

**Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Aras An
Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday,
4th September, 2017**

Members Present: Councillor Mary Bohan
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 Armstrong–McGuire, Finola
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, Head of Finance and Water Services
Mr. Joe Lowe, Head of Enterprise
Mr. Billy Lowe, Senior Engineer
Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer
Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner
Ms. Una Wynne, Financial/Management Accountant
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator
Mr. Kieran Brett, Senior Staff Officer
Ms. Carmel Coll, Staff Officer
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

17/113

04/09/2017

Votes of Sympathy

Councillor Enda Stenson proposed a special vote of sympathy to Mrs. Margaret Melia and her family on the death of her spouse Mr. Michael Melia, St Patrick's Park, Carrick-on-Shannon. Councillor Stenson paid tribute to Mr. Melia as a highly regarded employee of Leitrim County Council whose untimely death had caused widespread sadness in the local community. This vote of sympathy was unanimously supported by all members.

The Chief Executive, Mr. Frank Curran also expressed condolences on behalf of the management and staff of Leitrim County Council to the Melia family.

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

- Seamus Kane & Family, Dristernan, Drumshanbo on the death of Barbara Kane.
- Damien & Frances Bohan, Augharan, Aughavas, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of Kathleen Bohan.
- The Reynolds Family, Gulladoo, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of Bernard Reynolds.
- Jackie Rooney & Eamon Quinn, Beaghbeg, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of Kelly Rooney Leonard

17/114

04/09/2017 **Deimhniu Miontuairisci**

Proposed by Councillor Des Guckian, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan 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, 3rd July, 2017 be adopted”.

17/115

04/09/2017 **Provision of the realignment of the N16**

Report Ref 16-C-04 from Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive in relation to the provision of the realignment of the N16 National Primary Route in the townlands of Diffreen, Drummahan, Tawnamachugh and Mulkaun comprising the construction of a Type 2 single carriageway road for a distance of 1.55km from Diffreen Bridge to a location 760m east of the N16 junction with local road L-41382. The works will also include the improvement of 4 no. existing junctions off the N16, associated accommodation and fencing works, landscaping works, drainage works and ancillary works, including a number of stream diversions. The development will consist of a 7.0m carriageway with 0.5m hard strips, and an off-road 2-way cycle track located on the northern side of the proposed road 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 Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor Felim Gurn and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the provision of the realignment of the N16 National Primary Route in the townlands of Diffreen, Drummahan, Tawnamachugh and Mulkaun comprising the construction of a Type 2 single carriageway road for a distance of 1.55km from Diffreen Bridge to a location 760m east of the N16 junction with local road L-41382. The works will also include the improvement of 4 no. existing junctions off the N16, associated accommodation and fencing works, landscaping works, drainage works and ancillary works, including a number of stream diversions. The development will consist of a 7.0m carriageway with 0.5m hard strips, and an off-road 2-way cycle track located on the northern side of the proposed be approved”.

17/116

04/09/2017 Provision of the development of an extension to the existing Civic Offices and associated works at Áras an Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon

Report Ref 17-C-06 from Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive in relation to the provision of the development of an extension to the existing Civic Offices and associated works at Áras an Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, of which the Old Jail is a protected structure and of which the complex of former jail structures, lie within the Carrick-on-Shannon Architectural Conservation Area. The development includes: the demolition of shed/workshop structure, demolition of lean-to extension to the Gate Lodge, removal of prefabricated structures; construction of a two-storey office building with three-storey lift and staircase enclosure; refurbishment of the Old Jail to create a public concourse between the Áras and the new building; associated internal modifications to Áras an Chontae; opening of existing blind archway in the east stone boundary wall to the Dock (former Court House) at St. George's Terrace and reconfiguration of the site layout to provide additional car parking, ESB electrical switch room, ancillary works and landscaping 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. Frank Curran, Chief Executive outlined that as part of the public consultation process one submission from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht was received in relation to the archaeological aspects of the proposed scheme. Mr. Curran confirmed that an Archaeologist will be engaged for the duration of the project. He also confirmed that loan approval for the project has been sanctioned and that the estimated completion date for the project is June, 2019. He outlined that the new facility will facilitate all Departments being located on one campus and that the historical fabric of the original building will be maintained.

Councillor Sinead Guckian noted that discussions have taken place to explore the feasibility of opening up the underground tunnel to the public.

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

“That the provision of the development of an extension to the existing Civic Offices and associated works at Áras an Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, of which the Old Jail is a protected structure and of which the complex of former jail structures, lie within the Carrick-on-Shannon Architectural Conservation Area. The development includes: the demolition of shed/workshop structure, demolition of lean-to extension to the Gate Lodge, removal of prefabricated structures; construction of a two-storey office building with three-storey lift and staircase enclosure; refurbishment of the Old Jail to create a public concourse between the Áras and the new building; associated internal modifications to Áras an Chontae; opening of existing blind archway in the east stone boundary wall to the Dock (former Court House) at St. George's Terrace and reconfiguration of the site layout to provide additional car parking, ESB electrical switch room, ancillary works and landscaping be approved”.

17/117

04/09/2017 Dispose of Land at Mohill Townland, Mohill Co Leitrim

Notice of Intention dated 14th August, 2017 from Ms. Kathryn Bohan, Administrative Office, Roads Department in relation to the transfer of a plot of land comprising circa 0.0089 Hectares

(0.022 Acres) in the townland of Mohill, Mohill, Co. Leitrim currently registered in Folio No. LM 9503F in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as circulated to all Members which appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That the transfer of a plot of land comprising circa 0.0089 Hectares (0.022 Acres) in the townland of Mohill, Mohill, Co. Leitrim currently registered in Folio No. LM 9503F in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention dated 14th August, 2017 as circulated to all Members be approved”.

17/118

04/09/2017 Disposal of Lands at Tawnymoyle, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim

Notice of intention dated 16th August, 2017 from Mr. Finian Joyce, Chief Fire Officer, to approve the transfer of a plot of land comprising 3.557 acres (1.440 Hectares) in the townland of Tawnymoyle, Manorhamilton (Freehold Interest registered in the name of Leitrim County Council – Folios NO. LM 12561F, LM 10306F, LM 1124F, LM 8624F) in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as circulated to all Members which appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That the transfer of a plot of land comprising 3.557 acres (1.440 Hectares) in the townland of Tawnymoyle, Manorhamilton (Freehold Interest registered in the name of Leitrim County Council – Folios NO. LM 12561F, LM 10306F, LM 1124F, LM 8624F) in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention dated 16th August, 2017 as circulated to all Members be approved”.

17/119

04/09/2017 Disposal of a plot of land at Attifinlay, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim

Notice of Intention dated 23rd August, 2017 from Mr. Shane Tiernan, A/Director of Services Housing, Corporate, Culture & Emergency Services in relation to the disposal of land comprising circa 0.0404 HA or thereabouts in the townlands of Attifinlay, Carrick-on-Shannon comprised in Folio No. 3664F of the Register of Freeholders, County Leitrim in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and as circulated to all Members which appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Des Guckian objected to the land disposal and stated that it appeared to be a “sweetheart deal”. He stated that a nominal purchase price of €500 was insufficient and that a sum of €20,000 should be sought for the disposal.

Councillor Mary Bohan requested that Councillor Des Guckian withdraw his comments and she stated that the disposal is necessary in order to rectify title registration.

Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer, outlined that the disposal is necessary in order to regularise a mapping error associated with a portion of land sold to Mr. Gerard Reynolds a number of years ago.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the disposal of land comprising circa 0.0404 HA or thereabouts in the townlands of Attifinlay, Carrick-on-Shannon comprised in Folio No. 3664F of the Register of Freeholders County Leitrim in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention dated 23rd August, 2017 as circulated to all Members be approved”.

17/120

04/09/2017

Budgetary Process

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance & Water Services presented a detailed overview of the Budgetary Process for 2018. A copy of the Presentation appears as **Appendix 6** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

The update was noted by the Members.

17/121

04/09/2017

Setting of the Local Adjustment Factor for Local Property Tax Rates for 2018

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire invited the Chief Executive to give an overview of the setting the Local Adjustment Factor for the Local Property Tax Rates in Leitrim for 2018.

Mr. Curran informed the Members that a public consultation process on the setting of the Local Adjustment Factor for Local Property Tax Rates for 2018 had taken place from 12th July, 2017 to 14th August, 2017. He advised that one submission was received during the public consultation process calling on the Council not to increase the LPT liability for property owners in 2018. A copy of the report as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 7** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Curran invited Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance and Water Services to give his presentation. The presentation appears as **Appendix 8** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Dwyer outlined that the value of a potential increase or decrease in the 2018 Local Property Tax if the maximum variation of 5% is implemented would be +/- €106,425 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 than 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 further outlined that an increase in funding from the LPT would result in Leitrim County Council progressing a number of critical initiatives within the county in 2018 e.g. town and rural area cleanups, landscaping and streetscape improvements, community centre public lighting, an

extension of the pilot hedge cutting scheme, minor footpath remediation, town centre initiatives and town renewal.

This update was noted by the members and the following comments were made.

Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that the Members agree not to increase the Local Property Tax Rate in Leitrim for 2018. She stated that even if additional funds were raised by increasing the Local Property Tax liability that it would only provide an additional €35,000 per Municipal District. Councillor Bohan objected to the Local Authority having to increase the Local Property Tax in order to generate additional income for works which should be funded by Central Government funding.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon opposed the proposed increase in the Local Property Tax on behalf of Sinn Fein.

Councillor John McCartin also opposed an increase to the Local Property Tax on behalf of Fine Gael.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported Councillor Mary Bohan and called for no change in the Local Property Tax. She outlined that households in the county are struggling financially and have no capacity to pay an increase in the LPT. Councillor Guckian also stated that it is difficult for the members to make a decision on the LPT rates for Leitrim in 2018 in advance of the national Budget for 2018.

Councillor Des Guckian also supported the call not to increase the Local Property Tax for 2018.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, Seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the basic rate of Local Property Tax should stand varied by 0 per cent for the period 1st November, 2017 to 31st October, 2018 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”.

17/122

04/09/2017

Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1st January, 2017 to 30th June, 2017 and 1st January, 2017 to 31st July, 2017 by Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive, dated 13th July, 2017 and 11th August, 2017 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 9** and **Appendix 10** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Frank Curran also provided a summary of the funding received for Recreational Infrastructure Grants and Clar Funding.

Councillor Enda Stenson expressed his disappointment that St Manachan’s National School in Mohill did not receive Clar Funding.

Mr. Curran also informed the Members that the Council recently received correspondence from the Department of Rural and Community Development in relation to a proposed Local Improvement Scheme for 2017. Mr. Curran advised that the Council must compile a list of eligible LIS Projects for submission to the Department by Friday 14th September, 2017. He advised that the top 20 schemes on the current LIS list will be submitted to the Department. Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer, Roads outlined that the total estimated value of the first twenty LIS schemes on the list is approximately €600,000 and that those applications were submitted for consideration in 2006.

Mr. Curran advised that if funding for Local Improvement Schemes becomes available on an annual basis, then the Environmental, Transportation and Infrastructural Strategic Policy Committee may need to consider the introduction of an alternative prioritisation scheme for LIS applications.

The Members agreed that the existing LIS list should be submitted to the Department for the current call of funding and that consideration can be given to reviewing the scheme if funding is provided on an annual basis.

Councillor John McCartin requested that the current LIS list be forwarded to the Elected Members. It was agreed to circulate a copy of the LIS list to the members.

- Councillor Brendan Barry welcomed the official opening of the boardwalk in Drumshanbo scheduled to take place on Tuesday 5th September, 2017 by Minister Michael Ring. He also expressed his concern that the unaccounted for water in Leitrim is 50%.
- Councillor Enda Stenson queried as to why there has been no decision on the Pilot Zero Discharge Scheme.
- Councillor Paddy O'Rourke also supported Councillor Stenson's comments and queried if any developments have taken place in this regard since the July Council meeting.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation advised that the scheme has not progressed to a great extent over the summer period due to college academic holidays. He advised that the Council continues to be fully committed to the delivery of this scheme and expects to be in a position to provide a timescale for applicants in the coming weeks.

- Councillor Paddy O'Rourke stressed the urgency of the situation and stated that applicants must be issued with an update in order to inform their decision making in relation to career and family choices. He expressed concern that young families that wish to reside in the county may make alternative arrangements to live outside of the county if the matter is not progressed.
- Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that a meeting be scheduled with the relevant Minister in order to progress the matter. This proposal was supported by Councillor Enda Stenson. Councillor John McCartin agreed to setup a meeting with the Minister in this regard.
- Councillor Sinead Guckian welcomed the allocation of funding for the Networks Portfolio and also welcomed the works scheduled for Mountcampbell.

- Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed that work has commenced on the replacement main trunk water line between Mohill and Eslin.
- Councillor Brendan Barry stated that the Corraleehan G.W.S. was out of water over the festival period in Ballinamore due to the increased demand on the scheme. He proposed that funding be sought to upgrade this scheme.
- Councillor Pdraig Fallon outlined that the new Community Centre in Rossinver has a problem with its water supply.

Mr. Billy Lowe, Senior Engineer acknowledged that the leakage on the Corraleehan GWS is very high and he advised that the Council will include this project in the Networks Portfolio application for 2018. He advised that the Community Centre in Rossinver does not fit under the Networks Portfolio as this is a new scheme and he agreed to review the position with Irish Water.

17/123

04/09/2017

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.

17/124

04/09/2017

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. She outlined the following:

- To note the appointment of Councillor Sinead Guckian as the Chairperson and Councillor Mary Bohan as the Vice-Chairperson of the Leitrim Joint Policing Committee.
- To note the review of membership of the LCDC in accordance with Regulation 30 of Statutory Instrument 234 (2014). The review process on the membership of the LCDC has commenced and a further update to the CPG will be provided on conclusion of the review process.

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

17/125

04/09/2017

To note the resignation of the Chief Executive

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire stated that it is with regret that she notes the resignation of Mr. Frank Curran as Chief Executive of Leitrim County Council. She paid tribute to Mr. Curran for his service to County Leitrim and stated that he had been an excellent Chief Executive who actively promoted the development of the county.

The Members congratulated Mr. Curran on his new role as Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council. They paid tribute for the professional manner in which Mr. Curran had carried out his role as Chief Executive of Leitrim County Council and they wished Mr. Curran and his family well for the future.

Mr. Curran thanked the Members for their support, assistance and courtesy during his time as Chief Executive. He also paid tribute to the Members and Staff of Leitrim County Council for their hard work and commitment. Mr. Curran also paid tribute to the business and community sector for their efforts in working in partnership with the local authority for the continued development and enhancement of the county.

17/126
04/09/2017

Conferences/Training

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

"That the attendance of Councillor Justin Warnock, Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Sinead Guckian, Councillor Mary Bohan, Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Enda Stenson, Councillor Caillian Ellis, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke and Councillor Sean McDermott at the LAMA Conference on the 28th September, 2017 to 30th September, 2017 in the Hotel Minella, Coleville Road, Clonmel, Co Tipperary be approved.

"That the attendance of Councillor Mary Bohan at the Conference on a Practical Guide to Budget 2018 on 13th October to 14th October, 2017 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth be approved".

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

"That the attendance of Councillor Pdraig Fallon, Councillor Caillian Ellis, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke and Councillor Gerry Dolan at the AILG Training in Clayton Silver Springs Hotel, Tivoli, Cork on the 23rd September, 2017 be approved".

17/127
04/09/2017

Meeting Correspondence

The following items were considered under Meeting Correspondence:

1. Letter dated 24th July, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Roundup (Weedkiller).
2. Letter dated 24th July, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to AEOS and GLAS Farmers.
3. Letter dated 26th July, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council

in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to the Local Authority 2018 Budgetary Preparation Process.

4. Letter dated 21st August, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Health acknowledging receipt of Resolution from Leitrim County Council in regard to CAMHS Services.

Councillor Sinead Guckian welcomed that 114 Posts have been announced and she proposed that a letter issue to the Minister for Health requesting a breakdown of these posts.

5. Letter dated 22nd August, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Health in regard to the Roundup (Weedkiller).

Councillor Justin Warnock expressed his disappointment with the response received from the Minister for Health in this regard.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke called on Local Authorities should to use an alternative to Roundup to control vegetation in public areas.

6. Resolution from Sligo County Council calling on the Government to prioritise ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
7. Resolution from South Dublin County Council calling on Minister Zappone to increase investment in Early Childhood Care and Education to ensure that Children have access to quality, sustainable and affordable childcare with decent pay and conditions for professionals in the sector.
8. Resolution from South Dublin County Council calling on support of all Local Authorities to ask that a campaign be looked at to deal with the issue of Cyberbullying that poses a serious threat to many children within our area and calling on the Minister for Children, Minister for Justice and Minister for Education to ask that they work together to combat this serious issue with both Legislation and an Education Programme in schools and Education campaign for Parents.
9. Resolution from Limerick City and County Council calling on the Gaelic Athletic Association to halt the current practice of allowing SKY TV exclusive rights to screen particular Gaelic Games Fixtures. Instead, RTE, TV3 or TG4 should be allowed to also screen these fixtures. Denying households who do not subscribe to SKY TV the right to view our National Games is a travesty.

Proposed by Councillor Padraig Fallon, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That Leitrim County Council call on the Gaelic Athletic Association to halt the current practice of allowing SKY TV exclusive rights to screen particular Gaelic Games Fixtures. Instead, RTE, TV3 or TG4 should be allowed to also screen these fixtures. Denying households who do not subscribe to SKY TV the right to view our National Games is a travesty”.

- 10 Letter dated 23rd August, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Health acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to the Community Hospital in Ballinamore.

11. Email from Jimmy, McGovern, Vice President for the Border, Midlands & Western Region, Union of Students in Ireland dated 31st August, 2017 calling on the support of Leitrim County Council for Publicly Funded Higher Education and opposing the introduction of an Income Contingent Loan Scheme.

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

“That Leitrim County Council supports publicly-funded higher education and rejects income contingent loan schemes. A publicly-funded higher education funding model has shown to be more beneficial to the student, state and society on economic, social, public and private benefits. Recognising the benefits, culturally and economically, of the historic decision to invest in publicly funded secondary education in Ireland is also recognising that the introduction of publicly funded third level education would further encourage a generation of young people to attain the highest levels of education. Further recognising that a number of contributing factors have led to a significant gap in funding for the third level sector and that, while this shortfall must be addressed, it cannot be at the expense of those most vulnerable in our society. Leitrim County Council calls on the Government to affirm its commitment to providing equality of access to education for all; to reject any move to implement an income contingent loan scheme to fund third level education; and to adopt a policy of ending college fees and implementing a truly publicly funded higher education system in Ireland”.

17/128

04/09/2017

Vote of Congratulations

The Members proposed a vote of congratulations to Kiltyclogher Community on the success of the Kilty Live Campaign.

17/129

04/09/2017

Presentation from the Valuation Office

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire welcomed Mr. Declan Lavelle, Head of Valuation Services to deliver his presentation on the National Revaluation Programme. Mr. Lavelle provided a detailed presentation on the National Revaluation Programme. A copy of the presentation appears as **Appendix 11** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire thanked Mr. Lavelle for his presentation and invited any questions/comments from the Members.

The Members discussed at length the issues that they have with the Commercial Rate Liabilities for business owners in the county. They expressed concern in relation to the inequity for some ratepayers and stated that many small businesses particularly in rural parts of the county are struggling to continue to operate in the current climate.

It was noted that the Valuation Office will be facilitating a Clinic in the Council Offices in Carrick-on-Shannon to give ratepayers the opportunity to meet with staff from the Valuation Office and discuss any concerns that they may have.

Notices of Motions

17/130
04/09/2017

Withdrawal of banking services in County Leitrim

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

"That we, the Elected Members, condemn the withdrawal of proper face-to-face, in-bank banking services in County Leitrim, by Bank of Ireland and others. This is causing a lot of dissatisfaction for all users and great hardship for businesses. It is ironic that we, the public, were forced to bail out the banks and we are being "thanked" by the same banks by drastic cut-backs in their services."

Councillor Des Guckian stated that he was not critical of front-line banking staffs that provide a good banking service to the community but rather senior management that are implementing policy decisions that are eroding banking services in local communities. Councillor Guckian stated that banking management wish to create a cashless society and he also expressed concern that the Bank of Ireland in Mohill is rumoured to close with a resulting reduction in banking services to the local community and a loss of employment for the staff currently employed there.

Councillor Des Guckian proposed that a letter issue to the Minister in this regard and a copy of his Notice of Motion be circulated to all Local Authorities. This proposal was supported by Councillor Seadhna Logan and Councillor Mary Bohan. Councillor Felim Gurn also expressed concern in relation to the withdrawal of teller services in the banks in Manorhamilton. Councillor Gerry Dolan expressed concern in relation to the closure of the night safes for use by business customers.

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

"That we, the Elected Members, condemn the withdrawal of proper face-to-face, in-bank banking services in County Leitrim, by Bank of Ireland and others. This is causing a lot of dissatisfaction for all users and great hardship for businesses. It is ironic that we, the public, were forced to bail out the banks and we are being "thanked" by the same banks by drastic cut-backs in their services."

17/131
04/09/2017

Prescription Charges

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

"I propose that this Local Authority calls for the abolition, removal, and ending of prescription charges."

Proposed by Councillor Padraig Fallon, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council calls for the abolition, removal, and ending of prescription charges".

17/132
04/09/2017

Rural Development Directorate

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

"I will propose that Leitrim County Council consider the establishment of a Rural Development Directorate. I believe this could be a way of putting much more of a focus on the needs of our small towns and villages and the rural areas that are struggling at the moment."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.

"County Leitrim is the most rural county in Ireland with around 90% of the population to be deemed living in rural areas. As a consequence of the County's rural profile practically all plans and strategies of the Council along with the implementation ethos across all divisions is of a rural development mind-set. The steering of the development of the County by the Council is supported through the Local Community Development Committee which is now also the Local Action Group for the Leader Program, the Tourism Growth Alliance and its working groups and other supportive groupings such as the Age Friendly Alliance, Joint Policing Committee etc. The Council has in place the County Development Plan, the Local Economic and Community Plan, Economic Development Strategy, Tourism Development Strategy, Local Development Strategy, Arts Development Plan etc. Each of these plans and strategies were developed based on substantial community consultation across the entire county which ensured the full involvement of all towns, villages and hinterlands. The implementation of this suite of plans and strategies is ongoing across all divisions and has been assisted in recently through the commencement of new funding opportunities. In addition, implementation is supported and monitored through the groups referred to above. Therefore it is unnecessary to consider the establishment of a Rural Development Directorate which would serve only to duplicate the work and efforts of the existing structures which are actively working for the development of this rural county."

Councillor Frank Dolan acknowledged the reply to his Notice of Motion, however, he outlined that a more joined up approach is required in order to sustain small towns and villages in rural parts of the county. Councillor Dolan called for additional resources to be made available to assist local communities with funding applications etc in order to sustain the long-term viability of rural communities.

Councillor Sean McDermott supported the Notice of Motion.

17/133
04/09/2017 **Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Scheme**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire proposed that Motion No. 19 in the name of Councillor Sinead Guckian and Motion No. 28 in the name of Councillor Seadhna Logan be dealt with concurrently. This was agreed by the Members.

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

"At the September meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask the CE how many "Minor Flood Mitigation Works & Coastal Protection Scheme" projects have been applied for by Leitrim County Council, to central Government and were successfully awarded funding by the OPW since the scheme was introduced in 2009 and for the details of same."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.

"Since the Minor Flood Mitigation Works scheme was introduced by the OPW, Leitrim County Council has applied for 38 schemes. Of these 20 have been approved and we have received grant funding of €1.02m.

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

"That Leitrim County Council seek further funding for flood relief and drainage measures as the existing allocations to the Council and Municipal Districts are wholly inadequate to deal with the need and demand for works in the county."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.

"The Council prepared a review of the needs in this regard for the SPC last year and has since followed up with request for adequate funding to address the issues. However, to date these requests have been unsuccessful but the Council will continue to use all opportunities to pursue the matter. These schemes were to carry out drainage improvement works in such places as Glenfarne, Leitrim Rd Carrick on Shannon, Lough Reane, River Shannon at Mountcampbell, Eslin River, Stonepark Dromahaire, Greyfield Drumkeeran, Killargue, Carrowcrin, Dromore, Canbey and Liscoghill. It should be noted that the criteria for such schemes has changed recently. The benefits in calculating the benefit to cost ratio have been increased which should increase the number of viable schemes in the future."

Councillor Sinead Guckian acknowledged the reply to her Notice of Motion, however, she expressed her concern that a significant number of applications for the Minor Flood Mitigation Works were not approved for funding.

Councillor Seadhna Logan requested that a copy of the review which was carried out by the SPC last year as referred to in the reply to his Notice of Motion be circulated to all Members. Mr. Shay O'Connor agreed to this request

Mr. O'Connor also agreed that the funding available to the Council for drainage/flood mitigation works is inadequate. He advised that under the Minor Flood Mitigation Works Scheme the protection of physical properties was given a higher priority and that the methodology in calculating the benefit to cost ratio have been amended which may assist with increasing the approval of more schemes in the future.

Mr. O'Connor also referred to the recent visit to the county by Minister Kevin 'Boxer' Moran and his indication that the Government plan to introduce additional flood relief/drainage scheme measures.

**17/134
04/09/2017**

Housing Grant Scheme

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

"I seek the support of Members in calling on the Department and the Minister Mr. Eoghan Murphy TD, to review the terms and conditions of the Housing Grant Scheme to allow Local Authorities to

use discretion in the awarding of house repair grants for older people. In the case where an applicant has transferred ownership of their home over to one of their children, but they will still continue to live in their home for the rest of their days, that they would be entitled to apply for and receive grant approval for works on the merits of their own income."

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Department and the Minister Mr. Eoghan Murphy TD, to review the terms and conditions of the Housing Grant Scheme to allow Local Authorities to use discretion in the awarding of house repair grants for older people. In the case where an applicant has transferred ownership of their home over to one of their children, but they will still continue to live in their home for the rest of their days, that they would be entitled to apply for and receive grant approval for works on the merits of their own income."

**17/135
04/09/2017**

St Patrick's Hospital, Carrick-on-Shannon

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

"May I request support of Members in requesting the HSE to forward to the Council a full breakdown on existing staff and patient numbers at St. Patricks Hospital in Carrick-on-Shannon and also to outline the future plans regarding a new building at this location."

Councillor Des Guckian proposed that the following be added to the motion "projected patient bed numbers". Councillor Enda Stenson agreed to this request.

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

"That Leitrim County Council request the HSE to forward to the Council a full breakdown on existing staff and projected patient bed numbers at St. Patricks Hospital in Carrick-on-Shannon and also to outline the future plans regarding a new building at this location."

**17/136
04/09/2017**

Car parking and traffic management in Manorhamilton

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

"The inadequate number of car parking spaces and attendant traffic management issues in Manorhamilton have unfortunately contributed to the recent closure of the last remaining retail shop on the Main Street of Leitrim's second largest town. Unless radical and imaginative measures to alleviate this perennial problem are undertaken by the Executive, the likelihood of new viable enterprises being established on the once thriving Main Street is remote and the possibility of more businesses closures increasingly likely."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.

"Retail town centres across all of Ireland are suffering from negative pressures which are of a complex nature and contributed to in the main by matters outside the control of many of the stakeholders. However, with regard to the matters raised the Council has plans developed, which are currently progressing through public consultation, for the revision of traffic flow while the matter of car parking has and continues to receive consideration by the Council within the resources available. In the meantime the Council continues to work actively with the local REDZ Team on a variety of initiatives aimed at the continued enhancement of Manorhamilton as a key driving town in the County"

Councillor Felim Gurn called for additional car-parking to be provided in town centres. He stated that a lack of adequate car-parking is impacting negatively on local businesses i.e. if people do not have a place to park they will go elsewhere with their business.

Councillor Frank Dolan supported the Notice of Motion. He referred to the recent placement of bollards at Teapot Lane, Manorhamilton which has reduced the availability of car parking in Manorhamilton town centre. Councillor Dolan called for an urgent review of car parking in Manorhamilton.

17/137

04/09/2017

Renovation of vacant properties

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

"I ask that this Council will unanimously support a call to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the introduction of a meaningful and workable scheme to renovate many of the vacant properties, which with a small amount of outlay could provide comfortable homes, small retail or work type premises. As it is generally agreed that the much flagged 'Rebuilding Ireland' introduced by Minister Coveney in 2016 has failed in its objectives principally because of the convoluted and complicated nature of it. We simply have to have a scheme to bring these many properties back into useful purpose."

Report by A/Director of Services Housing, Corporate, Culture & Emergency Services

"The Repair and Leasing Scheme (RLS) has been developed under Rebuilding Ireland to assist property owners in bringing vacant properties back into use. Where a property requires repairs to bring it up to the standard required for rented properties, the RLS will pay for the repairs up-front in return for the property being leased to a local authority or Approved Housing Body (AHB) to be used as social housing for a period of at least 10 years. Under the scheme, the cost of the repairs will be repaid by the owner by offsetting it against the rent due to the owner for the property over the period of the lease agreement. The maximum funding available is €40,000, inclusive of VAT.

The Buy and Renew scheme aims to support Local Authorities (LAs) and Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) to purchase and renew housing units that require remediation, and make them available for social housing use in areas of housing need. This is to enhance and support urban and rural renewal and the vacant homes strategy. The above renewal schemes are targeted at increasing supply of social housing support but do not extend to retail, commercial or work type premises."

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the introduction of a meaningful and workable scheme to renovate many of the vacant properties, which with a small amount of outlay could provide comfortable homes, small retail or work type premises. As it is generally agreed that the much flagged 'Rebuilding Ireland' introduced by Minister Coveney in 2016 has failed in its objectives principally because of the convoluted and complicated nature of it. We simply have to have a scheme to bring these many properties back into useful purpose."

17/138

04/09/2017

Plan to eradicate TB

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

"In 2008, I believe a delegation from the Animal Health Board in New Zealand visited Ireland and the UK to share how they successfully reduced TB. At that time a vaccine which was successful in New Zealand on possums was trialled on badgers here to prevent them getting TB and found to be "Efficacious". They hoped that further studies would be carried out so that a licence would be granted for its use in Ireland. Has this happened? Has a vaccination programme been put in place? How does the Department of Agriculture plan to eradicate TB?"

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Barry, seconded by Councillor Frank Dolan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Agriculture in regard to the Delegation in 2008 from the Animal Health Board in New Zealand that visited Ireland and the UK to share how they successfully reduced TB. At that time a vaccine which was successful in New Zealand on possums was trialled on badgers here to prevent them getting TB and found to be "Efficacious". It was hoped that further studies would be carried out so that a licence would be granted for its use in Ireland. Has this happened? Has a vaccination programme been put in place? How does the Department of Agriculture plan to eradicate TB?"

17/139

04/09/2017

Call for investment in Childcare

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on this Government to provide adequate investment in the Childcare Sector in Budget 2018, to alleviate the costs of childcare on families and to provide decent pay and conditions for Childcare Workers."

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

"That that Leitrim County Council call on this Government to provide adequate investment in the Childcare Sector in Budget 2018, to alleviate the costs of childcare on families and to provide

decent pay and conditions for Childcare Workers."

17/140
04/09/2017

Ban the use of glyphosate weed killers

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

"I will also ask for the support of the Elected Members in calling on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Eoghan Murphy TD to ban the use of glyphosate weed killers in all public areas in our thirty-one local authorities."

Proposed by Councillor Justin Warnock, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Eoghan Murphy TD to ban the use of glyphosate weed killers in all public areas in our thirty-one local authorities".

17/141
04/09/2017

Disabled Persons Grants

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to allow greater flexibility in relation to income calculation for Disabled Persons Grants."

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to allow greater flexibility in relation to income calculation for Disabled Persons Grants."

17/142
04/09/2017

Tax policy on Residential Rental Income

This Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Frank Dolan as Councillor John McCartin had to leave the meeting before his Notice of Motion could be heard.

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

"Since the combined cost of servicing borrowings, maintenance and tax on rental income is almost double the actual rental income derivable on residential property, it is not economically viable for the private sector to provide residential property for the rental market. In order to encourage the private sector to provide affordable housing, I propose that Leitrim County Council ask the Minister for Finance to consider the implementation of a tax policy on residential rental income in line with other European countries."

**Proposed by Councillor John McCartin, seconded by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire
AND RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council asks the Minister for Finance to consider the implementation of a tax policy on residential rental income in line with other European countries, in order to encourage the private sector to provide affordable housing. Since the combined cost of servicing borrowings, maintenance and tax on rental income is almost double the actual rental income derivable on residential property, it is not economically viable for the private sector to provide residential property for the rental market. "

17/143

04/09/2017

Wind Turbines

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

"To ask this Council to reconsider granting Planning Permission to Wind Pylon Companies to erect large numbers of pylons in any one area as the sight from them between Arigna and Drumkeerin have become an eye sore and destroys the view in that area."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.

"The policy for the approval of wind turbine proposes is set down in the County Development Plan 2015-2021 and the National Wind Energy Guidelines 2006. This Council's policy is guided by the Landscape Character Assessment encompassing matters such as areas of outstanding natural beauty, areas of high visual amenity, and other environmentally sensitive areas identified in the Plan. The Plan also contains a set of criteria for the accommodation of Wind farms. In addition proximity to existing energy networks is a required consideration. Within this framework proposals for wind farms are assessed in detail. Any decisions of the Planning Authority can be subject to an appeal to An Board Pleanala also. An "emerging draft approach" to the review of the Wind Development Guidelines 2006 has been recently published which would place an obligation on the developer of a wind energy project to consult with communities prior to submitting a planning application and the application should reflect how the final proposal reflects community consultation. A Community Dividend would be a core component of future wind farm development. The revised Guidelines are expected in early 2018. The Department requires through Circular Letter PL 20-13 and PL5/2017 that Planning Authorities defer from amending their existing Development Plan policies in relation to wind energy and renewable energy generally until said revised Guidelines are published."

Councillor Gerry Dolan's Notice of Motion was also supported by Councillor Des Guckian and Councillor Caroline Gildea.

Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner advised that is not possible to put wind turbines in hidden areas due to their size. He outlined that the policy for the approval of wind turbines is included in the Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021 and the National Wind Energy Guidelines, 2006. Mr. Green stated that the Council's policy is guided by the Landscape Character Assessment encompassing matters such as areas of outstanding natural beauty, areas of high visual amenity, and other environmentally sensitive areas identified in the Plan. He further advised that a set of criteria for the accommodation of Wind farms is also included and that proximity to existing energy networks is also a required consideration.

17/144
04/09/2017

Taxi Ranks at Carrick-on-Shannon Railway Station

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

"I ask that we write to Iarnrod Eireann requesting that signage be placed at Carrick-on-Shannon Railway Station highlighting the new Taxi Ranks which have been placed there by Roscommon County Council. Signage needs to be placed on the platform informing commuters that there is a ramped exit leading to the Taxi Rank where Taxis queue for customers. Signage should also be placed at the Taxi Rank encouraging Taxis to operate from the area."

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

"That Leitrim County Council write to Iarnrod Eireann requesting that signage be placed at Carrick-on-Shannon Railway Station highlighting the new Taxi Ranks which have been placed there by Roscommon County Council. Signage needs to be placed on the platform informing commuters that there is a ramped exit leading to the Taxi Rank where Taxis queue for customers. Signage should also be placed at the Taxi Rank encouraging Taxis to operate from the area."

17/145
04/09/2017

Housing Building Programme in Kiltyclogher

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to consider a Housing Building Program in Kiltyclogher, as the community had great success over the summer inviting families to come to live in their village and to help save their Primary School from closing. Unfortunately there are not enough houses in Kiltyclogher for all the families who have indicated they want to live in Kiltyclogher."

Report by A/Director of Services Housing, Corporate, Culture & Emergency Services

"The Social Housing Building Programme is informed by the housing need in a particular area based on the Social Housing Waiting List. Social housing applicants can select up to three Areas of Choice to be considered for social housing support. In this regard, Kiltyclogher encompasses the Area of Need - North 2 which also includes Manorhamilton. There is a currently a social housing construction programme to provide an additional 7 units of social housing support in this area at Taobh Tire, Manorhamilton. In addition, a number of dwelling acquisitions have been delivered for this area to meet the housing need. With regard to the households that have expressed an interest in moving to Kiltyclogher, such households would have to be assessed for and deemed qualified for social housing support. Once an assessment of need is completed the local authority will be in a position to make an informed decision in relation to how best to meet the housing need as determined by the assessment process. Any households that are deemed qualified for social housing support can then pursue tenancies under the Housing Assistance Scheme (HAP) to meet their immediate housing need and the local authority can also consider other social housing options e.g. RAS, Leasing or the allocation of standard local authority tenancies. The Council will also explore opportunities in Kiltyclogher under the Repair and Leasing Scheme and the Buy and Renew Scheme in the context of providing additional social housing in the short to medium term."

Councillor Sean McDermott paid tribute to the local community effort in Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim for the 'Kilty Live Campaign'. He advised that the campaign to attract new families to come and reside

in Kiltyclogher has been a great success and that there has been a significant increase in the number of pupils now enrolled in the local National School, which will safeguard the school remaining open for the foreseeable future. Councillor McDermott stated that the Local Authority must now be proactive in providing a new social housing scheme in the village to meet the demand for social housing.

Councillor Mary Bohan, Councillor Justin Warnock and Councillor Felim Gurn also supported the Notice of Motion.

The business of the meeting concluded at 3.30 p.m.

Signed: Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire
Cathaoirleach

Signed: Sinead Flynn
Meetings Administrator

Dated: 6th November, 2017