

**Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September, 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 Mulvey, Caroline  
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. Vincent Dwyer, A/Head of of Finance  
Mr. Shane Tiernan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing and Corporate Services  
Mr. Joe Lowe, Head of Enterprise  
Mr. Billy Lowe, Senior Engineer, Water Services  
Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure  
Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner  
Mr. Terry McGovern, A/Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Vivienne Egan, Senior Executive Planner  
Mr. Brendan McKenna, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. Carol Mulvihill, A/Financial Management Accountant  
Ms. Nollaig Whyte, Community & Enterprise Development Officer  
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator  
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

16/113

05/09/2016 Votes of Sympathy

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

- Mrs Aideen Banet, Bornacoola, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of Shauna Banet.
- Kathleen McCaffrey, Kiltyclogher Townland, Kiltyclogher, Co Leitrim on the death of Bridie McSharry.
- Catherine McDermott, Brockagh, Glenfarne, Co Leitrim on the death of Thomas McDermott.

16/114

05/09/2016 Deimhniu Miontuairisci

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

“That the Minutes of Leitrim County Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 be adopted”.

16/115

05/09/2016 Construction of a Footpath on R288 Dromahair

Report Ref 16-C-01 from Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive in relation to the construction of a footpath along the R288 outbound from Dromahair, extending for a distance of 200m from the existing footpath as far as the entrance to the GAA grounds in accordance with the Planning & Development Acts, 2000-2015 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2015, as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

**Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That the construction of a footpath along the R288 outbound from Dromahair, extending for a distance of 200m from the existing footpath as far as the entrance to the GAA grounds be approved”.

16/116

05/09/2016 Construction of a Footpath/Cycleway from Manorhamilton to GAA Grounds at Boggaun

Report Ref 16-C-02 from Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive in relation to the provision of a new walking/cycling route to extend for a distance of 4.5km from Manorhamilton town centre as far as the new Glencar, Manorhamilton GAA Grounds at Boggaun in accordance with the Planning & Development Acts, 2000-2015 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2015, as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book. Mr. Curran advised Members that four submissions have been received from the General Public in relation to this development and are detailed in the report.

Councillor Justin Warnock outlined his concerns in relation to the condition of the local road and he stated that he considered that the road selected was not suitable to accommodate a walkway/cycleway.

Councillor Frank Dolan also voiced his concern in relation to the suitability of the local road, however, he welcomed that the road will in time be linking up with the new proposed Greenway. He proposed that a commitment be given to maintain the grass verges and to ensure that the road surface is also maintained by the Council in the future.

Councillor Des Guckian said that the report on the project proposal should have included a map of the proposed route. Mr. Curran outlined that the Part VIII Proposal together with maps of the route had been available for viewing as part of the public consultation process.

Councillor Felim Gurn supported the proposal to proceed as per the route selected.

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive outlined that the route was independently selected and that a cycle/walkway could not be provided on a national road.

**Proposed by Councillor Felim Gurn, seconded by Councillor Frank Dolan and RESOLVED:**

“That the provision of a new walking/cycling route to extend for a distance of 4.5km from Manorhamilton town centre as far as the new Glencar, Manorhamilton GAA Grounds at Boggaun be approved on the commitment from Leitrim County Council that grass cutting be carried out along this stretch of Local Road and that it would be surfaced and maintained by Leitrim County Council”.

Councillor Des Guckian abstained from voting on this proposal.

**16/117**

**05/09/2016 Setting of the Local Adjustment Factor for Local Property Tax Rates for 2017**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan invited the Chief Executive to give an overview of the provisions in relation to setting the Local Adjustment Factor for Local Property Tax Rates for 2017.

Mr. Curran informed the Members that a public consultation process in relation to the setting of the Local Adjustment Factor for Local Property Tax Rates for 2017 had taken place from 8th July, 2016 to 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 and that no submissions were received during the public consultation process. A copy of the report as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Curran then invited Mr. Vincent Dwyer A/Head of Finance and Water Services to give his presentation on the setting of the Local Property Tax Rates for 2017. Mr. McDwyer gave a detailed presentation in relation to the Local Property Tax Variation. A copy of the presentation appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Dwyer outlined that the value of a potential increase or decrease in the 2017 Local Property Tax Allocation if the maximum variation of 15% is implemented would be +/- €317,790 and that every 1% variation equates to approximately +/- €21,186.00 to Leitrim County Council. He also advised that Leitrim County Council will gain or lose 100% of any variation applied.

The Chief Executive, Mr. Curran outlined that any reduction in the Local Property Tax will have a direct impact on service provision by the local authority across all service areas. Mr. Curran went on to outline that an increase in funding from the LPT which would mean that Leitrim County Council could undertake a number of critical initiatives within the county in 2017 e.g. further marketing and promotion of County Leitrim, provision of micro enterprise, implementation of Local Economic and Community Plans, upgrading and maintaining walkways and cycle routes and Town and Village enhancement.

Councillor John McCartin proposed that Leitrim County Council retain the Local Property Variation Rate at the same rate as 2016. He stated that the Members could not support an increase in the Local Property Tax nor were they seeking a reduction in the rate.

**Proposed by Councillor John McCartin, Seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That the basic rate of Local Property Tax should stand varied by 0 per cent for the period 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2016 to 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 in respect of relevant residential properties situated in Leitrim County Council’s administrative area. The varied rate shall take effect from the liability date in the year in which notification is sent to the Revenue Commissioners”.

16/118  
05/09/2016

### Budgetary Process

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, A/Head of Finance & Water Services presented a detailed overview of the Budgetary Process for 2017. A copy of the Presentation appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

The update was noted by the Members.

Councillor Sinead Guckian proposed that Leitrim County Council call on the Government to address the financial plight of Local Authorities and to seek input from the Elected Members and the Chief Executives.

Councillor Des Guckian supported Councillor Sinead Guckian's comments in relation to the lack of finances available to local authorities to fund essential public services.

**Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, Seconded by Councillor Des Guckian and RESOLVED:**

'That Leitrim County Council calls on the Government to address the financial plight of Local Authorities and to seek input from the Elected Members and Chief Executives'.

16/119  
05/09/2016

### Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive informed the Members that an allocation of €380,000 has been approved under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. He outlined that the scheme's objective is to support town and village regeneration as part of a concerted effort by Government to promote rural development. He advised that only projects that will achieve a high standard will be approved for funding and that the number of projects approved will be limited by the funding available with a minimum grant of €20,000 and maximum grant of €100,000. Mr. Curran outlined that the scheme specifies that a minimum of four and a maximum of eight locations can be included in the scheme proposal. He outlined that it is proposed to select two towns/villages in each Municipal District with an additional two locations to be included.

Mr. Curran advised that the Council will be liaising directly with Community Groups in order to have a submission with the Department by 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2016. He advised that projects in Carrick-on-Shannon, Manorhamilton, Ballinamore, Kinlough, Mohill, Drumkeerin, Drumshanbo and Carrigallen will be included.

The Members unanimously welcomed the allocation of funding, however, they also expressed their disappointment that a number of towns and villages in the county will not benefit from the scheme. Councillor Frank Dolan stated that it is disappointing that Dromahaire will not benefit from inclusion in the Town & Village Renewal Scheme and that Dromahaire had also lost out on REDZ (Rural Economic Development Zone) funding as it was aligned with Sligo for REDZ (Rural Economic Development Zone). The Members unanimously supported that proposal that any future phases of the REDZ Programme would be on a county wide basis to include Dromahaire and Kinlough which were previously aligned with Sligo and Donegal County Council.

The update on the Town and Village Renewal Scheme was noted by the Members.

16/120  
05/09/2016

### Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2016 to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 and 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2016 by Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive, dated 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 and 12<sup>th</sup> August, 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 5** and **Appendix 6** 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:

- Traffic lights have been provided in Leitrim Village.
- Works on Bridge Street, Carrick-on-Shannon will be progressed.
- The Contractor is on site at Moneyduff Water Treatment Plant.
- The construction of seven new units of social housing will commence at the Taobh Tire Estate, Manorhamilton by year-end.
- An increased allocation of funding has been approved under the 2016 Voids Programme.
- Two submissions have been received on the Draft Development Contribution Scheme. A Workshop on the Draft Development Contribution Scheme will be held in October, 2016 and the adoption of the scheme will be included on the agenda of the November Council meeting.
- Vista-med, Carrick-on-Shannon recently announced the creation of 200 new jobs.
- Failte Ireland is due to issue a decision on the two proposed Greenway Projects for Leitrim later this week.
- Culture Night will take place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.
- The Iron Mountain Literary Festival will take from 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2016.

This update was noted by the Members and the following items were raised from the Monthly Management Reports:

- What Level of costs is required to replace the watermain in Drumsna?
- Irish Water Clinics coincide with the date and time of the bi-monthly Council meeting and Members have difficulty attending the clinics.
- Irish Water is being selective about the assets that they will take over.
- An update on the status of the Rossinver Rising Main was sought.
- Have Irish Water adequate funding in place to sustain them as a Water Utility Provider.
- 

Mr. Billy Lowe, Senior Engineer, Water Services responded as follows:

- An "Asset Needs Briefs" was carried out on Mountcampbell approximately 12 months ago and submitted to Irish Water.
- The Council has also submitted an "Asset Needs Briefs" to Irish Water for capital funding for the replacement of other sections of the SLRWSS trunk main network.
- The Council have reverted to the Consultants on the Rossinver Rising Main.

The Chief Executive Monthly Management reports as circulated were noted by the Members.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that Motion No. 23 in the name of Councillor Enda Stenson be taken at this point as it related to Water Services. This was agreed by the Members.

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

"In light of the huge number of burst water mains pipes over the past 12 months, and the cost of repairing same, may I ask is there a plan in place by Irish Water/Local Authority to immediately lay new water main pipes in the worst effected areas, where water outage seem to be occurring every other day."

***Report by Head of Finance, Finance***

"Irish Water has approved a project under "Minor Capital Project" funding for the replacement of a 2.2Km section of old trunk main along the R201 from Kildoo to Mohill. This section was identified as the worst affected section due to the frequency of bursts. Leitrim Water Services Department has repeatedly reminded Irish Water of the issue with this trunk main and has sought its replacement as a matter of urgency. We have now been informed that Irish Water will seek tenders for these works shortly. Given the time it takes to procure these type of contracts it is probable that these works will now commence early in the New Year. The Water Services section has submitted an "Asset Needs Briefs" to Irish Water for capital funding for the replacement of other sections of the SLRWSS trunk main network not now fit for service due to the age of the asset. The Council will continue at every opportunity to seek capital investment by Irish Water in the water infrastructure in County Leitrim. Irish Water's roll out of the next phase of their Water Conservation Programme may also provide funding for water main rehabilitation in County Leitrim and we will be making applications under this programme also."

Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed the approval by Irish Water to advance this project and he queried if local Contractors could tender for the project.

Mr. Billy Lowe, Senior Engineer confirmed that Kildoo to Eslin section has been approved to go to tender for 2.5 kms at a cost of approximately €500,000. He outlined that local Contractors may be on the framework panel operated by Irish Water.

Councillor Brendan Barry supported the Notice of Motion and noted that funding to 'patch-up' networks was not the best use of public money.

**16/121**

**05/09/2016**

**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.

**16/122**

**05/09/2016**

**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.

## **Workshop on the Draft Development Contribution Scheme**

Ms. Flynn advised that the CPG agreed that a Workshop on the Development Contributions Scheme will be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 11.30 am in the Council Chamber.

## **October Municipal District Meetings**

Ms. Flynn outlined that the Chief Executive Mr. Frank Curran and the A/Head of Finance & Water Services Mr. Vincent Dwyer will attend the October Municipal District Meetings to consider the General Municipal Allocations for 2017. She also outlined that it was necessary to change the date and time of the Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District meeting and that this meeting will be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 9.30 a.m. It was also agreed that the Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting will take place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 at 2.30 p.m. in Carrick-on-Shannon.

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.

**16/123**

**05/09/2016**

### **Conferences/Training**

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

“That the attendance of Councillor Paddy O’Rourke, Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor Justin Warnock, Councillor Sinead Guckian and Councillor Sean McGowan at the AILG Training in Galway Bay Hotel from the 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 on “Local Authority Housing and the National Action Plan for Housing” be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Callian Ellis and Councillor Paddy O’Rourke at AILG Training in Cork on the 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Sinead Guckian, Councillor Caillian Ellis, Councillor Enda Stenson, Councillor Justin Warnock, Councillor Padraig Fallon and Councillor Paddy O’Rourke at the LAMA 2016 Autumn Seminar in the Westlodge Hotel, Bantry, Co Cork from the 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 to 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2016 be approved”.

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

“That the attendance of Councillor Mary Bohan at the IPB meeting in Sligo on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 be retrospectively approved”.

**16/124**

**05/09/2016**

### **Meeting Correspondence**

The following items were considered under Meeting Correspondence:

1. Resolutions dated 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 from South Dublin County Council

- Calling on the Government and the Minister to enact without delay legislation that gives expression to and recognises the Traveller Community as a distinct Ethnic Group in Ireland.
  - That the Irish Traveller Community has made a strong case to be recognised as an ethnic minority and calls on the Taoiseach and Minister for Defence, the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice with special responsibility for Equality Immigration and Integration to immediately approve the granting of such status without further delay.
2. Letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 from Limerick City & County Council calling on all Local Authorities to lobby the Government to recognise and address the financial plight of Local Authorities.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported this call and proposed that a letter issue to the Government in this regard.

3. Resolution dated 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2016 from Donegal County Council calling on the Taoiseach and the Government to clarify with the British Government that the essential North West Radiotherapy Unit will be available to all, and that the vote on Brexit will not have any derailing effects on this service.
4. Resolution dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2016 from Limerick City and County Council calling on the Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald, TD to limit the amount of free legal aid available to offenders who repeatedly offend.
5. Letter from Cork County Council dated 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 expressing their concern at the Global Valuations of utility companies undertaken by the Valuation Office undertaken in 2015 will have on the Council's Finances in 2017 and subsequent years, and requested that the Department Funding should be phased out over a number of years.
6. Letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 from the Office of the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality in relation to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the deportation of James Galton.

Councillor Brendan Barry welcomed the fact that President Michael D. Higgins visited Effrinagh on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2016 for the unveiling of a monument to Jimmy Galton. Councillor Mary Bohan paid tribute to the Galton Labour History Committee and Councillor Des Guckian in keeping the memory of Jimmy Galton alive.

7. Letter of acknowledgement dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 from the Office of the Taoiseach in relation to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to a Referendum on Irish Unity.
8. Letter of acknowledgement dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 from the Office of the Taoiseach with regard to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council on the regulation of the Insurance Sector.
9. Letter of acknowledgement dated 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 from Shaun Purcell, Chief Executive of Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB with regard to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the Old Vocational School in Mohill.
10. Letter of acknowledgement dated 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport with regard to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council on the Dromod-Rooskey Bypass.

11. Letter of acknowledgement dated 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation with regard to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council concerning the closure of McCormack's Stores in Leitrim.
12. Letter of acknowledgement dated 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine with regard to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council concerning CAP 2017 Review.
13. Letter of acknowledgement dated 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Health with regard to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to maternity resources.
14. Letter of acknowledgement dated 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Health with regard to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to home support services to elderly people.
15. Letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine with regard to the review of the Common Agriculture Policy and the payment of Forestry and Basic Payment Scheme monies.
16. Letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 from the RSA with regard to the Dromod-Rooskey By- Pass.
17. Letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 from the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government with regard to "Rebuilding Ireland – the Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness".
18. Letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> August, 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 Review of Beef Genomic Scheme for Farmers.
19. Letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Health with regard to the provision of home support services to elderly people.
20. Letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2016 from the Health Service Executive with regard to reducing waiting lists for people with disabilities.

The following items were also raised under Meetings Correspondence:

#### **Mental Health**

Councillor Caillian Ellis outlined that there has been a reduction in funding for Mental Health Services in Leitrim and he proposed that a letter issue to the Minister for Health in this regard.

This proposal was supported by Councillor Enda Stenson.

#### **Vocational School in Mohill**

Councillor Sean McGowan queried if a meeting between Mr. Shaun Purcell, CEO MSL Training Board and Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive had taken place to discuss the former Vocational School in Mohill.

Mr. Frank Curran advised that the meeting had not taken place but will be arranged in the coming weeks, however, he stated that Leitrim County Council would not be in a position to acquire this building.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke supported Councillor McGowan and requested that the meeting proceed as soon as possible.

16/125

05/09/2016

### Presentation of CFRAM Draft Flood Risk Management Plans

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan welcomed Mr. Joseph McNamara and Mr. Peter Smith to address the meeting on the CFRAM Draft Flood Risk Management Plans.

Mr. Joseph McNamara thanked the Cathaoirleach and Elected Members for affording him and Mr. Smith the opportunity to address the meeting. Mr. McNamara provided a detailed presentation on the CFRAM Draft Flood Risk Management Plans. A copy of the presentation appears as **Appendix 7** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. McNamara and Mr. Smith for their presentation and invited questions and comments from the Members. The following comments were raised:

- Members expressed disappointment that the occurrence of flooding in the Shannon Region should be accepted as the norm.
- They called for the dredging, drainage and removal of silt in lakes, tributaries and the River Shannon itself.
- They recommended for the lowering of water levels in the Shannon when the boating season concludes. They also recommended that river levels should be lowered in September and when adverse weather conditions are forecast.
- The Members proposed that an examination of the history of engineering on Lough Allen, weirs and locks be undertaken.
- Provide 3D illustrations of the proposed flood defence walls in Carrick-on-Shannon.
- Concern was expressed in relation to the visual impact of having flood defence walls in Carrick-on-Shannon, have regard to the town as a tourist attraction.
- Members expressed concern about erecting walls/barriers in towns and villages. They outlined that they didn't consider that this is an acceptable solution to the problem as these measures may disperse the problem to other locations e.g. Jamestown and Drumsna. The Members also queried what the position will be with regard to the approval of planning applications for the flood relief measures and that if the proposals were subject to a Part VIII planning process that the Members may have difficulty in approving the Part VIII.
- The Members queried the position in relation to the water supply solution for Dublin in terms of proposals to extract water from the River Shannon.
- The Members suggested that the ESB should relinquish their interest in the Shannon.
- It was noted that no flood relief measures were provided for two sites in North Leitrim – Tullaghan and Manorhamilton and it was also noted that while flooding occurred in these locations in 2015 that no dwellings were flooded.
- The Members queried what level of public engagement/participation has taken place on the Draft Plans and they stated that the proposals have no regard for the farming community or tourism amenities.
- The Members suggested that the Netherlands model for flood relief measures should be examined.

Mr. McNamara and Mr. Smith responded as follows:-

- They would encourage the public to examine the plans.
- Dredging of rivers would not in itself be a sufficient flood prevention measure.
- The flood relief proposals will require planning permission.
- They accepted that a 3D illustration of the flood defence mechanism would be useful.

- They outlined that the supply of water to Dublin will have no impact as the water supply for Dublin will be extracted at Lough Derg.
- The total number of public attending the Public Information Days was approximately 1,000 people in 66 locations.
- Registration at public meetings is very important.
- Focus on the plan is on urban built up areas.

Mr. McNamara concluded by stating that comments on the CFRAM Draft Flood Risk Management Plans are only taken at the public consultation meetings or can be sent to [draftplans@opw.ie](mailto:draftplans@opw.ie). He outlined that a further public consultation days will take place on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in Aras an Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon and in the Bees Park, Manorhamilton on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan thanked Mr. McNamara and Mr. Smith for addressing the meeting. She proposed that the meeting be adjourned for 20 minutes before proceeding to debate the Notice of Motions. The Members agreed to this proposal, the meeting was adjourned at 1.20 p.m. and resumed at 1.40 p.m.

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

16/126

05/09/2016

### **Enhancement works at Corry Strand**

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

"Further to my previous Notice of Motions to Leitrim County Council where I proposed that enhancement works be carried out at Corry Strand and that facilities be upgraded, specifically toilet and shower facilities as well as a slipway for boats be installed. Can I ask what progress has been made?"

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

"Leitrim County Council has secured numerous investments for Corry Strand over the years the most recent being in 2014 through the Interreg funded Harnessing Natural Resources Project. The further development of such an amenity can be most effectively brought forward through the active engagement of a relevant community organisation particularly now as the Leader Program will be opening later this year."

Councillor Pdraig Fallon outlined that he had previously raised this issue on two occasions at the Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting. He re-iterated his call for funding to be provided to provide toilet and shower facilities and the provision of a slipway at this facility in order to improve the amenity for locals and visitors to the area.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan also supported the Notice of Motion and outlined that the local community have been seeking to have the facility upgraded for some time.

Mr. Frank Curran advised that the further development of the amenity can be considered under the Leader or Fáilte Ireland Funding.

16/127

05/09/2016

### **8<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution.**

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

"That we, the Elected Members, stand opposed to any attempts to water down the 8th Amendment to the Constitution and thereby open the door to abortion on demand in Ireland."

Councillor Des Guckian outlined his views on the Notice of Motion and called on the Members to

support his Notice of Motion.

Councillor Justin Warnock supported Councillor Des Guckian's Notice of Motion.

Councillor Seadhna Logan stated that Councillor Des Guckian was asking the Members in supporting his Notice of Motion to oppose a Referendum on the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution. Councillor Logan further stated that a decision to amend the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution could only be considered by holding a Referendum.

Councillor Sinead Guckian expressed her concern in relation to the wording of Councillor Des Guckian's Notice of Motion. She queried if the wording 'watered down' was deliberately used to attract media attention. Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that the Notice of Motion is worded in such a format that it implies if a member disagrees with the Notice of Motion that they are not pro-life. She stated that she is pro-life, however, she also stated that agrees that abortion should be available in certain circumstances e.g. in the case of fatal foetal abnormalities or where a pregnancy is as a result of rape. Councillor Sinead Guckian advised that the medical experts are of the opinion that the legislation is unclear and that the issue needs to be addressed. She then referred to a high profile case that came to light in recent years where a pregnant woman that had attended a hospital in Galway had been denied an abortion and subsequently lost her life.

Councillor John McCartin stated that Leitrim County Council has no influence on this issue and it is not relevant to the business of the Council. He advised that a Citizens Assembly will be established to examine the issue and that the process should be free of political interference.

Councillor Caroline Mulvey outlined that the Sinn Fein Members would oppose Councillor Des Guckian's Notice of Motion, however, she stated that the issue needs to be examined but that it is a matter for the electorate to decide through a Referendum on the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Councillor Des Guckian thanked Councillor Justin Warnock for his support. He also stated that he was not calling for a Referendum on the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan stated that Leitrim County Council had previously issued a pro-life stance by supporting a previous Notice of Motion on the matter and that she did not agree with the wording on the second part of Councillor Des Guckian's Notice of Motion.

Councillor Padraig Fallon stated that he would not support Councillor Des Guckian's Notice.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke stated that the issue will be dealt with at a national level and that Leitrim County Council has no role in their regard.

Councillor Mary Bohan, Cathaoirleach asked if there was any counter-proposal to Councillor Des Guckian's Notice of Motion.

Councillor Seadhna Logan proposed a counter-proposal that was supported by Councillor Caroline Mulvey.

Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator outlined that as there were two proposals a vote would have to be taken. The result of the poll taken was as follows:

**Motion 1: 'That we, the Elected Members, stand opposed to any attempts to water down the 8th Amendment to the Constitution and thereby open the door to abortion on demand in Ireland.'**

Proposed by Councillor Des Guckian and Seconded by Councillor Justin Warnock

	For	Against	Abstain	Not Voting
ARMSTRONG-MCGUIRE, FINOLA				✓
BARRY, BRENDAN		✓		
BOHAN, MARY	✓			
DOLAN, FRANK				✓
DOLAN, GERRY				✓
ELLIS, CAILLIAN	✓			
FALLON, PADRAIG		✓		
GUCKIAN, DES	✓			
GUCKIAN, SINEAD		✓		
GURN, FELIM				✓
LOGAN, SEADHNA		✓		
MULVEY, CAROLINE		✓		
MCCARTIN, JOHN				✓
MCDERMOTT, SEAN				✓
McGOWAN, SEAN	✓			
O'ROURKE, PADDY	✓			
STENSON, ENDA	✓			
WARNOCK, JUSTIN	✓			

**Results: For: (7), Against: (5), Not Voting (6).**

**Counterproposal: "That Leitrim County Council call on the Government to put forward a Referendum on the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment"**

Proposed by Councillor Seadhna Logan and seconded by Councillor Caroline Mulvey

	For	Against	Abstain	Not Voting
ARMSTRONG-MCGUIRE, FINOLA				✓
BARRY, BRENDAN	✓			
BOHAN, MARY		✓		
DOLAN, FRANK				✓
DOLAN, GERRY				✓
ELLIS, CAILLIAN				✓
FALLON, PADRAIG	✓			
GUCKIAN, DES		✓		
GUCKIAN, SINEAD				✓
GURN, FELIM				✓
LOGAN, SEADHNA	✓			
MULVEY, CAROLINE	✓			
MCCARTIN, JOHN				✓
MCDERMOTT, SEAN				✓
McGOWAN, SEAN				✓
O'ROURKE, PADDY				✓
STENSON, ENDA		✓		
WARNOCK, JUSTIN		✓		

**Results: For: (4), Against: (4), Not Voting: 10**

At the conclusion of the voting on the counter-proposal 'That Leitrim County Council calls on the Government to put forward an Amendment on the 8th Amendment to the Constitution' there an equal number of votes in favour and against the counter-proposal. Councillor Bohan as Cathaoirleach used her casting vote to vote against the counter proposal and the counter proposal was defeated.

16/128

05/09/2016 **Delays in attaining Appointments to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services**

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

"I will ask for the support of members in calling on the Minister for Health to intervene and address the current delays being experienced attaining appointments to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in this region. Currently there are children and teenagers, who have been assessed and referred to this service but they are now left waiting, some over 12 months, for their initial appointment with CAMHS."

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health to intervene and address the current delays being experienced attaining appointments to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in this region. Currently there are children and teenagers, who have been

assessed and referred to this service but they are now left waiting, some over 12 months, for their initial appointment with CAMHS."

16/129

05/09/2016

**Footbridge over the River Shannon at Rooskey**

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

"I will ask the Director of Services, what is the up to date position with regard to discussions with his colleagues in Roscommon County Council, in relation to having a joint approach to the Department of Transport in seeking to secure funding for the provision of a much needed footbridge alongside the Bridge over the river Shannon at Rooskey.

It is extremely dangerous for the many people both local and tourists who use the bridge on a daily basis. Funding had been committed in the form of a Specific Improvement grant in 2009 but was subsequently withdrawn when the downturn in the economy occurred."

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

"The funding for this type of project is no longer available as the Specific Improvement Grants have been suspended. Roscommon County Council, like Leitrim County Council, is of the opinion that this worthwhile project should be completed but funding will have to be secured separate to the Road Grants. We will be taking this matter up with the Department of Transport to ascertain if separate funding can be secured."

Councillor Sean McGowan stated that the Specific Improvement Grant committed in 2009 for this project had been withdrawn by the Department.

Councillor McGowan proposed that a meeting with Deputy Denis Naughton be sought in order to seek funding for this project and get the work started.

Councillor Sinead Guckian and Councillor Enda Stenson supported the motion. Councillor Enda Stenson proposed that a meeting with the Elected Members of Boyle Municipal District be sought to discuss this motion and other issues.

This was agreed by Members.

16/130

05/09/2016

**Bus Shelters**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to provide bus shelters in our villages and towns which have daily bus services from monies allocated for the Village and Town Renewal Scheme. These towns/villages unfortunately don't meet the criteria for the National Transport Authority to supply shelters, which is urban areas of 1000+ residents"

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

"The Town and Village Renewal scheme will be discussed at the September Council Meeting including the locations proposed and the details and conditions of the scheme. However such county wide initiatives are not eligible as part of the scheme."

Councillor Justin Warnock proposed that funding from the Town and Village Renewal should be sourced to fund Bus Shelters. Councillor Warnock noted that Carrick-on-Shannon is the only town in Leitrim that has a bus shelter.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire noted that there is a business opportunity for advertising on bus shelters and it is nice for people to travel by bus instead of having to take a taxi or train to other locations.

**16/131**  
**05/09/2016**

**Land Banks**

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council if they have lands available in towns and villages in the county for future housing developments?"

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

"The Council is currently completing a statutory Housing Needs Assessment of all applicants on the Housing Waiting List. This will identify areas of greatest social housing need and accordingly the Council's land bank across the county will be kept under review for the provision of social housing developments where need aligns with such locations. The current emphasis in funding from the Department for Leitrim County Council is for the provision of social housing in areas of identified need by means of construction on existing council owned lands, acquisition of existing suitable vacant properties, bringing back into use long-term vacant social housing units and support to Housing Bodies for construction or acquisition of properties to meet local social housing need. Over the current programme this approach combined with the Housing Needs Assessment and the introduction of the Housing Assistance Payment, will have a significant and positive impact in addressing housing need in County Leitrim."

Councillor Sean McDermott acknowledged the reply to his Notice of Motion, however, he requested that consideration be given to providing/acquiring dwellings for use as social housing units in Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim. He outlined that there are sites/dwellings in the village that could be acquired by the Council. Councillor Sean McDermott noted that many towns and villages did not benefit from the tax incentive and it is imperative that these towns and villages are revitalised.

Ms. Quinn acknowledged the concerns of rural local communities that have suffered population declines but she outlined that the provision of social housing support must be on identification of areas of housing need. She advised that the Housing Department is currently in the process of completing the Statutory Assessment of Housing Need and that the areas of most demand are located in South Leitrim. Ms. Quinn also outlined that the provision of social housing support has expanded in recent years to include alternative delivery mechanisms rather than by direction provision/construction of dwellings on Council owned land.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that this issue be listed on the Housing SPC Agenda for discussion. This was agreed by the Members.

**16/132**  
**05/09/2016**

**Gateway Scheme across the County**

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

"I propose that for the next phase of the Gateway Scheme Leitrim County Council look at a wider variety of locations to benefit from the additional staff. The last phase of Gateway primarily benefitted enhancement and works in Carrick on Shannon and Ballinamore. There needs to be a fairer distribution of these scheme workers across the county. Gateway has been a great scheme and has hugely benefitted the areas which have had the staff allocated, so let's ensure a fairer distribution that will benefit a greater proportion of the county's population."

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

"Gateway Scheme outdoor workers in the North and South Leitrim areas have been employed by the Council doing works including upkeep and enhancement works in towns and villages; amenity areas; playgrounds and burial grounds throughout the county. These works are not confined to the immediate vicinity of where their work base is i.e. in Ballinamore; Carrick-On-Shannon; Manorhamilton or Dromahaire and the Council provides transport from these work bases to facilitate this. The vast majority of the persons nominated for the first phase of the Gateway Scheme by the Department of Social Protection (DSP) were from Ballinamore; Carrick-On-Shannon; Manorhamilton or Dromahaire and the DSP require that their work base be close to where they currently are residing as many do not have access to transport to get them to and from work. The Council remains open to having persons nominated from other locations being based in other towns or villages in close proximity to them in any further intake under the Scheme subject to agreement with the DSP and adequate arrangements for their welfare and supervision while working being put in place. This scheme is currently suspended and a replacement scheme is under consideration by the Department of Social Protection."

Councillor Seadhna Logon acknowledged the reply to his Notice of Motion. He proposed that if the Gateway Scheme continues to be available post the current review being undertaken by the Department of Social Protection that the Council will employ Gateway staff in a number of locations throughout the county.

**16/133**

**05/09/2016**

**Grant Aiding the installation of CCTV**

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

"As a further support to the recently launched IFA/An Garda Síochána Theft Stop Scheme to help combat machinery theft from farmyards, we call on the Minister for Regional Development, Rural Affairs, Arts and the Gaeltacht Heather Humphreys in the absence of sufficient garda resources being made available, to give consideration to grant aiding the installation of CCTV cameras at remote farmyard locations."

***Proposed by Councillor Felim Gurn, seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fallon AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:***

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Regional Development, Rural Affairs, Arts and the Gaeltacht Heather Humphreys in the absence of sufficient garda resources being made available, to give consideration to grant aiding the installation of CCTV cameras at remote farmyard locations."

**16/134**

**05/09/2016**

**Establishment of Pharma Vigilance Unit**

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

"I ask that Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Employment Mary Mitchell O'Connor highlighting our suitability in this county for the establishment of a Pharma Vigilance Unit. Within the county we already have experts working in the field, however, government bodies need to come on board and highlight our strengths to the European Medical Agency (EMA)."

***Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED***

"That Leitrim County Council writes to the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Employment Mary

Mitchell O'Connor highlighting our suitability in this county for the establishment of a Pharma Vigilance Unit. Within the county we already have experts working in the field, however, government bodies need to come on board and highlight our strengths to the European Medical Agency (EMA)."

16/135

05/09/2016

**Childcare Services**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to provide Ballinamore Childcare with the necessary funding to provide a fulltime childcare service. There is an immediate need for families in Ballinamore to receive a full time childcare service, as it is the only town of its size in County Leitrim without this crucial service. Full time childcare services are essential for the wider society and the economy. It allows parents, especially women, to return to the labour force and steer clear of potential poverty traps. It sets children on the path to educational attainment and provides employment to the many valuable workers in the childcare sector."

***Proposed by Councillor Caroline Mulvey, seconded by Councillor Brendan Barry AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED***

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to provide Ballinamore Childcare with the necessary funding to provide a fulltime childcare service. There is an immediate need for families in Ballinamore to receive a full time childcare service, as it is the only town of its size in County Leitrim without this crucial service. Full time childcare services are essential for the wider society and the economy. It allows parents, especially women, to return to the labour force and steer clear of potential poverty traps. It sets children on the path to educational attainment and provides employment to the many valuable workers in the childcare sector".

16/136

05/09/2016

**Dangerous/overgrown roadside hedges**

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

"I request that Leitrim County Council contact the Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed asking him to include payments for the cutting of roadside hedges as an option under the Glas Scheme and any future similar scheme and that we also contact the Minister with responsibility for Local government and the Environment Simon Coveney requesting that he make funding available to Leitrim County Council to implement a grant scheme which would be available to landowners and community groups for the cutting of dangerous/overgrown roadside hedges. I believe a relatively small amount of money spent on these measures would greatly improve road safety."

Councillor Gerry Dolan supported the Notice of Motion and he proposed an amendment to the Notice of Motion subject to Councillor Barry's consent 'That Leitrim County Council also calls on the Minister for Agriculture to have the Area Based Payment increased to what it was before 2008 i.e. €4,500 per annum.

Councillor Brendan Barry agreed to the amendment to his Notice of Motion.

***Proposed by Councillor Brendan Barry, seconded by Councillor Gerry Dolan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED***

"That Leitrim County Council contact the Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed asking him to

include payments for the cutting of roadside hedges as an option under the Glas Scheme and any future similar scheme and that we also contact the Minister with responsibility for Local government and the Environment Simon Coveney requesting that he make funding available to Leitrim County Council to implement a grant scheme which would be available to landowners and community groups for the cutting of dangerous/overgrown roadside hedges. I believe a relatively small amount of money spent on these measures would greatly improve road safety.

That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture to have the Area Based Payment increased to what it was before 2008 i.e. €4,500 per annum”.

**16/137**  
**05/09/16**

### **Farm Assist Scheme**

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

"I ask for the unanimous support of this Council in calling on the Minister for Social Protection Leo Varadkar to reverse the cuts to the Farm Assist Scheme and restore the eligibility criteria to what was originally set down by Eamon O Cuiv in 1998 when he introduced the scheme. Farm Assist is a lifeline for many families particularly those with dependents who are experiencing great hardship with all the associated costs, while many single people providing care for elderly parents and relatives depend on the scheme also. The Minister has the means to solve this in the forthcoming budget if he has the will to do it."

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

"That Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister for Social Protection Leo Varadkar to reverse the cuts to the Farm Assist Scheme and restore the eligibility criteria to what was originally set down by Eamon O Cuiv in 1998 when he introduced the scheme. Farm Assist is a lifeline for many families particularly those with dependents who are experiencing great hardship with all the associated costs, while many single people providing care for elderly parents and relatives depend on the scheme also. The Minister has the means to solve this in the forthcoming budget if he has the will to do it."

**16/138**  
**05/09/2016**

### **Home Care Package**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health Simon Harris T.D and the HSE to urgently review the current Home Care Package for older persons. The current scheme is totally inadequate and is causing serious hardship for families."

Councillor Mary Bohan said that it is very important that this issue is kept on the agenda. Older people having lived through different recessions and the current home help hours are insufficient and a half an hour a day is totally inadequate and the HSE need to urgently review the current scheme.

#### ***Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED***

"That Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister for Health Simon Harris T.D and the HSE to urgently review the current Home Care Package for older persons. The current scheme is totally inadequate and is causing serious hardship for families."

16/139  
05/09/2016

**Vehicle Registration Tax**

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

"As a border county, VRT has a crippling effect on business here compared with our neighbours. As the EU commission steers towards phasing out vehicle registration tax and following a recent European court ruling against the legitimacy of convictions of those caught not paying VRT. I propose that Leitrim County Council formally ask the Ministers for Finance and Transport what contingency plans they have to replace lost revenue in the event of the abolition of VRT."

***Proposed by Councillor John McCartin, seconded by Councillor Padraig Fallon AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED***

"As a border county, VRT has a crippling effect on business here compared with our neighbours. As the EU commission steers towards phasing out vehicle registration tax and following a recent European court ruling against the legitimacy of convictions of those caught not paying VRT. I propose that Leitrim County Council formally ask the Ministers for Finance and Transport what contingency plans they have to replace lost revenue in the event of the abolition of VRT."

The business of the meeting concluded at 2.55 pm

**Signed:**

**Councillor Mary Bohan  
Cathaoirleach**

**Signed:**

**Sinead Flynn  
Meetings Administrator**

**Dated: 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2016**