as **Appendix 14** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr Berney for his presentation and invited questions and comments from the Members.

Proposed by Councillor Martin Kenny, seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council formally pledge to support the Congress Campaign to achieve:

- A Living Wage of €11.50 per hour
- Fair Employment Conditions as set out in the Congress Charter"

The Cathaoirleach and the Members again thanked Mr. Berney for attending the meeting.

Part I - Notices of Motion.

16/20

11/01/2016 **Installation of Burglar Alarms in homes**

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Padraig Fallon;

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Justice in conjunction with the Minister for Finance and their respective Departments to consider allocating grant aid and introduce incentives towards the installation of burglar alarms in homes."

Councillor Padraig Fallon said that in recent years there has been a dramatic increase in the number of burglaries especially in rural Ireland. He also referred to a recent statement from the Minister for Justice which stated that there will be no reversal of the decision to close a number of Garda Stations. Councillor Fallon also outlined that recent budgets had imposed cuts to the funding available for panic alarms and the elderly had also lost their entitlement to free line rental for their landlines. Councillor Fallon outlined that it would cost in the region of €800 to €900 plus VAT to install a reputable burglar alarm in a dwelling. He stated that the proposed scheme to provide grant-aid for the installation of burglar alarms would assist home-owners in securing their properties and protecting them against crime. Councillor Fallon proposed that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Justice in conjunction with the Minister for Finance to provide grant aid to encourage people to install burglar alarms in their homes.

Proposed by Councillor Padraig Fallon, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister for Justice in conjunction with the Minister for Finance and their respective Departments to consider allocating grant aid and introduce incentives towards the installation of burglar alarms in homes."

16/21

11/01/2016 **Signage for the 2016 Celebrations**

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

"At the January Council meeting, I will be asking for signage for the 2016 Celebrations, especially on roads leading into Leitrim from neighbouring counties."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Planning, Community and Economic Development

"This matter was discussed at a recent meeting of the 2016 Centenary Committee and it was agreed to review the provision of such signage in the context of other County signage and identify a funding source in early 2016."

Councillor Sean McDermott requested that the necessary signage be put in place to alert visitors to the county that Leitrim is the birthplace of Mr. Sean MacDiarmada, one of the signatories to the 1916 Proclamation.

16/22

11/01/2016

Cross Border Cultural and Heritage Tourism Enterprise

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock;

"I call on the Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation to liaise with the people of Kiltyclogher and Cashel, Co. Fermanagh with a view to seek funding to develop a cross border cultural and heritage tourism enterprise which would guarantee the survival of these communities for generations to come."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Planning, Community and Economic Development

"Leitrim County Council will engage with all such stakeholders to develop future projects when relevant opportunities are identified."

Councillor Justin Warnock outlined the reason why he had tabled this Notice of Motion. He outlined that Kiltyclogher village had never fully recovering from the devastating impact of the 1973 bombing in the village and that it was his duty as a Public Representative to seek to encourage new enterprise in the area to support the survival of this rural community in the years to come.

Councillor Sean McDermott also supported this Notice of Motion.

16/23

11/01/2016

L.E.D. Display Lights

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Brendan Barry;

"I propose that Leitrim County Council prepare plans and apply for funding to provide L.E.D. display lights which warn motorists when they are travelling too fast at the county's national schools."

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

"As agreed previously this matter is listed for discussion as part of the 2016 SPC Work Programme."

Councillor Brendan Barry said he was glad to see this issue will be coming up in February 2016 at the SPC meeting and he said this type of lighting has proved very effective at St Hugh's National School, Dowra and St Patrick's National School, Drumshanbo.

All Members supported this Notice of Motion.

16/24
11/01/2016

Request for a Public Holiday to mark the anniversary of the 1916 Rising

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Government to make April 24th a public holiday this year and every year, as it is the date the 1916 Rising began and the Irish Republic was declared."

Councillor Martin Kenny outlined that in many countries there is a public holiday to commemorate the foundation of the State and he is proposing that a new national holiday is introduced in Ireland to mark the declaration of the Irish Republic in 1916. Councillor Kenny also expressed his concern that a building on Moore Street which has significant historical significance associated with the 1916 Rising is now in danger of being demolished and being replaced with a commercial development.

Proposed by Councillor Martin Kenny, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council calls on the Government to make April 24th a public holiday this year and every year, as it is the date the 1916 Rising began and the Irish Republic was declared."

16/25
11/01/2016

R202 Ballinamore and Swanlinbar

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

"As the R202 passing through Ballinamore and Swanlinbar connects Enniskillen and Longford, I propose that this Council engage with Cavan County Council and the Department of Transport to secure it is upgraded to a National route."

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

"This matter was previously discussed with Cavan County Council and it wasn't pursued at that time. The matter can be revisited with both Cavan County Council and with the Department of Transport and the TII."

Councillor John McCartin outlined that the R202 passing through Ballinamore and Swanlinbar is a busy route which connects Enniskillen and Longford. He stated that the route should be upgraded to a National Route.

Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer outlined as detailed in his reply that Leitrim County Council had previously engaged with Cavan County Council with limited success. He agreed that he would again discuss the matter with Cavan County Council.

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

"I propose that this Council put in place a plan that all Forestry Companies State or Private sign a Bond between themselves and the Council to cover the cost of restoring the roads in question back to a proper state of repair before any loads of timber are allowed onto the roads so the works on the roads can start as soon as the forestry work finishes."

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

"Currently there is no legal provision for the imposition of such bond. However, a code of practice is in place agreed by all partners in the industry and work within that code to assist in reducing the impact on the road network."

Councillor Gerry Dolan outlined the reason why he had tabled this Notice of Motion, he expressed his concern in relation to the cost of restoring roads that are damaged arising from forestry extraction practices in a number of locations in the county.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported Councillor Dolan's Notice of Motion and queried why Coillte do not have to make a financial contribution to the local authority to safeguard against any damage to roads infrastructure arising from the forestry industry. She also referred to the development contributions levied on new developments and called for a similar levy to be put in place for the forestry industry.

Mr. Shay O'Connor acknowledged the Members concerns and Councillor Bohan's recommendation in relation to the levying of a fee on the forestry industry, however, he outlined that there was no legislative basis that would enable the local authority to apply such a charge. Mr. O'Connor went on to state that the tree felling licence is granted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and that the CCMA are currently in discussions with the Department in this regard.

Councillor John McCartin queried if Forestry companies need to apply for planning permission to plant trees.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, and Transportation confirmed that planning permission is only necessary in certain situations.

This concluded the Business of Meeting 1.50 p.m.

Signed:

**Councillor John McCartin
Cathaoirleach**

Signed:

**Sinead Flynn
Meetings Administrator**

Date:

7th March, 2016