

Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday 7th November, 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. Billy Lowe, Senior Engineer, Water Services
Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure
Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

16/140

07/11/2016 Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Orla Reynolds, The Longford Arms Hotel, Main Street, Longford on the death of Jim & Anne Reynolds.
- Regan Family, Lurganboy, Manorhamilton on the death of Mervyn Regan.
- Rooney Family, Lake Road, Glencar, Co. Leitrim on the death of Mark Rooney.
- Sean Reynolds, Cornagon, Keshcarrigan, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Seamus Reynolds.
- Patsy Feely, Stranamorth, Blacklion, Co Cavan on the death of Eddie Feely.
- Helen Breen, c/o Dr Burkes Surgery, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim on the death of Eileen Breen.
- Joe & Ann Curnan, Drumcroman, Coraleehan, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim on the death of Rose Curnan.

- Cathal & Elizabeth Daly, Gortahooshe, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of Angela Tymon.
- Dobson Family, Drumhanny House, Mohill, Co Leitrim on the death of Olive Dobson.
- Boyle Feane Family, 20 Treamore, Mohill, Co Leitrim on the death of Teresa Boyle Feane.
- Austin Kenny & Family, Ballyhaunis on the death of John Kenny.

16/141

07/11/2016 **Deimhniu Miontuairisci**

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Des Guckian 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, 5th September, 2016 be adopted”.

16/142

07/11/2016 **Realignment of the N16 comprising the construction of a single carriageway road**

Report Ref 16-C-04 from Mr. Frank Curran with regard to the realignment of the N16 National Primary Road in the townlands of Diffreen, Drummahan, Tawnmachugh and Mulkaun comprising the construction of a single carriageway road for a distance of 1.55 km 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 realignment of the N16 National Primary Road in the townlands of Diffreen, Drummahan, Tawnmachugh and Mulkaun comprising the construction of a single carriageway road for a distance of 1.55 km be approved”.

16/143

07/11/2016 **Development Contribution Scheme**

Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner presented a detailed overview of the Draft Development Contribution Scheme. A copy of the Presentation appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Bernard Greene for his presentation and invited questions and comments from the Members.

The following comments were raised:

- Councillor Des Guckian said that he did not agree with the proposed doubling of contributions for rural houses from 1.6% to 1.8%. He stated that the income from Development Contribution Schemes should be provided by Central Government Funding.
- Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that the Members had expressed their views at the recent Workshop on the Draft Development Contribution Scheme. She advised that Members also

made submissions for consideration and that an increase in the Development Contributions Scheme for Rural Dwellers from 1.6% to 1.8% to build a house is high considering that many services are not available to communities that live in rural locations. She expressed her disappointment that the scheme no longer proposed to retain a reduced contribution for new start-up light/general and industrial unit industries.

- Councillor Sinead Guckian welcomed the exemption of development contributions directly associated with the Arts.
- Councillor Paddy O'Rourke complimented Councillor Sinead Guckian on bringing the proposal on the Arts forward.
- Councillor Paddy O'Rourke referred to levies on farmyards, large pig industries and mushroom industries currently in the county. Councillor O'Rourke stated that any further levies on agriculture are a very serious concern for the industry.
- Councillor Padraig Fallon supported Councillor O'Rourke's comments and he also outlined that he would not support an increase in the Development Contributions Scheme for rural dwellings.
- Councillor Stenson pointed out that rural dwellers do not use the services available in our villages and towns and that young people should be encouraged to come back and build on their family farms.
- Councillor John McCartin requested that the Chief Executive responses on the Development Contributions Scheme be circulated to all Members. It was agreed to circulate the information to the Members.
- Councillor John McCartin welcomed the exemption of development contributions on the first 400 square metres of an agricultural development for which planning permission is required. He also welcomed the exemptions of development contributions directly associated with the Arts.
- Councillor Sean McGowan also outlined that he would not support the proposal to increase development contribution charges for rural dwellings. He also proposed that light industries should retain the reduced development contribution charge and he welcomed the exemption in the scheme for Art Galleries and Artists Studios.
- Councillor Brendan Barry also expressed his objection for the proposed increase in development contributions for rural dwellings stating that the cost of building a house in rural areas was already substantial.
- Councillor Justin Warnock stated that the Council should be supporting families and individuals that wish to set up their homes in rural parts of the county and should not be penalising them by imposing high development levies.
- Councillor Paddy O'Rourke queried how effective Leitrim County Council is in policing the erecting of masts which provide a basic structure with minimum services at Garda Stations etc and if there are development contribution charges being imposed for the erection of these masts.
- Mr. Frank Curran advised that the Minister issued a directive to Planning Authorities outlining that these structures be exempted from the Development Contribution Scheme.

- Councillor Mary Bohan stated that additional funding for service provision in the county should be provided by Central Government Funding rather than imposing levies on local people that wish to build their homes in the county.
- Mr. Frank Curran advised that the proposed development contribution charges in Leitrim are more favourable than those in place in adjoining local authorities. He also outlined that people residing in both urban and rural locations benefit from the services provided by the local authority. He also stressed that the income generated from the Development Contribution Scheme is an important source of funding for the local authority and is utilised to provide match funding for many projects that benefit the county.

Mr Curran agreed that the reduced development contribution charge for light industries would be retained.

- Mr Bernard Greene outlined that the Development Contribution Scheme must be evidence based, balanced and equitable. Mr. Greene also outlined that there have been 25 applications for the zero discharge systems, of which 23 applications have been accepted and will now proceed to pre-planning stage and 2 were deemed unsuitable and cannot proceed.
- Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed the update on the zero discharge scheme and stated that there will be an interim period where there will be no building for the next two years.
- Councillor Frank Dolan queried if there are any of the zero discharge applications completed or under construction.

Mr Greene replied by confirming that four units are under construction and that one unit has been completed and occupied. He advised that the Planning Department are in regular contact with UCD and that monitoring of the sites takes place three times per year.

- Councillor Pdraig Fallon proposed that Leitrim County Council write to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government to seek a review of the exemption of antenna and masts from the Development Contribution Scheme.
- Councillor Sinead Guckian welcomed the response from the Chief Executive that the start up light industries will retain a reduced contribution charge.
- Councillor Sinead Guckian sought clarification if one off housing is included in towns and village's figures for reducing our capital spend figure.
- Councillor Des Guckian proposed that the Members should not adopt the Draft Development Contribution Scheme and that as an alternative additional funding should be sought from central Government.
- The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that the meeting be adjourned for 15 minutes to consider the information provided on the proposed charges.

Following the return of Members to the meeting it was agreed that the following amendments would be included in the County Leitrim Development Contribution Scheme 2016-2019:

- An increased development contribution for one-off housing from the present €1,255 to €2,000 for homes up to and including 250sqm.
- The contribution will then increase to a minimum of €4,000 for homes approximately 251sqm. and above.
- Exemptions from development contribution that are directly associated with the Arts e.g. New developments of Art galleries and Artists Studios will be exempt from development charges.
- Light industries stay at the current reduced Development Contribution Rate.
- Renewable Energy 600 per 0.1 MW
- Exemption from Development Contribution on the first 400 square metre of agricultural development for which planning permission is required.

Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan, seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke and RESOLVED

"That the County Leitrim Development Contribution Scheme 2016-2019 would be adopted in accordance with Section 48(8) of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2015 subject to the amendments set out above".

16/144

07/11/2016 Anti Social Behaviour Strategy 2016

Report dated 1st November, 2016 from Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate, Culture & Emergency Services together with a copy of Leitrim County Council's Draft Anti Social Behaviour Strategy 2016 as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms. Quinn advised Members that the policy document had been reviewed by the Joint Policing Committee and the Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee. She advised that it was recommended that the Draft Policy Document be adopted.

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That the Anti Social Behaviour Strategy 2016 be adopted"

The following comments were also raised by the Members:

Councillor Des Guckian stated that he considered that the Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy is too general and that the local authority is reluctant to initiate legal proceedings to evict tenants on anti-social behaviour grounds.

Ms. Mary Quinn outlined that the Council cannot initiate legal proceedings for an eviction unless due procedure has been followed and that verifiable evidence must be presented in Court to warrant eviction proceedings.

Councillor Sean McGowan queried what provisions are in place to address tenants that are persistently engaging in anti-social behaviour.

Ms. Quinn again advised that tenancy warnings have to be issued and that the procedure as outlined in the policy document would be implemented.

Councillor Paddy O' Rourke urged caution in relation to the Members supporting a call for the Council to actively pursue the eviction of tenants from local authority dwellings and potentially increasing homelessness at a time when many people are struggling to find suitable and adequate accommodation. Councillor Enda Stenson supported Councillor O'Rourke's comments.

16/145

07/11/2016 Housing Needs Assessments for Social Housing Supports 2016

Report dated 1st November, 2016 from Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services with regard to a summary of the social housing assessments carried out by Leitrim County Council on 21st September, 2016 under the Statutory Assessment of Housing Need 2016 in accordance with Section 21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009, as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms. Mary Quinn provided an over-view of the contents of the report. The report was noted by the Members

- Councillor Brendan Barry referred to the net need of 377 persons in the county seeking social housing support. He queried if details in relation to the total number of people associated with the 377 households could be made available. Councillor Barry also sought clarification in relation to how the housing needs of the households will be addressed.

Ms Quinn advised that a more detailed report can be provided to the next meeting of the Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee which will address the items raised by Councillor Barry.

16/146

07/11/2016 Disposal of house and site at Amorset, Manorhamilton

Notice of intention dated 27th October, 2016 from Ms. Kathryne Bohan, Administrative Officer, Housing Department with regard to the disposal of No. 9 Cluain Oir, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim and adjoining site comprising circa 0.207 acres (0.084 Hectares) in the townland of Amorset, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim as contained in Folio No. 17908F in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That the disposal of No.9 Cluain Oir, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim and adjoining site comprising circa 0.207 acres (0.084 Hectares) in the townland of Amorset, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim as contained in Folio No. 17908F in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention to dispose of No. 9 Cluain Oir, Manorhamilton Co. Leitrim and adjoining site comprising circa 0.207 acres (0.084 Hectares) in the townland of Amorset, Manorhamilton, dated 27th October 2016 as circulated to each Member be approved”.

16/147

07/11/2016 Overdraft Accommodation

Notice to approve overdraft accommodation in the sum of €1.5 million for the twelve month period ending 31st December, 2017 subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Environment,

Community and Local Government in accordance with Section 106 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended.

Proposed by Councillor Des Guckian seconded by Councillor Felim Gurn AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That overdraft accommodation in the sum of €1.5 million for the twelve month period ending 31st December, 2017, subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, in accordance with Section 106 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended, be approved”.

16/148

07/11/2016 Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1st August, 2016 to 31st August, 2016 and 1st September, 2016 to 30th September, 2016 by Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive, dated 13th September, 2016 and 13th October, 2016 respectively, prepared in accordance with Section 136 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, as circulated to the Members, appear as **Appendix 6** and **Appendix 7** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

- The Town and Village Enhancement Scheme was approved by the Department and work on the project will commence.
- The Rural Recreation Scheme was recently launched and information briefings are being held in The Bee Hive, Manorhamilton on Monday 7th November, 2016 at 6.00 pm and Thursday 10th November, 2016 in The Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon at 6.00 pm.
- A submission for a Board Walk Funding has been approved by the Department.
- Clár Funding Programme 2016 is divided into three areas as follows:
 - **Safety Package for Schools/Community Facilities** - Flashing Amber Lights to be installed at the following schools:
 - Drumlease National School
 - Fenagh National School
 - Gortletteragh National School
 - Drumkeeran National School
 - Kilnagross National School
 - Drumcong National School
 - Kinlough National School
 - Dowra National School
 - Leitrim Village National School
 - Aughavas National School
 - **Speed Safety Signs** - Speed Safety Signs to be erected outside schools on the National Primary and Regional Roads where a reduced speed limit does not apply. The schools are as follows:

- Diffreen National School
- Tarmon National School
- Leckaun National School
- **Pedestrian Crossings** - The following schools require pedestrian crossings:
 - Drumcong National School
 - Drumkeerin National School
 - Carrick-on-Shannon National School
- Replacement of surfaces of the astro pitches at Aura Leisure Facility, Carrick-on-Shannon
- Local access roads to fishing lakes
- Access to the Beach in Tullaghan
- Local Improvement Schemes – picked the 1st 5 applications on the LIS list totally €480,000
- REDZ applications:
 - Ballinamore REDZ Centre of Excellence for Angling
 - Taste Leitrim Food Tourism and Enterprise Zone

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

- The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan welcomed the funding announced by Minister Ring, however, she called for a separate allocation for Local Improvement Schemes. Councillor Bohan outlined that although the Minister for Transport has allowed Local Authorities to allocate 15% of their discretionary budget to Local Improvement Schemes, Leitrim County Council has experienced a significant reduction in funding for the Roads Programme in recent years. She advised that the Council were not therefore in a position to allocate any of its annual roads allocation to the LIS Schemes. Councillor Bohan advised that there are currently 231 applications on the Local Improvement Scheme to date and that the Department should be providing funding directly to the local authority to fund these schemes.
- Councillor Seadhna Logan sought an update on the current situation on the water main between Eslin and Mohill as he had received numerous complaints about the number of bursts on this scheme in recent months.
- Councillor Justin Warnock thanked the Chief Executive for seeking funding for the access to Tullaghan Beach.
- Councillor Pdraig Fallon raised the issue of public lighting in unfinished Housing Estates. Councillor Fallon acknowledged that all applications for zero discharge licences are to be processed apart from two applications.
- Councillor Pdraig Fallon raised the issue that there is no playground in Kinlough and that this needs to be addressed immediately.
- Councillor Justin Warnock informed the Members that there have been meetings to discuss this issue and two sites have been identified and Clar funding has been sought for same.

Mr. Billy Lowe, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure advised that the Eslin watermain has been approved for €500,000. He advised that tender documents are currently being prepared by Irish Water and that following the tender process that the project will proceed to construction in early 2017.

16/149
07/11/2016

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.

16/150
07/11/2016

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:

Ms. Flynn outlined that a meeting of the Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Development an SPC was held on 13th September, 2016 and considered the following items: Update on the Housing Grants, Update on the Housing Needs Assessment, Update on the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme and Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.

Ms. Flynn further outlined that there was no meeting of the other two Strategic Policy Committee's since the last meeting of the SPC and therefore no updates were available.

Update on Budget 2017: The CPG were given an update in relation to Budget 2017 and the date and time of the Budget meeting was agreed for Thursday, 24th November, 2016 at 11 a.m.

Ms. Flynn concluded by stating that the CPG 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.

16/151
07/11/2016

Winter Service Maintenance Plan 2016/2017

The Leitrim County Council Winter Service Maintenance Plan 2016/2017 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 8** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer provided an over-view of the contents of the report. The report was noted by the Members and the following items were raised:

Councillor Des Guckian proposed that Annaduff National School be included in the Winter Service Maintenance Plan. He also requested that the Council staff assist with gritting of local roads in circumstances where there is a funeral and access to a dwelling is via a local road.

- Councillor Enda Stenson and Councillor Sinead Guckian advised that those provisions are already in place and they commended Council staff for providing services in those circumstances.
- Councillor Justin Warnock proposed that that road adjacent to the National School in Kinlough be gritted should the weather conditions arise.

16/152
07/11/2016

Conferences/Training

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

"That the attendance of Councillor Frank Dolan at the AILG training in Dublin on the 19th November, 2016 be approved".

"That the attendance of Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire at the AILG Training in Galway on the 24th November, 2016 be approved".

"That the attendance of Councillor Gerry Dolan and Councillor John McCartin at the Microsoft Excel Training Workshop for Councillors on the 23rd to 24th November, 2016 in the Clonakilty Hotel, Co Cork be approved".

"That the attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the Pakman Awards in the Inter Continental Hotel in Dublin on the 27th October 2016 be approved".

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That the attendance of Councillor Sinead Guckian, Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Gerry Dolan, Councillor John McCartin, Councillor Enda Stenson, Councillor Justin Warnock and Councillor Sean McGowan at the AILG Training on the 13th & 14th October 2016 in Gorey, Wexford be retrospectively approved".

"That the attendance of Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire at the AILG training in Sligo on the 22nd October, 2016 be retrospectively approved".

"That the attendance of Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire at the Action Plan Rural Development Conference on the 3rd October, 2016 in Sligo be retrospectively approved".

"That the attendance of Councillor Enda Stenson at a meeting of the Chairperson's of the Joint Policing Committees held on 13th July, 2016 in Dublin be retrospectively approved".

"That the attendance of Councillor Mary Bohan at the Easter Sunday 1916 Commemorations in Dublin Castle on the 26th March, 2016 to 28th March, 2016 be retrospectively approved".

16/153
07/11/2016

Meeting Correspondence

The following items were considered under Meeting Correspondence:

1. Letter dated 7th September, 2016 from the Department of Transport Infrastructure Ireland acknowledging Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the Dromod Rooskey By Pass, Co Leitrim.
- 1(a) Letter dated 27th September, 2016 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport dated 27th September 2016 acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the N4 Dromod Rooskey By Pass.

2. Letter dated 23rd September, 2016 from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government acknowledging a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the re-establishment of Drainage Boards.
- 2(a) Letter dated 5th October, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in relation to the re-establishment of Drainage Boards.
- 2(b) Letter dated 11th October, 2016 from the OPW acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to re-establishment of Drainage Boards.
- 2(c) Letter dated 14th October 2016 from the OPW with regard to the re-establishment of Drainage Boards.

Councillor Sean McGowan expressed his disappointment with the response received from the OPW in this regard and proposed that contact be made with Minister Sean Canny in this regard.

Councillor Des Guckian supported this and called on the Government and those responsible to provide funding to this Authority for the re-establishment of the Drainage Boards.

3. Letter dated 5th October, 2016 from the Health Service Executive acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to the Home Care Package for Older Persons.
- 3(a) Letter dated 17th October, 2016 from the Department of Health acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Home Care Packages.
4. Letter dated 5th October, 2016 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to Vehicle Registration Tax.
- 4(a) Letter dated 26th October, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Finance acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to Motor Insurance.
5. Letter dated 7th October, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the establishment of a Pharma Vigilance Unit.
- 5(a) Letter dated 17th October, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Health acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Pharma Vigilance Unit.
6. Letter dated 11th October, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to Ballinamore Childcare Services.
- 6(a) Letter dated 24th October, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs with regard to Ballinamore Childcare Services.

7. Letter dated 12th October, 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 Roadside Hedges and Area Based Payment.
- 7(a) Letter dated 19th October 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to making funding available to local authorities for hedge cutting.

Councillor Brendan Barry expressed his disappointment with the reply received in this regard.

8. Letter dated 17th October, 2016 from the Office of the Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

Councillor Sinead Guckian expressed her disappointment with the reply received from the Office of the Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People which was replied to in October, 2016 and that this was only an acknowledgement to a Resolution passed on the 7th March, 2016.

9. Letter dated 26th October 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning Community and Local Government with regard to the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme, 2016.
10. Letter dated 28th October, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Health in regard to the establishment of a Pharma Vigilance Unit.
11. Resolution dated 4th November, 2016 from Castleblayney Municipal District calling on the Taoiseach Enda Kenny to give his reasons why he will not appoint a Minister for Brexit as a result of the referendum in the U.K. to leave the European Union.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon supported the Resolution.

The following items were also raised under Meetings Correspondence:

General Operatives

Councillor Caroline Mulvey sought clarification in relation to the twelve General Operatives were recruited by Leitrim County Council in May, 2016. She queried if their contracts will be extended after November, 2016 and she also requested the date of expiry of the General Operative panel.

Mr. Curran advised that the matter will be reviewed in the context of the necessary finances being available to the local authority. He outlined that the panel for General Operatives will remain in place until September, 2017.

Vote of Congratulations

The Members extended a vote of Congratulations to:

- Glencar Manororhamilton U12 Team on retaining the U12 Leitrim Title.

Notices of Motions

16/154

07/11/2016 **Seek extension to the opening of Parke's Castle and Sean Mac Diarmada**

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

"I propose that this Council contact the OPW seeking an extension to the season which both Parke's Castle and Sean Mac Diarmada's cottage are open. Ideally the season should begin prior to St. Patrick's Day and run until after the October Bank Holiday weekend."

Councillor Padraig Fallon stated that if the opening season for both of these tourist attractions were extended that it would potentially increase the number of visitors and tourists to the county.

Councillor Sean McDermott supported the Notice of Motion.

Proposed by Councillor Padraig Fallon, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council contact the OPW seeking an extension to the season which both Parke's Castle and Sean Mac Diarmada's cottage are open. Ideally the season should begin prior to St. Patrick's Day and run until after the October Bank Holiday weekend."

16/155

07/11/2016 **Summary of Chief Executive's Orders**

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

"That we, the Elected Members, request that a summary copy of Manager's Orders be circulated in advance of each Council meeting and that a slot be afforded to members, at each meeting, to ask questions in relation to the contents of Manager's Orders."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"The register of all Orders made by the Chief Executive and other Delegated Officers is available for inspection by Members at each Council Meeting in line with the provisions of the Local Government Act."

Councillor Des Guckian acknowledged the reply to his Notice of Motion, however, he outlined that the Members are focused on the business conducted at the Council meeting and do not have adequate time within the meeting to review the Chief Executive Orders.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services advised Members, that the Chief Executive Orders are available for Members only and cannot be circulated outside of that medium for data protection and confidentiality reasons.

16/156

07/11/2016 Tree Planting in Leitrim

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

"I will ask for the support of Members, in calling for an investigation by the Departments of the Environment and Agriculture with regard to the excessive planting, tying up of land for farming use and any potential environmental impact of certain types of tree planting in County Leitrim."

Councillor Justin Warnock expressed his concern in relation to the increased forestry activity in the county. Councillor Gerry Dolan and all the Members supported the Notice of Motion.

Proposed by Councillor Justin Warnock, seconded by Councillor Gerry Dolan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council call for an investigation by the Departments of the Environment and Agriculture with regard to the excessive planting, tying up of land for farming use and any potential environmental impact of certain types of tree planting in County Leitrim".

16/157

07/11/2016 Interpretative Centre and Workshop Space

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

"I will ask the Chief Executive what, if any, progress has been made in relation to the development of a new Centre in recognition of the contribution of John McGahern to the County. Has any approach been made to the family to seek their approval for such a facility, has any source of funding been sought/identified, either state or private? The Centre could be both an Interpretative Centre and Workshop Space. Mohill would be an extremely relevant location for such a Centre, given the well known Author's affinity with the town."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"The Council's priority continues to be the progression of a Literary Appreciation Programme. In regard to the development of an Interpretative Centre, it is considered that this would be most effectively progressed by a relevant Community Group in consultation with all relevant stakeholders. The Council will be happy to assist such a group."

Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that a workshop space be provided for 3 months of the summer and he called on the Council to take a proactive approach to liaise with a Community Group in Mohill to progress the development of such a facility in Mohill. Councillor McGowan outlined that the proposal would serve as a tourist attraction for the area.

Councillor Enda Stenson and Councillor Seadhna Logan supported the Notice of Motion.

Mr. Frank Curran advised that the Council had previously engaged with the McGahern Family in this regard and he requested that a contact name for the Local Community Group be provided to the Council.

16/158
07/11/2016

Citizens Assembly

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

"I will ask for the support of Members in seeking an explanation from Government and the Taoiseach, as to why Leitrim is one of 10 counties that have no representation on the newly formed Citizens Assembly and also to request an explanation as to why there wasn't a fairer polling methodology employed to ensure all counties are represented."

Councillor Sinead Guckian said that this issue had been raised in the Dail recently by Deputy Eamon Scanlon and the response received stated that the way it turned out was unfortunate".

Councillor Sinead Guckian outlined that the Citizens Assembly is being asked to consider very important issues and that all counties should be represented on the Assembly.

Councillor Enda Stenson supported the Notice of Motion and it was also agreed to circulate the Notice of Motion to all local authorities.

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

"That Leitrim County Council seek an explanation from Government and the Taoiseach, as to why Leitrim is one of 10 counties that have no representation on the newly formed Citizens Assembly and also to request an explanation as to why there wasn't a fairer polling methodology employed to ensure all counties are represented."

16/159
07/11/2016

Ban on Fracking

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council passes a motion congratulating all of the members of the Oireachtas, from this constituency in particular, for supporting the recent proposal to ban fracking within this jurisdiction. I would further like to put on record our appreciation for the magnificent selfless work undertaken by all of the local groups who have been to the forefront of the anti-fracking movement."

Councillor Felim Gurn paid tribute to Eamon Scanlon T.D., Marc McSharry T.D, Tony McLoughlin T.D. and Martin Kenny, T.D. in supporting the recent proposal to ban fracking in this jurisdiction.

This proposal was unanimously supported by all Members and they also paid tribute to the community groups in the county that had campaigned to ban fracking.

16/160
07/11/2016

Land Drainage and Improvement Grant Scheme

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

"I request that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed to

introduce a Land Drainage and Improvement Grant Scheme with rates comparable to Forestry Establishment Grants per acre. Grazed grass is the cheapest feed available to livestock farmers. Funding in this area would reduce the chances of fodder shortages, encourage farmers to have more productive swards which could be fully utilised and make more farms viable as a business by maximising returns from grazed grass."

Councillor Brendan Barry called on Minister Creed to introduce a Land Drainage and Improvement Grant Scheme which would make farms for viable in the future.

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed to introduce a Land Drainage and Improvement Grant Scheme with rates comparable to Forestry Establishment Grants per acre. Grazed grass is the cheapest feed available to livestock farmers. Funding in this area would reduce the chances of fodder shortages, encourage farmers to have more productive swards which could be fully utilised and make more farms viable as a business by maximising returns from grazed grass."

16/161

07/11/2016

Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement

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

"Leitrim County Council being concerned at the European Commission proposal that EU Member States should sign or support, an agreement allowing 'provisional application' of the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the EU.

That there are major concerns in Ireland and across Europe in relation to CETA.

Leitrim County Council calls on the Irish Government:

-Not to sign up or authorise any 'provisional application' of the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA).

-To facilitate a full Dáil debate on this issue and declare that County Leitrim is a CETA/TTIP Free Zone."

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

"That Leitrim County Council being concerned at the European Commission proposal that EU Member States should sign or support, an agreement allowing 'provisional application' of the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the EU.

That there are major concerns in Ireland and across Europe in relation to CETA.

Leitrim County Council calls on the Irish Government:

-Not to sign up or authorise any 'provisional application' of the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA).

-To facilitate a full Dáil debate on this issue and declare that County Leitrim is a CETA/TTIP Free Zone."

16/162
07/11/2016

Funding for Road Network

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for the Environment to provide adequate funding for the maintenance of our County Road Network and to introduce as a matter of urgency a ring-fenced allocation for the re-introduction of Local Improvement Schemes."

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Des Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for the Environment to provide adequate funding for the maintenance of our County Road Network and to introduce as a matter of urgency a ring-fenced allocation for the re-introduction of Local Improvement Schemes."

Councillor Frank Dolan queried if the Local Improvement Scheme applied for under the Clar Programme will be processed in chronological order. Mr. Shay O'Connor confirmed that the applications will be processed in chronological order.

16/163

07/11/2016 **Outdoor Pursuits Centre at Glenfarne Forest and Lake**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to engage with Coillte regarding the possibility of providing an Outdoor Pursuits Centre at Glenfarne Forest and Lake."

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

"The possibility of such a facility can be explored with Coillte and arrangements will be made to engage with Coillte in this regard."

Councillor Sean McDermott advised that the provision of an Outdoor Pursuits Centre in the Glenfarne Forest would greatly enhance the area and provide an amenity for locals and visitors to the area.

Mr. Frank Curran advised that the Council will engage with Coillte in this regard.

16/164

07/11/2016

Gaelic Games

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the GAA to reverse their policy of selling the exclusive broadcasting rights of Gaelic Games to subscription viewing channels and to return to the long held position of the GAA that ensured all Televised Championship Gaelic Games are shown on terrestrial Free to Air channels for all to see. If the GAA do not reverse this policy we will then call on the Minister for Communications to begin the process under the Broadcasting Act,2009 to designate all Gaelic Games as being Free to Air."

Councillor Enda Stenson outlined his reasons for putting forward his Notice of Motion and called on his fellow Members to support the Motion.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson seconded by Councillor Des Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council call on the GAA to reverse their policy of selling the exclusive broadcasting rights of Gaelic Games to subscription viewing channels and to return to the long held position of the GAA that ensured all Televised Championship Gaelic Games are shown on terrestrial Free to Air channels for all to see. If the GAA do not reverse this policy we will then call on the Minister for Communications to begin the process under the Broadcasting Act,2009 to designate all Gaelic Games as being Free to Air."

**16/165
07/11/2016**

Payments to Farmers

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to demand that the Department of Agriculture pay out all payments to the farmers that are due, especially to young farmers that are desperately awaiting payments. In some cases, the farmers are waiting up to two years for payments."

All Members supported this Notice of Motion.

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

"That Leitrim County Council demand that the Department of Agriculture pay out all payments to the farmers that are due, especially to young farmers that are desperately awaiting payments. In some cases, the farmers are waiting up to two years for payments."

**16/166
07/11/2016**

Slurry Spreading dates

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

"I ask for the support of this Council to call upon the Minister of Environment to make allowances for the poor soil type we work with here in Leitrim when determining slurry spreading dates. The most recent debacle which resulted in farmers being unable to take advantage of the excellent weather conditions because of a fixed date is totally unacceptable and will have to be altered."

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke stated that farmers were unable to spread slurry during the excellent weather conditions experienced in October because of a fixed date on slurry spreading. He called for the Members to call on the Minister for Environment to amend the slurry spreading dates.

All members supported the Notice of Motion.

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke seconded by Councillor Des Guckian UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council call upon the Minister of Environment to make allowances for the poor soil type we work with here in Leitrim when determining slurry spreading dates. The most recent debacle which resulted in farmers being unable to take advantage of the excellent weather conditions because of a fixed date is totally unacceptable and will have to be altered".

16/167
07/11/2016

Flooding

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

"I ask what works have been done by this County Council to relieve areas vulnerable to flooding if we experience heavy rainfall this winter? Have other bodies i.e. ESB, Waterways Ireland or others committed to doing works to relieve fears of flooding in the coming months?"

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

"Leitrim County Council has spent €2m on numerous road projects this year, raising road levels at various locations and improvements to the surface water outfalls in Carrick on Shannon and Leitrim Village. The Council has also obtained planning approval for raising road levels at the rear of the hotels in Carrick on Shannon. At present we are carrying out detailed design work on this project.

The Council is working with the OPW to improve the river channel at Mountcampbell and Jamestown and an application has been submitted to the OPW for funding to carry out these works.

Local Authorities, ESB, Waterways Ireland, OPW, IFA and others are part of the Shannon Flood Risk State Agency Co-ordination Working Group set up in January 2016 to enhance ongoing co-operation across all of the State Agencies involved with the River Shannon. The Working Group had published its work programme for 2016. The work programme sets out the roles and responsibilities of each organisation, the flood risk management works being conducted in the areas of channel maintenance, water level regulation and flows, hydrometric monitoring, flood mapping and flood risk management planning. The work programme is available on www.opw.ie." Councillor Finola Armstrong acknowledged that she was happy with the response received in this regard.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire acknowledged the response received to her Notice of Motion.

16/168
07/11/2016

Libraries

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

"That this Council would oppose the National Policy proposing staff less libraries and will not seek to go down this route as in some other counties. That this Council believes the MY Open Library scheme, from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, will inevitably lead to an erosion of services and will ultimately be very damaging towards library services."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"While there are no open library plans at present in Leitrim, the concept of the open library allows self service access to library members outside of normal opening hours. A number of pilot projects are in operation across the country and are proving successful."

Councillor Seadhna Logan outlined his concern in relation to the proposed introduction of the Open Library Plans and he also outlined that the Unions are opposing the proposal.

Councillor Justin Warnock proposed that a discussion on the Library Service should take place in the county.

Councillor Mary Bohan stated that the Library is a very important service for citizens and that Leitrim County Council has an excellent library network throughout the county. Councillor Sinead Guckian also supported Councillor Bohan's comments and called for additional funding to be made available for library services.

Councillor Seadhna Logan stated that he is fully supportive of the Library Service, he re-iterated his concern in relation My Open Library stating that he is fearful that it will lead to an erosion of services. He also expressed his disappointment that it is no longer mandatory for Library Staff to have knowledge of the Irish Language.

The business of the meeting concluded at 2.55 pm

Signed:
Councillor Mary Bohan
Cathaoirleach

Signed:
Sinead Flynn
Meetings Administrator

Dated: 9th January, 2017