

**Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Drumreilly GAA Grounds,  
Carrickmackeegan, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim on Tuesday,  
3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016**

**Members Present:** Councillor Armstrong–McGuire, Finola  
Councillor Barry, Brendan  
Councillor Bohan, Mary  
Councillor Gildea, Caroline  
Councillor Dolan, Frank  
Councillor Fallon, Pdraig  
Councillor Ellis, Caillian  
Councillor Guckian, Sinead  
Councillor Gurn, Felim  
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

**Apologies:** Councillor Gerry Dolan  
Councillor Guckian, Des

**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. Vincent Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development,  
Planning, Environment and Transportation.  
Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure  
Ms. Johanna Daly, Administrative Officer (Roads)/Road Safety Officer  
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator  
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

At the outset of the meeting the Cathaoirleach, Councillor John McCartin welcomed the Members, Staff and Media to Drumreilly GAA Grounds, Carrickmackeegan, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim for the May meeting of Leitrim County Council. Councillor McCartin also welcomed Councillor Caroline Gildea to her first meeting of Leitrim County Council.

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive also welcomed Councillor Gildea and wished her well in her role as an Elected Member of Leitrim County Council.

16/60

03/05/2016 Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- PJ & Mary Ward, Glenview, Kinlough, Co Leitrim on the death of Christina Ward.
- Paul O'Reilly, Rockfield House, Aughaderrard, Kinlough, Co Leitrim on the death of Mary Sharkey O'Reilly.

16/61

03/05/2016 Deimhniu Miontuairisci

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

"That the Minutes of the Council Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 be adopted.

**Proposed by Councillor Pdraig Fallon, seconded by Councillor Brendan Barry and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 be adopted.

16/62

03/05/2016 Disposal of Freehold Interest

Notice of intention dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016 from Ms. Kathyne Bohan, Administrative Officer, Housing Department in relation to the disposal of the freehold interest in Cottage No. 304 and adjoining site comprising circa 0.7907 Acres (0.32 Hectares) in the townland of Foxborough, Drumsna, Co Leitrim in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

**Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That the disposal of the freehold interest in Rural Cottage No 304 and adjoining site comprising circa 0.7907 Acres (0.32 Hectares) in the townland of Foxborough, Drumsna, Co Leitrim in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention to Dispose of freehold interest in Rural Cottage dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016 as circulated to each Member be approved".

16/63

03/05/2016 Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

The Annual Financial Statement for Leitrim County Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That Leitrim County Council’s Annual Financial Statement for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 be adopted in accordance with Section 108 of the Local Government Act, 2001.”

**16/64**

**03/05/2016 Additional Expenditure incurred by Leitrim County Council during 2015**

Report on Financial review of expenditure incurred in 2015 as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

**Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

“That additional expenditure incurred by Leitrim County Council in the performance of its functions in 2015 in accordance with the provisions of Section 108(4) of the Local Government Act, 2001 be approved”

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor John McCartin and the Members congratulated Mr. John McKeon on his appointment as the Head of Finance with Longford County Council. The Members also commended Mr. McKeon for the understanding and empathy he extended to customers, particularly those experiencing financial difficulties and they also acknowledged Mr. McKeon’s prudent management of the local authority finances.

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive thanked Mr. McKeon for his dedicated service to Leitrim County Council and wished him every success in his future career.

Mr. McKeon expressed his gratitude to the Chief Executive, staff and members of Leitrim County Council for their support. He also thanked Ms. Katrina Murphy, Head of Finance/Water Services and wished her well in the future. Mr. McKeon also congratulated Mr. Vincent Dwyer on his appointment as the new Acting Head of Finance/Water Services.

**16/65**

**03/05/2016 CAS Loan Approval to the St Vincent De Paul Society, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim.**

Report dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016 from Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Community, Corporate, Culture and Emergency Services recommending that a loan of €312,150.00 be advanced to the Society of St. Vincent De Paul, Ballinamore in accordance with the terms of approval sanctioned by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government for the purposes of the design and construction of two dwellings at Canaboe Terrace, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim under the Capital Assistance Scheme. The report on the project proposal appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That the raising of a loan in the sum of €312,150.00 be provided to the Society of St. Vincent De Paul for the purposes of the design and construction of two dwellings at Canaboe Terrace, Ballinamore, 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”.

**16/66**

**03/05/2016      Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee**

Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Community, Corporate, Cultural & Emergency Services outlined that approval is sought for the appointment of Mr. Eamonn Cunningham, Traveller Liaison Officer as a Member of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) arising from his recent appointment to the Housing Department.

***Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:***

“That the nomination of Mr. Eamonn Cunningham, Traveller Liaison Officer, 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:

**16/67**

**03/05/2016                      Road Safety Plan 2016-2020**

Report dated 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from Ms. Johanna Daly, Road Safety Officer with regard to the Road Safety Plan 2016-2020 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive advised that under the Government’s Road Safety Strategy 2013-2020, Leitrim County Council established a Road Safety Working Together Group (RSWTG) with membership from Leitrim County Council, An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the Road Safety Authority and North Connaught Youth Services. Mr. Curran outlined that the Group prepared the Road Safety Plan 2016-2020 with the aim of promoting an integrated approach to road safety at a local level through four distinct disciplines: Education, Engineering, Enforcement and Evaluation to ensure the ongoing safety of all road users.

Mr. Shay O’Connor, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure outlined that one of the actions within the Road Safety Plan is the hosting of an Information Day for Transition Year students to raise awareness of road safety for young people. He advised that this year’s Information Day was held in Drumshanbo and was a great success. Mr. O’Connor outlined that ongoing co-operation between the agencies will continue to promote road safety awareness. He outlined that the Gardai will continue to focus on enforcement, with speed limit enforcement to be carried out at identified locations and collision prone zones throughout the county. Mr. O’Connor also advised that a speed limit review will be carried out in Leitrim in 2016 to include a review of speed limits in housing estates.

Following the over-view provided on the Road Safety Plan the following items were raised by the Members:

- Councillor Sinead Guckian welcomed the update on the Road Safety Plan and in particular she welcomed the inclusion of a pilot project that will use thermo chromatic paint on road signage.

- Councillor Padraig Fallon welcomed the announcement of a Speed Limit Review and he also proposed that the Road Safety Awareness Programme for Transition Year Students be repeated on an annual basis.

Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure confirmed that it is proposed that the Transition Year Road Safety Awareness Programme will be held on an annual basis.

- Councillor Mary Bohan requested clarification as to when the Speed Limit Review will be completed.

Mr. O'Connor confirmed that the Speed Limit Review will be completed by year-end.

- Councillor Padraig Fallon proposed that all previous Notice's of Motion submitted by the Members in the current term of the Council since May, 2014 relating to speed limits be considered as part of the Speed Limit Review process.

Mr. O'Connor agreed to this request.

The Road Safety Plan 2016-2020 was noted by the Members.

**16/68**

**03/05/2016      Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive**

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2016 to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016 by Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive, dated 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 and 13<sup>th</sup> April, 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.

Councillor Padraig Fallon sought an update in relation to the number of unfinished housing developments and the number of estates taken in charge by the local authority.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation advised that an indicative allocation of €88,000 will be provided to Leitrim County Council in 2016 to address unfinished housing developments in Leitrim. He outlined that the funding will be directed primarily at estates where applications to take the estates in charge have been received by the Council.

Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that meetings of the Municipal District Members with officials from the Planning Department be arranged in order to provide an update to the Members on the taking in charge process and to inform the members of the status of applications from estates that have applied to be taken in charge by the Council.

It was agreed that these meetings would be arranged with the Municipal Districts in June, 2016.

Councillor Felim Gurn requested details of the number of 'unfinished estates' in the county.

Mr. Gilhooly confirmed that a total of 24 estates have been taken in charge by the local authority and that there is approximately 25/26 unfinished estates in the county.

Councillor Caillan Ellis expressed his concern in relation to the 'Taking in Charge' process. He stated that if he is aware of situations in estates where a number of issues have been attended to and the Residents Association approach the local authority they are informed that additional works are required in advance of the estate being taken in charge.

Mr. Gilhooly advised that a comprehensive list of works is prepared by the local authority at the initial application for the estate to be taken in charge. He advised that this information is provided to the Residents Association/Developer and therefore the circumstances as outlined by Councillor Ellis should not arise.

The reports as circulated were noted by the Members.

**16/69**

**03/05/2016 Date and Time of the Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor John McCartin outlined that the Corporate Policy Group agreed that the Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council be held on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 at 12 midday.

***Proposed by Councillor Caillan Ellis, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That the Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council be held on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 at 12 midday in the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim."

**16/70**

**03/05/2016 Draft Annual Report 2015**

Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the Draft Annual Report, 2015 is listed as an agenda item for adoption. The Draft Annual Report, 2015 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 8** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book. Ms. Flynn outlined that the report provides an over-view of the activities and achievements of Leitrim County Council in 2015. She outlined that the report includes an over-view of the figures that will be returned to the National Oversight and Audit Committee (NOAC) in relation to the National Performance Indicator data for 2015. Councillor Brendan Barry requested clarification in relation to the information contained in the Annual Report under the National Performance Indicator's R1 'Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index' and a reference to 'see table'. Ms. Flynn outlined that the table was omitted from the document and will be inserted into the final draft of the Annual Report, 2015.

***Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Caillan Ellis AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council's Draft Annual Report, 2015 be adopted".

**16/71**

**03/05/2016 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.

16/72

**03/05/2016      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:  
Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural SPC**

Ms. Flynn outlined the SPC held a meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 and considered the following items:

- Presentation on Traffic Calming at Schools
- Report on River Drainage
- An update on the progress of the Draft Litter Management Plan 2016-2019.
- Presentation on the current Irish Water Investment in the county.

**Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee**

Ms. Flynn outlined the SPC held a meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 and considered the following items:

- Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2016-2018
- Update on national Planning Framework and Regional Spatial Economic Strategy
- An update on the Rural Development Zone Projects

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

**Delegation to the Department of Education – Primary School Transport Scheme**

Ms. Flynn advised that correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills had initially indicated that Officials from his Department would be available to address a meeting of Leitrim County Council. She advised that the Department later advised that they would facilitate a meeting with a delegation from Leitrim County Council. Ms. Flynn outlined that the CPG agreed that the delegation would consist of the Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council and the Chair's of the three Strategic Policy Committee's i.e. Councillor John McCartin, Councillor Sinead Guckian, Councillor Enda Stenson and Councillor Frank Dolan.

**Development Contribution Scheme Workshop**

The CPG agreed that a Development Contribution Scheme Workshop for Members will take place on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016 at 1.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim. It was also agreed that the May Ballinamore Municipal District Meeting will be re-located from Ballinamore to the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae at 11 a.m. to facilitate the Members attending the workshop at 1.30pm.

**Response to Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Des Guckian in November, 2015.**

Ms. Flynn outlined that the CPG had considered their position in relation to the second part of a Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Des Guckian on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2015. The Members advised that they reviewed the matter and the minutes of the majority of meetings are publically available therefore there is not a requirement for members to prepare separate reports.

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.

16/73  
03/05/2016

Conferences/Training

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

“That the attendance of Councillor Mary Bohan, Councillor Enda Stenson, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, Councillor Caroline Gildea, Councillor Seadhna Logan, Councillor Padraig Fallon, Councillor Brendan Barry, Councillor Felim Gurn, Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Justin Warnock, Councillor Sinead Guckian, Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Caillian Ellis and Councillor Paddy O’Rourke at the Seán MacDiarmada Summer School on the 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June 2016 in be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Caillian Ellis, Councillor Paddy O’Rourke, Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Sinead Guckian, Councillor Justin Warnock, Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor Enda Stenson and Councillor Mary Bohan at the AILG Annual Conference in Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Bunrana, Co Donegal on the 5<sup>th</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Padraig Fallon, Councillor Enda Stenson, Councillor Justin Warnock, Councillor Paddy O’Rourke and Councillor Caillian Ellis at the AILG Training for the Border & Western Region held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016 in Letterkenny, Co Donegal be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Caillian Ellis at the AILG Training in Dundalk for the Dublin Eastern & Midlands Region on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016 be approved”.

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

“That the attendance of Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire at the Local Authority Safety Services Conference in the Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullingar on the 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Sinead Guckian and Councillor Padraig Fallon at the LAMA Seminar in the Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo on the 1<sup>st</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016 be retrospectively approved”.

16/74  
03/05/2016

Meeting Correspondence

The following items were considered under Meeting Correspondence:

1. Letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 from the Bus Eireann acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the Primary School Transport Scheme.
- 1(a). Letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the Primary School Transport Scheme.

- 1(b). Letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to Primary School Transport Scheme.
2. Letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to Grant-aid for Burglar Alarms.

Councillor Padraig Fallon expressed his dissatisfaction with the response received in this regard. Councillor Fallon welcomed the funding for the Text Alert Scheme and called on the Department to be more innovative with regard to providing grant-assistance for homeowners to assist with the installation costs of burglar alarms.

3. Letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the release of Mr. Ibrahim Halawa.
4. Letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from the Office of the Taoiseach acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to Planning Guidelines.
5. Letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016 from the Office of the Director General of the Health Service's 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 6<sup>th</sup> April, 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.

Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her disappointment with the reply received in this regard and proposed that a further letter issue to the Minister to take immediate steps to reduce waiting lists for people with disabilities, particularly children. She stated that the situation is causing serious concern and distress for families.

6. Letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council relating to concerns about the increase in the minimum wage and the impact this will have on community companies provided with support under the Community Services Programme.
- 6(a). Letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from Pobal acknowledging receipt of Resolution resolved by Leitrim County Council requesting an increase in funding to community groups.

Councillor Padraig Fallon noted that the Department of Social Protection have committed to providing support to Community Groups for a fixed period of time, however, he proposed that a further letter issue to the Department of Social Protection and Pobal calling on them to provide this support on a long term basis.

Councillor Brendan Barry also supported this proposal.

7. Letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from A/General Manager, Community Services General Management, HSE acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to a 5-day Nurse Lead Service in St Patrick's Community Hospital, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

Councillor Seadhna Logan expressed his disappointment with the reply and stated that it is 27 weeks since the 5 Day Nurse Lead Service in St Patrick's Community Hospital was in place.

8. Resolution dated 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from Sligo County Council calling on the Department of Health and the Minister for Health to consider the introduction of a sugar awareness day as part of a national health promotion campaign to inform the public of the high sugar content in many process foods and the possible negative health effects of a high sugar diet.
9. Letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the National Reserve and Young Farmers Scheme.
10. Letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from the EPA acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to Wastewater Treatment Systems for single rural dwellings.
11. Letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 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 2016 Roads Allocation.
- 11 (a). Letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 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 2016 Regional and Local Road Allocations.
12. Resolution received 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from Kerry County Council circulating the "Charter for Independent Living" compiled by Cumann Iosaef Tralee.
13. Letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from the OPW in relation to the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme.
14. Letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to a request for prompt payments to issue to members of the Farming Community.
15. Resolution dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016 from Offaly County Council calling on the incoming Minister with responsibility for Housing to review the criteria with regard to eligibility to qualify for Local Authority Housing or Rent Assistance and to revise the Rent Allowances allocations as a first step in dealing with our current housing crisis.
16. Resolution dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016 from Offaly County Council calling on the incoming Minister for Social Protection to reverse the harsh cuts made to One Parent Family payments by the previous Administration.
17. Letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2016 from the Office of the Head of Operations and Service Improvement, HSE with regard to reducing waiting lists for people with disabilities.

Councillor Brendan Barry proposed that a further letter issue to the HSE requesting that any vacant posts are filled within one month in order to reduce waiting lists for children and adults with therapeutic requirements.

18. Resolution dated 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from Donegal County Council with regard to the location of the National Children's Hospital in Dublin.
19. Resolution dated 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from Donegal County Council with regard to the Brexit poll on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2016.

**The following items was also raised under Meetings Correspondence**

**Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme, 2016**

Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her concern in relation to the eligibility criteria for the new Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme, 2016. She advised that the eligibility criteria for the scheme specifically require tenants to have a minimum income of €15,000 per annum and they must also be paying PRSI. Councillor Bohan stated that the eligibility criteria will restrict access to the scheme for a significant number of tenants interested in purchasing their local authority dwellings.

Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to amend the eligibility criteria for the scheme.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke supported Councillor Bohan's proposal. He stated that the eligibility criteria relating to the new Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme, 2016 is unfair. He outlined that many tenants have the necessary finances available to them to consider purchasing their local authority dwelling but are not paying PRSI and therefore won't satisfy the eligibility criteria for the scheme. Councillor O'Rourke outlined that the terms of the scheme also stipulate that prospective purchasers must have an annual income of at least €15,000 in order that they can maintain the dwelling during the charge period.

Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services advised that the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme, 2016 Information Booklet will be issued to all local authority tenants in the coming days. She proposed that a report of the implementation of the new scheme be presented to the Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Development SPC meeting in June, 2016 with an update to be provided at the July Council Meeting on any issues arising.

This proposal was agreed by the Members.

**Call for Re-establishment of Drainage Boards**

Councillor Caillian Ellis referred to a Notice of Motion he raised at a recent meeting of Ballinamore Municipal District, calling on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to re-establish Drainage Boards.

Councillor Enda Stenson supported this proposal.

**Call for Leitrim County Council to prepare a Policy Document to regulate the impact of the Forestry Sector on the Roads Infrastructure in the county.**

Councillor Mary Bohan referred to a Notice of Motion she raised at a meeting of Manorhamilton Municipal District in relation to the forestry sector in Leitrim. She proposed that Leitrim County Council implement a policy to regulate the impact of the forestry sector on the roads infrastructure in the county.

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive agreed to facilitate this request and outlined that the Council

will establish a Working Group to prepare a policy recommendation in this regard.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, and Transportation also outlined that there is a lack of regulator policy in relation to the forestry industry in Ireland.

**16/75**

**03/05/2016**

**Presentation from Bus Eireann**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor John McCartin welcomed, Mr. Rory Leahy, Regional Manager and Ms. Fiona Scanlon, School Transport Manager, Bus Eireann to address the meeting.

Mr. Rory Leahy thanked the Cathaoirleach and Elected Members for affording him and Ms Scanlon the opportunity to address the meeting. Mr. Leahy provided a detailed presentation on the School Transport Scheme. A copy of the presentation appears as **Appendix 9** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Leahy and Ms. Scanlon for their presentation and invited questions and comments from the Members. The following comments were raised by the Members:

- The current Primary School Transport Scheme is unfair to students, many of whom have to attend schools in other parishes/counties as parish boundaries are being ignored in favour of rigid distance criteria set by the Department of Education and Skills.
- The Appeals Board does not appear to over-turn any decisions in favour of the applicant.
- Clarification in relation to when the most recent review of the School Transport Scheme was carried out was requested.
- It was noted that children that are eligible for the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance are not eligible for free School Transport Scheme under the concessionary ticket.
- It was proposed that bus-shelters should be provided at pickup points on school bus routes.
- The Members requested confirmation in relation to the savings that have been achieved on the administration of the scheme since the changes to the scheme were introduced in recent years.
- The Members expressed their concern in relation to the online payments system and stated that poor broadband connection is an issue in many locations in Leitrim. It was recommended that an automatic email notification should issue to parents to alert them that payments are due.
- It was proposed that the former payment system which facilitated three annual payments over the course of the school academic year should be reinstated. The Members expressed concern that the current system is causing financial hardship for parents and guardians.
- The Members specifically requested that provision is made to facilitate younger children attending the same secondary schools as their older siblings under the School Transport System.
- The Members referenced that 'ethos' is a factor considered when assessing an application under the School Transport Scheme, however, they outlined that it does not appear to consider the ethos of rural communities.
- The Members called for more flexibility to be applied to the School Transport Scheme in order to safeguard the future of rural communities.
- They called for discretion to ensure that each application is assessed having regard to the particular circumstances of the applicant.

Mr. Leahy responded to questions and comments from the Members as follows:-

- Bus Eireann must administer the scheme in accordance with the guidelines for the scheme set by the Department of Education and Skills. He advised that there is very little scope for discretion and that there is one Bus Inspector employed in the county and that he carries out his role in a fair and impartial manner.
- There are instances where older siblings are attending one secondary school and availing of the School Transport Scheme and their younger siblings were refused due to changes in distance eligibility under the Scheme.
- An automatic online payments system is in place for the payment of fees for the Scheme.
- The Scheme was reviewed in 2011/2012 at a time when the public finances were under severe pressure and where savings on all expenditure needed to be achieved.
- In the case where there is no transport to the nearest school, and a concessionary ticket is granted, parents who are in receipt of a Medical Card will have to pay for the ticket.
- Bus Eireann's Primary objective is to get the best route so that the road can carry a big bus and pickup points are brought to the child as close as possible.
- No funding is available to provide bus shelters for children, providing such would be very costly with maintenance, planning issues etc.
- Mr. Leahy outlined that Bus Eireann must administer the School Transport Scheme in accordance with the terms and conditions of the scheme

Councillor John McCartin thanked Mr. Leahy and Ms. Scanlon for addressing the meeting and he acknowledged that there are particular issues in Leitrim in relation to the School Transport Scheme that must be addressed. He advised that the delegation from Leitrim County Council will discuss the issues at the meeting with officials from the Department of Education and Skills.

### **Part I - Notices of Motion.**

16/76

03/05/2016 **Re-Open the Young Farmers and National Reserve Scheme**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to call on the Department of Agriculture to do everything in their powers to re-open the Young Farmers and National Reserve Scheme to encourage farmers to stay on in the locality as without these schemes these people will have no alternative only to emigrate."

Councillor Enda Stenson moved this Notice of Motion on behalf of Councillor Gerry Dolan as he was absent from the meeting.

***Proposed by Councillor Gerry Dolan, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:***

"I ask Leitrim County Council to call on the Department of Agriculture to do everything in their powers to re-open the Young Farmers and National Reserve Scheme to encourage farmers to stay on in the locality as without these schemes these people will have no alternative only to emigrate."

16/77

03/05/2016

**Additional Funding for home help hours in Leitrim**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Health and the HSE to request more funding for home help hours in the Leitrim area, as budget restraints are causing serious difficulties for many elderly and sick people in need of the service."

Councillor Caroline Gildea stated that it was more cost effective for people to remain in their own homes with assistance rather than enter long-term care. She called on the Minister for Health and the HSE to provide additional funding for home help hours in Leitrim.

***Proposed by Councillor Caroline Gildea, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:***

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Health and the HSE to request more funding for home help hours in the Leitrim area, as budget restraints are causing serious difficulties for many elderly and sick people in need of the service."

16/78

03/05/2016

**National Children's Hospital**

It was agreed by the Members that Motions 18 and 20 should be taken concurrently.

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

"At the May meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask for the support of members in calling on the Minister for Health (Acting or in coming) to address the serious concerns surrounding access for all the children of Ireland to the newly proposed National Children's Hospital, at the St James Site Dublin. While there have been many issues raised over the proposed location on the St. James site, from air pollution, to helicopter landing restrictions, to limited parking, its material contravention of the Dublin City Council Development Plan, to its overall costs, access for parents with sick children who will have to travel from around the country in and out of the hospital by car is the most worrying issue. The location at St James's Hospital is unsuitable for families living outside of Dublin."

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

"At the May Meeting of Leitrim County Council I seek the support of the Members in calling on the Department of Health and the incoming Minister, to reverse the decision to build the new National Children's Hospital at St. James Hospital, and to locate it instead at the site of Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown. The Connolly Site which has near 150 acres, is the ideal place for the Children's hospital, it would be far more accessible for patients and their families from all parts of Ireland, and would be much cheaper and faster to build on than the St. James site."

Councillor Sinead Guckian and Councillor Sean McGowan outlined the reasons they considered why the site at St. James's Hospital, Dublin is not a suitable location for the new National Children's Hospital. They outlined that the alternative site is preferable for parents and children having to travel long-distances to the hospital and that there is currently major traffic congestion in the vicinity of St. James's Hospital.

Councillor Enda Stenson did not support the proposal and expressed his concern that the future development of the project if there is protracted political differences with regard to the proposed location of the facility.

***Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND RESOLVED:***

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health (Acting or in coming) to address the serious concerns surrounding access for all the children of Ireland to the newly proposed National Children's Hospital, at the St James Site Dublin. While there have been many issues raised over the proposed location on the St. James site, from air pollution, to helicopter landing restrictions, to limited parking, its material contravention of the Dublin City Council Development Plan, to its overall costs, access for parents with sick children who will have to travel from around the country in and out of the hospital by car is the most worrying issue. The location at St James's Hospital is unsuitable for families living outside of Dublin."

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Health and the incoming Minister, to reverse the decision to build the new National Children's Hospital at St. James Hospital, and to locate it instead at the site of Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown. The Connolly Site which has near 150 acres, is the ideal place for the Children's hospital, it would be far more accessible for patients and their families from all parts of Ireland, and would be much cheaper and faster to build on than the St. James site."

**16/79**

**03/05/2016**

**UK to remain part of the European Union**

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

"I am calling on all Local Authority Members here and across Ireland to contact their relatives and friends in the UK , to urge the Electorate there to Vote that the UK remain part of the European Union, as a Brexit would have a detrimental effect on the Irish Economy and in particular the Agricultural Industry."

Councillor Enda Stenson outlined that he considered that there will be a significant impact on the Irish economy if the British Electorate vote to leave the European Union. He called for the support of his fellow members to support his Notice of Motion and he requested that a copy of the notice be circulated to all local authorities.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke supported Councillor Stenson's Notice of Motion.

Councillor Justin Warnock outlined that he did not agree with the Notice of Motion and that as a member of Leitrim County Council he did not want to be associated with it.

***Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke AND RESOLVED***

"That all Local Authority Members here and across Ireland to contact their relatives and friends in the UK , to urge the Electorate there to Vote that the UK remain part of the European Union, as a Brexit would have a detrimental effect on the Irish Economy and in particular the Agricultural Industry".

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Members of the Manorhamilton Municipal District;***

"We the undersigned members of the Manorhamilton Municipal District propose that Leitrim County Council designate Kiltyclogher as a 'Heritage and Cultural Village' with a special focus on Arts and Crafts. We request the full support of all the Councillors and the Executive. We call on the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to provide the necessary resources for this unique project. Kiltyclogher should be designated as a pilot village for regeneration and the Council should engage with the relevant agencies that can provide assistance.

Submitted on behalf of Councillor's - Sean McDermott, Justin Warnock, Pdraig Fallon, Felim Gurn, Mary Bohan and Frank Dolan."

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

"There is currently no scheme in place for designation of heritage and cultural villages. We will refer the matter to the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht for consideration."

Councillor Sean McDermott expressed his disappointment with the response received in this regard. He proposed that Kiltyclogher should be designated as a "Heritage and Cultural Village" and this should be included in the Leitrim County Development Plan.

Councillor McDermott pointed out that the area is suffering from de-population and that it is possible that there will be no new school enrolments in the local national school in September, 2016. He acknowledged the great success of the St. Patrick's Day parade and Heritage Day held in Kiltyclogher in March, 2016. Councillor McDermott called upon Leitrim County Council to re-examine the proposal and to forward a proposal to Government in order to safeguard the future of Kiltyclogher.

Councillor Mary Bohan also expressed her support for the Notice of Motion and stated that Kiltyclogher is a unique and historical place in Leitrim. She outlined that Kiltyclogher was impacted by the Troubles in Northern Ireland, emigration and de-population. Councillor Bohan acknowledged the efforts and commitment of the local community for their efforts in organising the annual Sean MacDiarmada Summer School, operating the Heritage Centre and the Community Centre.

Councillor Felim Gurn also supported the Notice of Motion and stated that efforts should be advanced to designate Kiltyclogher as a 'Heritage and Cultural Village'.

Councillor Justin Warnock supported the Notice of Motion and called for a collaborative approach between the members and staff of Leitrim County Council to progress the project.

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive confirmed that Leitrim County Council will submit the proposal to the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht. He also outlined that there may be capacity under the Peace IV funding stream to advance the proposal.

Councillor Frank Dolan also supported the Notice of Motion.

Councillor Brendan Barry acknowledged that Sean MacDiarmada's homestead on the outskirts of

Kiltyclogher is a national asset. He expressed his disappointment in relation to the level of funding provided for works at this location compared to the significant level of funding that has been provided for Pearce's Cottage in Galway.

Councillor Sean McDermott acknowledged the contribution that Leitrim County Council in maintaining Sean MacDiarmada's homestead. He encouraged all Members to attend the "Seán MacDiarmada Summer School, 2016" which will be held in Kiltyclogher from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.

All Members supported this Notice of Motion.

***Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:***

"That Leitrim County Council designate Kiltyclogher as a 'Heritage and Cultural Village' with a special focus on Arts and Crafts and request the full support of all the Councillors and the Executive to call on the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to provide the necessary resources for this unique project. Kiltyclogher should be designated as a pilot village for regeneration and the Council should engage with the relevant agencies that can provide assistance".

**16/81**

**03/05/2016 Respite Service for Children and Adults with intellectual Disabilities**

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

"I request that Leitrim County Council assist and help the committee of St. Ciarans and the Board of the North West Parents and Friends Association in their efforts to find a site, provide and develop a purpose built respite service for children and adults with intellectual Disabilities in County Leitrim. In the interim period the HSE must insure respite care is available to all children and adults with intellectual Disabilities in County Leitrim."

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

"Work is ongoing in conjunction with the HSE in relation to the preparation of Leitrim's Housing and Disability Strategy and Action Plan. The provision of services for children and adults with physical, sensory mental health and intellectual disabilities across the County will be addressed through this strategy. Part of this process includes an identification of needs by both the HSE and the local authority. The Council will facilitate a meeting with the committee of St. Ciarans and the Board of the North West Parents and Friends Association."

Councillor Brendan Barry called on the Council to assist the St. Ciaran's Committee and the Board of the North West Parents and Friends Association to develop a purpose built respite service for children and adults with an intellectual disability in Leitrim. He welcomed that the Council will facilitate a meeting with the committee of St. Ciaran's and the Board of the North West Parents and Friends Association.

Councillor Enda Stenson supported the Notice of Motion and advised that the project proposal is progressing. He advised that a suitable site has been identified for the proposed development and that a decision on the suitability of the site will be determined in the coming weeks.

16/82  
03/05/2016

**Local Link Bus Service**

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

"Local Link Bus Service is now up and running in our county and nearby. I ask that Public Signage is made available at locations of set down areas along the route. Visitors and Locals must be made aware of this service."

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

"Leitrim County Council is currently engaging with Local Link Sligo Leitrim and Roscommon in relation to the provision of signage for the rural transport services along the various routes."

Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire proposed that signage should be made available at set down locations along the Local Link Bus Service routes in order to promote awareness of the service. Councillor Armstrong-McGuire outlined that the service would be very beneficial to tourists that are holidaying in Leitrim to travel from locations e.g. Drumsna and Jamestown to Carrick-on-Shannon.

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive advised the funding has been provided for the signage and that arrangements will be progressed to have the signage erected.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported the Notice of Motion. Councillor Enda Stenson also supported the Notice of Motion and outlined that the Local Link Bus Service Timetable has been circulated to all homes in the county to raise awareness of the service amongst the public.

Councillor Justin Warnock expressed his disappointment that no daily bus service is available in Kinlough.

16/83  
03/05/2016

**Survival of Post Offices**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Social Protection and the Government to discontinue its practice of taking all Social Welfare payments away from the Post Offices and processing them through the banks. This practice is detrimental to the survival of Post Office networks and the local communities."

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke outlined his concern that social welfare recipients are being encouraged by the Department of Social Protection to have their social welfare payments paid by Electric Fund Transfer (EFT) directly to their bank accounts rather than payments being processed and collected in their local post office. He outlined that this practice is putting the future of the local post office networks at risk and that in order to protect the fabric of local communities that post offices should be maintained.

Councillor Mary Bohan also supported Councillor O'Rourke's Notice of Motion. She outlined that social welfare recipients previously paid by cheque were informed that this payment option was no longer available and they were requested to provide their bank account details. Councillor Bohan outlined that people have the choice to be paid their social welfare allowance in their local Post Office. She advised that the Minister for Social Welfare has set a target to have 75% of payments processed by his Department paid by EFT to the recipient's bank account. Councillor Bohan

expressed serious concern for the future viability of the local Post Offices and local communities if this practice continues and she added that many towns and villages do not have access to a bank.

***Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:***

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Social Protection and the Government to discontinue its practice of taking all Social Welfare payments away from the Post Offices and processing them through the banks. This practice is detrimental to the survival of Post Office networks and the local communities."

This concluded the business of the meeting at 1.58 p.m.

**Signed: Cllr Mary Bohan  
Cathaoirleach**

**Sinead Flynn  
Meetings Administrator**

**Dated: 11th July, 2016**