

Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday 11th July, 2016

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

And Councillor Mary Bohan, 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. Shane Tiernan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing and Corporate Services
Mr. Carol Mulvihill, A/Financial Management Accountant
Mr. Noel O'Reilly, Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Ms. Ann Warnock, Administrative Officer
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

16/84

11/07/2016 Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- The Redican Family, Crummy, Aughacashel on the death of Mr. John Joe Redican.
- The Harte Family, Drumlegga, Drumahaire on the death of Mr. Raymond Harte.
- Kathleen McDermott, Briscloonagh, Glenfarne on the death of Mr. Patrick J Healy.
- Francis Rooney, Munakill, Manorhamilton on the death of Mr. Frank Rooney.
- The Moran Family, Cleigheranmore, Ballinagleara on the death of Mr. John McAnteer.
- Sean Loughlin, Ballinagleara on the death of Mr. Mícheál Loughlin.
- Mr. Padraic McGoldrick, Coreen, Dublin Road, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of Mr. Paddy & Mrs. Josephine McGoldrick.
- Margaret Gallagher, Kiltyclogher on the death of Mr. Frank Gallagher.
- Ann Keaney, No 14 Kilcoo Road, Kiltyclogher on the death of Mr. Denis Keaney.

- Mr. & Mrs. Clive Staddart, Carrickatane, Newtowngore, Co Leitrim on the death of Mr. Sam Fisher.
- Mr. Declan Gilhooley, Newtowngore, Co Leitrim on the death of Paddy Gilhooley.
- Mr. Gene O’Kelly, Drumloona, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of Cathriona O’Kelly Lydon.

16/85

11/07/2016 **Deimhniu Miontuairisci**

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Brendan Barry and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of Leitrim County Council Meeting held in Drumreilly GAA Grounds, Carrickmackeegan, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim on Tuesday, 3rd May, 2016 be adopted”.

Proposed by Councillor John McCartin, seconded by Councillor Brendan Barry and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in Aras-An-Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Friday, 17th June, 2016 be adopted”.

16/86

11/07/2016 **Update on Leitrim County Council’s Budgetary Process**

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive provided an update in relation to the Council’s Budgetary Process. He outlined that the budgetary process will have regard to the Council’s current financial position and projected income and expenditure for 2017. He advised that the Budget will be developed in a phased process as follows:-

- A detailed presentation on income and expenditure will be provided at the September Council meeting.
- Statutory Notice has been placed in the Leitrim Observer dated 6th July, 2016 in relation to the setting of the Local Adjustment Factor for Local Property Tax Rates for 2017.
- The public have 30 days to make any submissions by the closing date of 12th August, 2016. The setting of the Local Adjustment Factor will be considered at the September Council meeting. The variation of any change in the LPT will have a direct impact on the Council’s finances.
- A decision to vary the LPT rate must be taken by the end of September and notified to the Revenue Commissioners and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government by 30th September, 2016.
- The Chief Executive and the Head of Finance will attend the October Municipal District meetings and agree the General Municipal Allocation.
- The main Budget meeting will be held at a date to be agreed in November, 2016.
- It is proposed that a Roads Workshop would be held with the Members to consider the 2017 Roads Programme.
- Agreement on an overall General Municipal Allocation, other budget strategy matters e.g. rates on vacant premises must be considered and a preliminary estimate of Income and Expenditure for both Revenue and Capital for 2017 must be submitted to DECLG by 30th September.
- The General Municipal Allocation is divided between Municipal Districts and this allocation must be agreed upon 21 days prior to Local Authority Budget meeting which will be held in November, 2016.

Following the adoption of the 2017 Revenue Budget a schedule of proposed works in each Municipal District shall be prepared and adopted by each Municipal District.

This update was noted by the Members.

16/87

11/07/2016 Draft Litter Management Plan 2016-2019

Report dated 29th June, 2016 from Mr. Terry McGovern, A/Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation on the Draft Litter Management Plan 2016-2019 as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Seadhna Logan raised the issue of dumping at Bring-Banks in the county and he also referred to the current issues with the Console Charity. He requested that alternative arrangements be put in place for the clothes banks in the county which were previously managed by Console.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke also supported this proposal.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly agreed to have the matter reviewed and to report back to the Members.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That the Litter Management Plan 2016-2019 be adopted".

16/88

11/07/2016- Draft Burial Ground Policy 2016-2022

Report dated 7th July, 2016 from Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation on the Draft Burial Grounds Policy 2016-2022 as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Gilhooly outlined that the Environmental, Transportation and Infrastructure reviewed the policy at their meeting on 6th July, 2016 and they recommended the policy for adoption. He advised that the SPC will review a minimum width for burial spaces and provide a recommendation in this regard at a later date. Mr. Gilhooly outlined that the Burial Ground Policy will provide grant-aid to generate additional grave-space in the county. He advised that the maximum amount of grant-aid is €20,000 with a requirement for 30% match funding at local level.

The following items were raised:

- Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed the Draft Burial Policy and he requested that a water tap be provided in the old Mohill cemetery. He advised that this request was previously raised with the Area Engineer at a Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District meeting.
- Councillor Stenson also proposed that a map be drawn up of all the plots in Mohill cemetery with details of the burial plots to be provided in order to assist visitors to the area identifying where their family/ancestors are buried.

Councillor Sinead Guckian advised that the SPC had discussed grave mapping in order to have the information recorded and available for members of the public. She advised that the SPC had

agreed to consult with the Council and look at developing a standard template for use and to later develop a database and mapping system which would have a significant benefit from a heritage point of view.

- Councillor Sean McDermott queried if there is a different criteria for Community Graveyards and Council graveyards. He also queried if the Council have a liability to maintain graveyards that are in their ownership.
- Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire welcomed the height restriction on headstones as provided for in the policy document. She suggested that flat head stones may be a suitable alternative to the existing headstones and would assist with the general maintenance of graveyards.
- Councillor Des Guckian stated that the SPC will continue to examine and make a recommendation in relation to the appropriate width for a double plot. He also acknowledged that the mapping of graves would be desirable but would require significant resources and expertise. Councillor Guckian proposed that the Council should employ a resource to carry out this work and seek to have the costs recouped from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government.
- Councillor Brendan Barry supported the proposal in relation to the mapping of graves in the county and he also raised the issue of litter and dumping in graveyards. He proposed that litter bins be provided at graveyards or alternatively that Council staff arrange for litter removal from graveyards.
- Councillor Frank Dolan queried if the Council employs Graveyards Caretakers and queried what their main duties are.
- Councillor Caillian Ellis sought clarification in relation to old Council Graveyards that are closed. He queried if burials at these graveyards can continue where there is an existing plot in family ownership.
- Councillor Frank Dolan welcomed that in the future no kerbing will be permitted in burial grounds

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly responded to the items raised as follows:

- The Council ensure that there is an adequate supply of burial grounds in the county.
- The Council will work within the parameters of the new Burial Ground Policy in partnership with local communities.
- It is recognised that the preference of families is to have burial plots marked by headstones.
- It is not feasible to take away litter due to lack of financial and staff resources.
- Old graveyards can be accessed for burial if there is a plot in family ownership.
- Leitrim County Council would welcome the opportunity to work with all community groups involved in the compiling the history of their burial plots.

Councillor Des Guckian queried the cost of a double burial plot and if there any plans to change the price. Mr. Gilhooly did not have this information to hand, however, it was agreed that the details would be circulated to the members by the Meetings Administrator.

16/89

11/07/2016 Review of Fire Safety in Traveller Accommodation in Leitrim

Report dated 5th July, 2016 from Mr. Shane Tiernan, A/Director of Services, Housing, Corporate, Culture & Emergency Services with regard to the review of Fire Safety in Traveller Accommodation in Leitrim as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services provided an over-view of the contents of the report on Fire Safety in Traveller Specific (Halting Site) accommodation. She advised that the report had been considered and approved by the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and that a copy of the report has also been provided to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government. Ms. Quinn also outlined that training on Fire Safety had been provided to the Residents of Shannonside View Halting Site.

- Councillor Des Guckian queried if the Council had provided one water hose per Bay as requested by the Residents of Shannonside View Halting Site.

Ms. Quinn advised that following discussions with the Residents, that two set of hoses with associated equipment were provided for both parts of the site. She also advised that appropriate training on the use of the hoses was provided.

16/90

11/7/2016 Appointment of Two new Traveller Representatives to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Report dated 5th July, 2016 from Mr. Shane Tiernan, A/Director of Services recommending the appointment of Mr. Brian Reilly and Mr. Simon Mongan as Traveller Representatives to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Seadhna Logan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

“That the nomination of Mr. Brian Reilly, No 12 Shannonside View, Rosebank, Carrick-on-Shannon and Mr. Simon Mongan, 13 Shannonside View, Rosebank, Carrick-on-Shannon to the Leitrim Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC), in accordance with the provisions of Section 22 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, be approved.

16/91

11/7/2016 Results of the Plebiscite of the Change in the street name of Lower Main Street, Manorhamilton to Sráid Sheáin Mhic Dhiarmada

Report dated 5th July, 2016 from Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate, Culture and Emergency Services with regard to the results of the Plebiscite of the change in the street name of Lower Main Street, Manorhamilton to Sráid Sheáin Mhic Dhiarmada as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The report as circulated was noted by the Members.

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1st April, 2016 to 30th April 2016 and 1st May, 2016 to 31st May, 2016 by Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive, dated 11th May, 2016 and 13th June, 2016 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 6** and **Appendix 7** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive also provided an update in relation to the status of a number of projects as outlined hereunder:

- Funding of €101,000 has been approved by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government for the taking in charge of 9 Housing Estates in Leitrim.

The Members requested that details of the estates be circulated to them.

- Funding of €537,000 has been approved for the upgrade 29 vacant local authority dwellings under the 2016 Voids Programme.
- Leitrim County Council has been awarded funding in respect of an application submitted earlier this year to SEAI under the Better Energy Communities Scheme for energy upgrades to their housing stock along with various community buildings in the Carrick on Shannon and Manorhamilton areas.
- Extension to Moneyduff WTP had been tendered and work has commenced on the watermains extensions to Rossinver/Kiltyclogher at a cost of €8.1 million.

This update was noted by the Members and the following items were raised:

- Councillor John McCartin welcomed Minister Humphrey's support for the Greenway application from Belturbet to Dromod. He acknowledged that the development of this Greenway would be a valuable asset to the Shannon Erne Waterway.
- Councillor Sinead Guckian also supported the Greenway project. She also raised an issue in relation to the Mount Campbell to Jamestown District Metered Area which requires water conservation/leak detection works. Councillor Sinead Guckian requested an updated in relation to the commencement date for works to be carried out on Bridge Street, Carrick-on-Shannon.
- Councillor Caillian Ellis queried if the feasibility study on the Greenway from Dromod to Belturbet has been completed.
- Councillor Sean McGowan also expressed his support for the Greenway project. He stated that the project will have a huge benefit for the county.
- Councillor Des Guckian outlined that he would like to see that the Greenway extended from Mohill to Dromod.
- Councillor Seadhna Logan requested that a copy of the Feasibility Study on the Greenway be circulated to all Members.

- Councillor Felim Gurn sought clarification on whether the proposed Greenway from Manorhamilton to Enniskillen will proceed and if the project will be impacted by the decision of the UK Government to leave the EU.
- Councillor Enda Stenson stated that he would welcome any initiative to develop a Greenway from Carrick-on-Shannon to Sheemore.
- Councillor Justin Warnock called for continuous investment to develop tourism initiatives in North Leitrim.
- Councillor Brendan Barry proposed that the O'Sullivan Beara march in Leitrim be considered for Bord Failte Funding.
- Councillor Des Guckian supported Councillor Barry's proposal and he also proposed that the history of the O'Sullivan Berea March to Leitrim should be recorded.
- Councillor Felim Gurn noted that Leader Funding has dropped from 15% to 7% and he proposed that pressure should be put on the Oireachtas Members to reverse this.

Mr. Frank Curran responded as follows:

- The works on Bridge Street, Carrick-on-Shannon will commence in September, 2016. The works were postponed during the summer due to the impact it would have on tourism.
- The Feasibility Study on the Greenway will be completed in the coming days and it will be circulated to all Members. The Greenway from Manorhamilton to Enniskillen will continue as normal.
- Mr. Frank Curran advised that a feasibility study should be carried out on the O'Sullivan Beara project in order that a funding proposal could be submitted should a suitable funding proposal arise.

The reports as circulated were noted by the Members.

16/93

11/07/2016 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.

16/94

11/07/2016 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 the SPC held a meeting on the 21st June 2016 and that the Members received a progress report on the Housing Grant Scheme, the Housing Strategy, the Traveller

Accommodation Programme and the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme. She advised that an update was also provided on the preparation of a revised Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy and the Statutory Assessment of Housing Need 2016.

- Councillor Paddy O'Rourke expressed his concern in relation to the eligibility criteria for the new Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme. Councillor Enda Stenson and Councillor Mary Bohan also expressed similar concern.

It was agreed to issue a letter to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government requesting that the eligibility criteria for the scheme be amended to enable tenants who wish to purchase their local authority dwellings to do so.

Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee

Ms. Flynn outlined the SPC held a meeting on 5th July, 2016 and that they received a presentation on the following items:

- Presentation on the Manorhamilton Land Use Strategy by Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner.
- Presentation on the Leitrim Economic Renaissance Event by Ms. Nollaig Whyte, Economic Development Officer.

Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural SPC

Ms. Flynn outlined the SPC held a meeting on 6th July, 2016 and considered the following items:

- Presentation from Local Authorities Water and Community Office
- Draft Burial Grounds Policy 2016- 2022

Ms. Flynn also provided an update from the Corporate Policy Group in relation to the following:-

Request from the OPW to give a presentation on the Draft Flood Risk Management Plans

Ms. Flynn advised that the CPG have approved a request from the Office of Public Works (OPW) to attend the September Council meeting to give a presentation on the Draft Flood Risk Management Plans.

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.

16/95

11/07/2016

Conferences/Training

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the attendance of Councillor Pádraig Fallon at the Conference on the “BREXIT The Economic Consequences for Ireland on the 5th and the 7th August, 2016 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Pádraig Fallon and Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire at the ALLG Training in Galway City on the 6th September, 2016 be approved”.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the attendance of Councillor Frank Dolan and Councillor Padraig Fallon the AILG Training in Virginia, Co Cavan on the 23rd June, 2016 be retrospectively approved”.

16/96

11/07/2016

Meeting Correspondence

The following items were considered under Meeting Correspondence:

1. Resolution dated 25th April, 2016 from Laois County Council calling on Tesco to extend the deadline for the redundancy proposal to allow the matter to be dealt with by the Workplace Relation Committee.
2. Letter dated 28th April, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Finance acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to grant aid and incentives towards the installation of burglar alarms in homes.
- 2(a) Letter dated 23rd May, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to Burglar Alarms.
- 2(b) Letter dated 8th June, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality with regard to the Burglar Alarms.
3. Resolution dated 26th April, 2016 from Meath County Council to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government regarding sewerage issues affecting householders in Navan, in other parts of Meath and in locations throughout the country.
4. Letter to the Meetings Administrator dated 26th April, 2016 from Meath County Council with regard sewerage issues affecting householders in Navan, in other parts of Meath and in locations throughout the country.
5. Letter dated 4th May, 2016 from the Health Service Executive acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to a request to reduce waiting lists for People with Disabilities.
- 5(a) Letter dated 24th May, 2016 from the Health Service Executive, Office of the Head of Operations & Service Improvement Disability Services confirming the HSE is making every effort to fill vacant posts in line with Pay Bill Management.
- 5(b) Letter dated 7th June, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Health acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to reducing waiting lists for people with disabilities.
6. Email received 12th May, 2016 from Waterford City and County Council attaching resolution passed by Waterford City and County Council calling on the Department of Social Protection to increase its range of interaction with the Post Office Network. Copy of resolution appears as Item Number 15 of meetings correspondence.

7. Letter dated 11th May, 2016 from the OPW in relation to the establishment of a single body to manage the River Shannon.
8. Resolution dated 19th May, 2016 from Carlow County Council calling on the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to amend the eligibility terms for the new Tenant Purchase Scheme.
9. Resolution dated 19th May, 2016 from Offaly County Council calling on the Minister for Justice to review the whole area of Free Legal Aid System.
10. Resolution dated 19th May, 2016 from Mayo County Council calling on the Government to introduce legislation to give to Municipal Districts the same powers as were held by former Town Councils.
11. Letter dated 19th May, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to Kiltyclogher being designated as a Heritage and Cultural Village.
- 11(a) Further letter dated 26th May, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in response to a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to Kiltyclogher being designated as a Heritage and Cultural Village.
12. Letter dated 19th May, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to social welfare payments via the Post Office.
- 12(a) Letter dated 20th May, 2016 from the Department of Social Protection with regard to the Department increasing its range of interaction with the Post Office Network.
13. Letter dated 19th May, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the Young Farmers and National Reserve Scheme.
14. Letter dated 19th May, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council requesting prompt payments to issue to members of the farming community.
15. Resolution dated 12th May, 2016 from Waterford City and County Council calling on the Department of Social Protection to increase its range of interaction with Post Office Network.
16. Letter dated 23rd May, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to long term funding to be made available to community groups.
17. Email received 30th May, 2016 from the Minister of State, John Halligan acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council requesting a review of the School Transport Scheme.
18. Letter dated 27th May, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Health acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to funding for home help hours in the Leitrim area.

- 18(a) Letter dated 10th June, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Health with regard to the home help hours in the Leitrim area.
19. Letter dated 25th May, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Health acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the location of the National Children's Hospital.
20. Resolution dated 1st June, 2016 from Limerick City and County Council calling on the Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald TD, and Garda Commissioner Noirin O'Sullivan, to keep District Policing Models and the six regions as they currently stand.
21. Resolution dated 3rd June, 2016 from Donegal County Council calling on the Minister and Department of Social Protection to extend the parameters of the eligibility status of Community Employment Programmes for seasonal workers.
22. Letter dated 7th June, 2016 from Waterford City and County Council to Minister Simon Coveney expressing their concerns about the exclusion of Part V dwellings from the recently announced Tenant Purchase Scheme Shame.
23. Resolution dated 14th June, 2016 from Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council calling on the Minister for Climate Change, Communications and National Resources requesting he reverse the Statutory Instrument which means waste collection companies will start charging for green waste on 1st July, 2016. .
24. Letter dated 17th June, 2016 from Dublin City Council acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding Brexit.
25. ICBAN Newsletter June 2016 update.
26. Summary dated 4th July 2016 from Mr. Shane Tiernan, A/Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services with regard to the Housing Needs Assessment 2016.
27. Report dated 4th July 2016 from Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services
28. Report dated 5th July, 2016 from Shane Tiernan, A/Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services with regard to the Mid-Term Review of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018.
29. Report on meeting with a delegation from Leitrim County Council and Officials from the Department of School Transport, Tullamore, Co Offaly held on the 18th May, 2016.
30. Letter dated 7th July, 2016 from the Department of Social Protection with regard to the Community Services Programme.
31. Resolution dated 6th July, 2016 from Cork County Council acknowledging the ongoing shortage of places in special education classes for students with an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis at secondary level.

The following items was also raised under Meetings Correspondence

1916 Commemoration

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke invited all Members and staff to the play presented by the Corn Mill Theatre on "Tom Clarke's One True Love".

Olympics 2016

Councillor Justin Warnock thanked Leitrim County Council for their financial contribution to Ms. Breege Connolly participant in the Olympic Marathon in this summer's Olympics in Rio, Brazil. The Members unanimously wished Ms. Connolly every success in the Olympics.

Animal Welfare on Monaghan Farm

Councillor Gerry Dolan expressed his outrage in relation to a recent incident that occurred on a farm in Monaghan when five animals were shot. He queried who had sanctioned the decision to have the animals slaughtered in this manner.

Councillor Mary Bohan and all of the Members unanimously condemned the action.

16/97

11/7/2016 **Vote of Congratulations**

The Members extended a vote of Congratulations to the following:-

- U12 Glencar Manorhamilton on winning the Longford/Leitrim U12 Division One
- U14 Leitrim Ladies on winning the Championship C Title

Part I - Notices of Motion.

16/98

11/7/2016 **Review the Beef Genomics Scheme for Farmers**

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

"I call on this Council to send a proposal to the Department of Agriculture and the Minister for Agriculture to review the Beef Genomics Scheme for Farmers who were too scared to apply and those who did apply and withdrew. Also to make it a worthwhile scheme by putting a scheme in place of €200 a cow for the first 25 cows and €100 a cow thereafter with no red-tape just a straight forward scheme. Also €20 a ewe for the first 100 ewes and €10 after to try to save our cow and ewe stock."

Proposed by Councillor Gerry Dolan, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis AND RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council send a proposal to the Department of Agriculture and the Minister for Agriculture to review the Beef Genomics Scheme for Farmers who were too scared to apply and those who did apply and withdrew. Also to make it a worthwhile scheme by putting a scheme in place of €200 a cow for the first 25 cows and €100 a cow thereafter with no red-tape just a straight forward scheme. Also €20 a ewe for the first 100 ewes and €10 after to try to save our cow and ewe stock".

16/99

11/7/2016 **Regulation of Forestry Industry**

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 to bring all future a

forestation under the planning regulations, regardless of the size of the proposed plantation or it's location."

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

"Initial a forestation of lands is classified as exempted development under the Planning and Development Regulations. An Environmental Impact Assessment is required for planting of more than 50 hectares and as a result such scale of development would require planning permission. Amendment regulations would therefore be required nationally to remove the current exemption status. However, developments requiring provision of access to a public road are specifically excluded from the exempted development provisions."

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor John McCartin and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for the Environment to bring all future a forestation under the planning regulations, regardless of the size of the proposed plantation or its location."

16/100

11/05/2016

Inadequate Maternity Resources

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

"I request that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health to increase maternity resources. The INMO says that more than 600 midwives need to be recruited to achieve basic safety levels (internationally recommended Midwife - to birth ratio is 1/29.5 the average Irish ratio was found to be 1/38.) and that Ireland has the lowest level of Obstetricians per 100,000 women across all OECD countries. Two local General Hospitals are among four nationwide which have been investigated since 2012. Immediate action is required to restore confidence locally."

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Barry, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health to increase maternity resources. The INMO says that more than 600 midwives need to be recruited to achieve basic safety levels (internationally recommended Midwife - to birth ratio is 1/29.5 the average Irish ratio was found to be 1/38.) and that Ireland has the lowest level of Obstetricians per 100,000 women across all OECD countries. Two local General Hospitals are among four nationwide which have been investigated since 2012. Immediate action is required to restore confidence locally".

16/101

11/7/2016

Old Vocational School in Mohill

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

"At the July meeting of Leitrim County Council I will seek the support of Members in calling on the Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim Educational Training Board (ETB) to take action regarding the Old Vocational School in Mohill which has fallen into dereliction with evidence of anti social behaviour going on in and around it. The building which is surplus to requirements should be offered to Community Groups within the town initially and should it fail to attract interest, then be offered for sale immediately before it descends into further decay."

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim Educational Training Board (ETB) to take action regarding the Old Vocational School in Mohill which has fallen into dereliction with evidence of anti social behaviour going on in and around it. The building which is surplus to requirements should be offered to Community Groups within the town initially and should it fail to attract interest, then be offered for sale immediately before it descends into further decay".

16/102

11/7/2016

Referendum on Irish Unity

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council calls on the Irish Government to press the British Government to facilitate a referendum on Irish Unity. A Border Poll, at the earliest opportunity, within 12 months"

Proposed by Councillor Padraig Fallon, seconded by Councillor Brendan Barry and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"Leitrim County Council calls on the Irish Government to press the British Government to facilitate a referendum on Irish Unity. A Border Poll, at the earliest opportunity, within 12 months"

16/103

11/7/2016

More Home Support Services for our Elderly People

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to call to the Minister for Health to make available more resources to the HSE West to provide a more realistic home support service to our elderly. The recent increase in funding to this service has been totally absorbed by the pent up demand with the net result being that few if any new clients can be accommodated meanwhile many families are under severe pressure trying to provide the necessary care for their loved ones. The merits of home care has long been established in terms of costs and social consequences and needs urgent support."

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health to make available more resources to the HSE West to provide a more realistic home support service to our elderly. The recent increase in funding to this service has been totally absorbed by the pent up demand with the net result being that few if any new clients can be accommodated meanwhile many families are under severe pressure trying to provide the necessary care for their loved ones. The merits of home care has long been established in terms of costs and social consequences and needs urgent support."

16/104

11/7/2016

Re-Evaluation of Properties

It was agreed by the Members that Notice of Motion number 19 and 27 be taken concurrently

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council do not implement the new re-evaluation of properties within the county as any increase in rates would have a detrimental effect on business already struggling to survive."

Report by Head of Finance, Finance

"The revaluation of properties is a national exercise and it is anticipated that the revised valuation book will be published in late 2017. When the revaluation is complete the Valuation Office will send a proposed valuation certificate to each ratepayer which will show the details and the valuation proposed for their property and ratepayers will be given an opportunity to make representations (within 40 days from the date of issue of the proposed certificate) if they are unhappy with the proposed certificate. Following consideration of the representations the Valuation Office will issue a final valuation certificate which will form the basis for commercial rates on the property from 2018 onwards. Leitrim County Council does not have any involvement in the determination of valuations on a property and must levy rates in accordance with the Valuation List as submitted by the Valuation Office."

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

"As part of the current rates re-evaluation process currently being undertaken across the county, Leitrim County Council has sought additional information from publicans. The level of detail the council are seeking is very invasive and a number of publicans have raised concerns. Can we get clarity on what additional information has been requested from publicans and what is the purpose of gathering this information"

Report by Head of Finance, Finance

"The Valuation Office is currently conducting a revaluation of all properties in County Leitrim and as part of that process they have contacted all ratepayers requesting information relating to their premises. Additional information has also been sought from a number of sectors including licensed premises, hotels, service stations, nursing homes, mineral extract properties. The information sought from occupiers of licenced premises includes details of the premises and extracts from Accounts and Trading Information which the Valuation Office require in order for them to carry out the revaluation of these premises. Leitrim County Council has no involvement in the determination of valuations of a property and has not sought any information from ratepayers in respect of the revaluation."

- Councillor Caillian Ellis called on the support of Members to call on the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Finance not to implement the new re-evaluation on properties. He stated that the impact of the new rating system will put some businesses at risk of closure.
- Councillor John McCartin and Councillor Felim Gurn supported the Notice of Motion.
- Councillor Seadhna Logan pointed out that the level of detail that is being sought is very invasive and unnecessary when it comes to valuing a property for rates. He outlined that a number of publicans have raised concerns in relation to the level of information that they have been requested to provide. Councillor Logan queried if the level of information requested is being shared with Leitrim County Council. He proposed that a letter issue to the Valuation Office noting the concerns of Members in this regard.

Mr. Frank Curran advised Members that Leitrim County Council receive €5.2 million in rates on an annual basis. He advised that certain business activities income will be taken into consideration for valuations purposes and that Mr. John Conroy, from the Valuation Office can be requested to attend a meeting with the members to discuss their concerns. The Members declined to invite Mr. Conroy to a meeting.

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

"That Leitrim County Council demands that, in the interests of safety, the NRA retrofits the Dromod/Rooskey Bypass with a hard shoulder on each side and that, in the event of this Bypass being extended, it too will have hard shoulders along with numerous crossing points to accommodate local residents with property on either side and to prevent the community on one side being cut off from the other."

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

"As you may be aware at a meeting of the Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructure Policy SPC Committee in Leitrim County Council, the SPC committee adopted a policy that any new national road schemes developed in County Leitrim should ensure that the new road will have a 3.0 m shoulder. This policy was adopted due to the committee members concerns regarding the new road schemes at N4 Dromod - Rooskey Bypass and N16 Cornacloy to Stradrine.

Leitrim County Council wrote to the TII notifying them of this Policy and their response was as follows: 'Leitrim County Council, as road authority for the area is obliged to comply with the NRA Manual for Roads & Bridges, including Note 2 of Table 3 of NRA TD27 which states that 'Carriageways, hard shoulder and hard strip dimensions are fixed values'. Any reduction or increase in the width of these elements is a Departure from Standard and would require to be dealt with appropriately

The Dromod/Rooskey Bypass is a 2+2 standard over its entire length of 7.8 km and it was designed and constructed in accordance with the DMRB standards. Leitrim County Council are currently exploring the feasibility of the provision of lay-bys in accordance with NRA TD 69 between the Dromod roundabout and the Rooskey roundabout on either carriageway. A submission is to be forwarded to the TII for their assessment."

- Councillor Des Guckian said that this was an extremely serious issue and he noted that the reply received was not totally accurate. He stated that he doesn't want to wait until someone is killed before action is taken. Councillor Des Guckian stated that in his opinion the current design is not fit for purpose and posed a serious risk to motorists in circumstances where they needed to stop on the By-Pass arising from car trouble or in the event that an occupant of the car was unwell.
- Councillor Sean McDermott supported the Notice of Motion.

Mr. Frank Curran advised that Leitrim County Council were in contact with Transport, Infrastructure Ireland (TII) notifying them that the Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural SPC adopted a policy that any new national road schemes developed in County Leitrim should ensure that the new road will have a 3.0 m hard shoulder. Mr. Curran outlined the response received from the TII As follows: 'Leitrim County Council, as road authority for the area is obliged to comply with the NRA Manual for Roads & Bridges, including Note 2 of Table 3 of NRA TD27 which states that 'Carriageways, hard shoulder and hard strip dimensions are fixed values'. Any reduction or increase in the width of these elements is a departure from standard and would require to be dealt with appropriately'.

- Councillor Sinead Guckian outlined that the Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural SPC are seeking to have hard shoulders provided on the N4 Dromod - Rooskey Bypass and on the N16 Cornacloy to Stradrine. She noted the Members are disappointed with the response received from Transport Infrastructure Ireland in this regard.

- Councillor Sean McGowan supported the Notice of Motion.
- Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that a letter should issue to the Road Safety Authority (RSA).
- Councillor Des Guckian proposed that a letter should also issue to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.

This proposal was unanimously supported by all Members.

16/106

11/7/2016

Home Renovation Loans

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council is it possible to make Renovation Loans available for people who wish to provide a home for themselves. At the moment Leitrim County Council only provide mortgages for the purchase of a house."

Report by Head of Finance, Finance

"The current national framework for housing related loans does not provide a facility for house renovations. Therefore Leitrim County Council is not in a position to facilitate applications in this regard. It is recommended that applicants should consider alternative options including Credit Union loans."

Councillor Sean McDermott acknowledged the reply to his Notice of Motion, however he outlined that he would welcome if funding could be provided to people to assist them with the cost of home renovations particularly for households that may not be in a position to get mortgage approval to purchase properties.

All Members supported this Notice of Motion.

16/107

11/7/2016

Casual Trading Bye-Laws

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

"I call on the Executive to ensure that the Casual Trading Bye-Laws in Leitrim as enacted by Leitrim County Council on 6th July, 2009 are strictly enforced. I have been advised that there are instances of Casual Traders conducting business outside of the designated fourteen approved trading areas to the detriment of established rate paying businesses."

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

"Where the Council becomes aware of casual trading occurring outside of the provisions of its byelaws steps are taken to resolve the issue."

Councillor Felim Gurn acknowledged the reply to his Notice of Motion, however, he outlined that he is aware of casual traders conducting business outside the approved trading areas. He stated that this practice is having a negative impact on rate payers businesses.

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive advised Members if there is any casual trading occurring outside of the provisions of the byelaws that appropriate action will be taken.

16/108

11/7/2016

Review of CAP in 2017

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council on behalf of Leitrim's active farmers to write to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine, Michael Creed TD and request that when his Department is reviewing CAP in 2017 that the practice of paying Basic Payment Scheme monies and forestry premiums on the same parcels of land be stopped. BPS monies are to subsidise livestock production and therefore should be put back into the National Reserve for the benefit of our young farmers."

Proposed by Councillor Justin Warnock seconded by Councillor Gerry Dolan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council on behalf of Leitrim's active farmers write to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine, Michael Creed TD and request that when his Department is reviewing CAP in 2017 that the practice of paying Basic Payment Scheme monies and forestry premiums on the same parcels of land be stopped. BPS monies are to subsidise livestock production and therefore should be put back into the National Reserve for the benefit of our young farmers."

16/109

11/7/2016

Replacement of School Dentist

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Caroline Gildea;

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the HSE to explain if there are any plans to replace the current School Dentist who covers 20 schools between the areas of Fenagh, Ballinamore, Mohill and Carrigallen. The Dentist leaves her post on the 23rd of September and I have been informed that there are no plans to replace her. This will be detrimental to the dental health of those students. A school dental nurse in Carrick on Shannon has retired. Can the HSE explain the current situation of these vacant posts and advise as to a time frame for their replacements."

Proposed by Councillor Caroline Gildea seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council call on the HSE to explain if there are any plans to replace the current School Dentist who covers 20 schools between the areas of Fenagh, Ballinamore, Mohill and Carrigallen. The Dentist leaves her post on the 23rd of September and I have been informed that there are no plans to replace her. This will be detrimental to the dental health of those students. A school dental nurse in Carrick on Shannon has retired. Can the HSE explain the current situation of these vacant posts and advise as to a time frame for their replacements."

16/110

11/7/2016

Insurance Business

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

"I will ask the support of the Members of Leitrim County Council in calling on the Government and the relevant Minister to introduce stricter regulation to the Insurance Business in this country. Insurance premiums have soared over the last twelve months and if this is allowed to continue it will lead to chaos in this whole business."

Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan seconded by Councillor Caroline Gildea and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Government and the relevant Minister to introduce stricter regulation to the Insurance Business in this country. Insurance premiums have soared over the last twelve months and if this is allowed to continue it will lead to chaos in this whole business."

16/111
11/07/2016

Closure of McCormack Businesses in Leitrim

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

"I ask that Leitrim County Council write to Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Mary Mitchell O'Connor asking her Department to work with all involved ensuring that the most viable and profitable of the McCormack's businesses recently closed are re-opened as soon as possible."

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire seconded by Brendan Barry and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council write to Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Mary Mitchell O'Connor asking her Department to work with all involved ensuring that the most viable and profitable of the McCormack's businesses recently closed are re-opened as soon as possible."

16/112
11/7/2016

Avant Ireland Property

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

"I ask who owns the plot of Land that Lidl recently secured, planning permission on, to build a retail outlet. A number of people have raised questions, as to who owns the Ground, and what was this area originally meant to be used for."

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

"Planning permission referred to in this Notice of Motion continues to be a live planning application. The area of ground referred to is in the ownership of Avant Ireland Property having been previously owned by MBNA Ireland Ltd and is zoned in the Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan as Commercial Town Expansion. The ownership title is absolute with no registered burdens or notices of burdens."

Councillor Enda Stenson outlined that questions have been raised as to who owns this property and what is the area to be used for.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly confirmed that the ground referred to is in the ownership of Avant Ireland. He advised that the land is zoned in the Carrick-on-Shannon Local Area Plan as Commercial Town Expansion. Mr. Gilhooly concluded by stating that the ownership has no registered burdens or notices of burdens.

The business of the meeting concluded at 1.35 pm

Signed:

**Sinead Flynn
Meetings Administrator**

**Councillor Mary Bohan
Cathaoirleach**

5th September, 2016.