

Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday, 5th November 2018

Members Present: Councillor Armstrong-McGuire, Finola
Councillor Bohan, Mary
Councillor Barry, Brendan
Councillor Dolan, Frank
Councillor Dolan, Gerry
Councillor Ellis, Caillian
Councillor Fallon, Padraig
Councillor Guckian, Des
Councillor Guckian, Sinead
Councillor Logan, Seadhna
Councillor Mulvey, Caroline
Councillor McCartin, John
Councillor McDermott, Sean
Councillor O'Rourke, Paddy
Councillor Stenson, Enda
Councillor Warnock, Justin

And Councillor McGowan, Sean
Cathaoirleach presiding

Apologies: Councillor Gurn, Felim

Officials Present: Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive
Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Transportation
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services
Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water Services & Environment
Ms Una Wynne, Financial Management Accountant
Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer
Mr Francis Gaffney, A/Senior Engineer
Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner
Mr Justin Fannon, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Kieran Brett, Meeting Administrator
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan outlined at the outset that the Corporate Policy Group had agreed to facilitate the recording of the announcement by Minister Kevin Boxer Moran.

This was noted and agreed.

18/156
05/11/2018

Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Willie Bohan & Family, Funshinagh, Keshcarrigan on the death of Michael Bohan.

18/157
05/11/2018

Visit from Minister Kevin Boxer Moran

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed Minister Kevin Boxer Moran, Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform with special responsibility for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief, Mr John Simmons, Commissioner, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform with special responsibility for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief, Derek Devaney, Private Secretary to Minister Boxer Moran, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Deputy Martin Kenny, Deputy Tony McLoughlin and Senator Frank Feighan to the meeting.

Minister Kevin Boxer Moran, Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform with special responsibility for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief announced funding of €8 million for flood relief works in County Leitrim. Minister Boxer Moran outlined he had worked hard to ensure the plan was in place for flood relief works along the worst impacted parts of the country. He stressed his job was to protect the homes and families of this country and he outlined €50,000 had been provided to Leitrim County Council for drainage works in the last 12 months. The schemes will be advanced by Leitrim County Council as the lead agency working in collaboration with the OPW. Minister Boxer Moran also confirmed talks were underway with Waterways Ireland to modernise Jamestown Weir and consultants are being appointed to examine the removal of pinch points along the Shannon.

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive, welcomed Minister Kevin Boxer Moran and his officials. Mr Power thanked him for his co-operation on this matter and for the funding announced for County Leitrim for flood relief measures.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan thanked Minister Kevin Boxer Moran and welcomed the funding announcement. He invited any questions/comments from Members.

All members welcomed the funding announcement.

The following items were raised by the Members:-

- Works at Jamestown Weir
- Levels in Lough Allen
- Lough Allen Study
- Requirement for funding for smaller drainage schemes
- Impact on insurance when drainage works completed
- Building of one off houses

Minister Kevin Boxer Moran responded to the queries raised and he thanked the Oireachtas Members, Executive, Cathaoirleach and the Elected Members for consistently highlighting the issue of flooding in Leitrim and he said the Department and OPW are committed to finding a workable solution for the County Town.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan thanked Minister Kevin Boxer Moran, his officials and stated Leitrim County Council looked forward to working with them into the future on this issue.

18/158

05/11/2018

Deimhniu Miontuairisci

Proposed by Councillor Callian Ellis seconded by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire 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 September 2018 be adopted”.

Proposed by Councillor Des Guckian seconded by Councillor Padraig Fallon and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of Leitrim County Council Special Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday, 10th September 2018 be adopted”.

18/159

05/11/2018

Disposal of Rural Cottage and adjoining site

Notice of Intention dated 12th October 2018 from Johanna Daly, Administrative Officer, Housing in relation to the disposal of Rural cottage and adjoining site comprising circa 1.08 acres (0.44 Hectares) in the townland of Corgar, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim N41 W738 (Freehold Interest registered in the name of Leitrim County Council – Folio No LM14081) in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as circulated to all Members which appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the disposal of rural cottage and adjoining site comprising circa 1.08 acres (0.44 Hectares) in the townland of Corgar, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim N41 W738 (Freehold Interest registered in the name of Leitrim County Council – Folio No LM14081) in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention dated 12th October 2018 as circulated to all Members be approved”.

18/160

05/11/2018

Disposal of land

Notice of Intention dated 23rd October 2018 from Susan Barry, A/Senior Staff Officer, Finance in relation to the disposal of land comprising circa 0.0105 hectares (0.026 acres) at Duncarbry Td., Tullaghan, Co Leitrim Folio LM19158 in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as circulated to all Members which appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Justin Warnock seconded by Councillor Padraig Fallon and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the disposal of land comprising circa 0.0105 hectares (0.026 acres) at Duncarbry Td., Tullaghan, Co Leitrim Folio LM19158 in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention dated 23rd October 2018 as circulated to all Members be approved”.

18/161
05/11/2018

Overdraft Accommodation

Notice to approve overdraft accommodation in the sum of €1.5 million for the twelve month period ending 31st December 2019, 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 Padraig Fallon seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the overdraft accommodation in the sum of €1.5 million for the twelve month period ending 31st December 2019, 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”

18/162
05/11/2018

Report from Audit Committee

Report dated 30th October 2018 from Bryan Kelly, Chair of the Audit Committee as circulated to all Members appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Des Guckian noted it was a very general report and sought a list of the subsidiaries companies of Leitrim County Council as referred to in the report.

Mr Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water Services and Environment confirmed Leitrim Leisure, Aura Leisure and the Dock are subsidiary companies of Leitrim County Council.

The report was noted by the Members.

18/163
05/11/2018

Winter Service Maintenance Plan 2018/2019

The Leitrim County Council Winter Service Maintenance Plan 2018/2019 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 4** 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 Paddy O'Rourke proposed that road L1587 out of Carrigallen be included in the Winter Service Maintenance Plan 2018/201.
- Councillor Des Guckian proposed that gritting be extended from Annaduff Church to outside the School as this can be a very dangerous location on a frosty morning.
- Councillor Brendan Barry proposed that the road from Letterfine to Keshcarrigan should be included in the Winter Maintenance Plan as there is a very steep hill on this route and it is the shortest route from Leitrim Village to Carrick.
- Councillor Gerry Dolan proposed that the route from Aughacashel to Ballinamore be included in the Winter Maintenance plan and he pointed out that there are 4 hills on this route.
- Councillor Caillian Ellis proposed that the acute bend on R201 should be included in the Winter Maintenance Plan. Councillor John McCartin concurred with Cllr Ellis in this regard.

Mr. Shay O'Connor advised that the Council does not have the financial resources available to include any additional roads or have the capacity to purchase a new gritter in the Winter Service Maintenance Plan.

18/164

05/11/2018

Corporate Policy Group Report

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services gave an overview of the items considered by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting held prior to the Council meeting:

- **Update on Budget 2019 and Date for the Budget 2019 meeting**

Ms. Quinn outlined that the CPG were given an update on the Budget preparation process which is ongoing t. She advised that the CPG are recommending that the Budget 2019 Meeting will be held on Monday 26th November, 2018 at 11.00 am. Ms. Quinn further advised that the matter is listed as a separate agenda item to be agreed by the Members.

- **Update from Strategic Policy Committee's**

Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee

Councillor Gerry Dolan, Chairperson, outlined that a meeting of the Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee was held on Wednesday, 26th September 2018 and considered the following items:

- Update on the Peace IV Programme
- Preparation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024
- Update on Housing Grants

Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee

Councillor Sean McDermott outlined that an Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee meeting took place on 18th September 2018 and considered the following items:

- Update on the Heritage Plan
- Presentation on Forestry from Scott Coombs
- Presentation on Diaspora Strategy from Mark Conway
- Update on Digital Strategy
- **Update on the LCDC**

Ms Quinn outlined that the update from the LCDC report was noted.

Ms Quinn outlined that the Corporate Policy Group considered the nomination of members to attend a delegation with the TII in relation to the National Primary Roads in County Leitrim and the following nominations was agreed.

- Cllr. Sean McGowan
- Cllr. Sean McDermott
- Cllr. Sinead Guckian
- Cllr. Gerry Dolan

Ms. Quinn also outlined that an over-view of items listed on the agenda for the Council meeting was provided and that the attendance of Members at forthcoming Conferences/Seminars was also agreed by the Corporate Policy Group.

18/165

05/11/2018

Date of Budget Meeting

Ms. Quinn advised that the Corporate Policy Group is recommending that the Budget Meeting be scheduled for Monday, 26th November 2018 at 11.00 am.

Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott AND RESOLVED:

“That the Budget Meeting of Leitrim County Council be held on Monday, 26th November, 2018 at 11.00 am in Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon”.

18/166

05/11/2018

Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1st August 2018 to 31st August 2018 and 1st September 2018 to 30th September 2018 by Lar Power, Chief Executive, dated 12th September, 2018 and 22nd October 2018 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, appears as **Appendix 6** and **Appendix 7** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Brendan Barry noted that there was no figure for UFW in the September report. He also queried the number of mortgages approved.

Mr Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water Services and Environment advised that the UFW Audit is carried out on a quarterly basis and this will be included in the next report and an update will be circulated to all Members on mortgages. This update was noted by Members.

18/167

05/11/2018

Section 138 (1) of the Local Government Act 2001

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services outlined that there were no commitments to note under this item.

18/168

05/11/2018

Conferences/Training

Proposed by Councillor Pdraig Fallon, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the attendance of Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire and Councillor Sean McGowan at the Conference on “100 years of Women’s Votes” on the 19th November 2018 at the Model in Sligo be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Frank Dolan and Councillor Justin Warnock at the Conference on “EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020” in Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth on the 14th to 16th December 2018 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Pdraig Fallon at the AILG Training for the Dublin, Eastern & Midlands Region on the 17th November 2018 in Leixlip be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire at the AILG Training in the Kilmore Hotel, Cavan on the 22nd November 2018 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sinead Guckian, Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Justin Warnock and Councillor Paddy O’Rourke at the AILG Training on the 25th & 26th October 2018 in the Hillgrove Hotel & Leisure Spa, Monaghan be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Enda Stenson at the Parnell Summer School on the 12th to 16th August 2018 in Avondale, Co Wicklow be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Paddy O’Rourke at the IOWA Conference on the 13th December 2018 in Heritage Hotel, Killenard, Portarlinton, Co. Laois be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the National Day of Commemoration Ceremony on the 8th July 2018 in Collins Barracks, Dublin be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the Papal Visit on the 26th August 2018 in Knock Shire, Knock be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the Built Heritage meeting with Taoiseach on the 12th September 2018 in Irish Architect War Achieve, Dublin be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the Disability Launch” how local authorities can accommodate people with disabilities” on the 26th September 2018 in Dublin be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the launch of “Use your Brain not your fist” on the 18th October 2018 in Maldon Hotel, Tallaght be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire at the Retail Excellence Awards in Killarney on the 10th to 11th November 2018 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the Pride of Place Awards in the City Hall, Cork on the 17th to 18th November 2018 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the National Enterprise Town Awards in Kilkenny on the 28th to 29th November 2018 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the Transparency of online political advertising on the 6th December 2018 in Dublin Castle be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Frank Dolan at the President’s Inauguration in Dublin Castle on the 11th November 2018 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Frank Dolan at the Chamber Awards in the Crown Plaza Hotel, Dublin on the 22nd and 23rd November 2018 be approved”.

18/169

05/11/2018

Meeting Correspondence

1. Resolution dated 27th August 2018 from Clare County Council calling on the Government to enact the Dail motion passed in November 2016 in support of protecting and developing the Post Office network and its services.
2. Letter received 31st August 2018 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in regard to funding for the Local Improvement Scheme and other road funding.
3. Resolution dated 18th September 2018 from Sligo County Council calling on the Government “to intervene now to prevent An Post using a very restrictive anti-rural definition of a “settlement” taken from the Central Statistics Office 2016 census report as part of the criteria for establishing a post office in an area. An Post has stated that no settlement of over 500 people will be left without a post office. A settlement is defined as “having a minimum of 50 occupied dwellings with a maximum distance between any dwelling and the building closest to it of 100 metres, and where there is evidence of an urban centre”. This is too restrictive and rules out vast areas of rural Ireland including many medium sized towns”.
4. Resolution dated 18th September 2018 from Wexford County Council calling on the Government to Enact Private Members Dail Motion of the 11th November 2016, Postpone the closure of Post Office while the Kiwi Post Bank model for the Irish Post Office network is developed and the motion to be promptly conveyed to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment and Deputy Haughton”.
5. Resolution dated 10th October 2018 from Clare County Council calling on the Minister for Education and Skills to recognise the important role that outdoor educational centres play in the education and development of our youth by funding all staff salaried of outdoor educational centres directly from department funds”.

6. Letter from Northern & Western Regional Assembly dated 10th October 2018 in regard to the Galway European Capital of Culture 2020.
7. Letter dated 17th October 2018 from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment acknowledging receipt of resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to free recycling facilities for farmers to dispose of all plastic bags from fertiliser and animal feed.
8. Email dated 23rd October 2018 from An Taoiseach acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to the Insurance Fraud Unit.
- 8(a) Letter dated 22nd October 2018 from the Office of the Taoiseach acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to the Insurance Fraud Unit.
9. Letter dated 23rd October 2018 from the Office of the Minister of Housing, Planning and Local Government in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council concerning the minimum reckonable income for eligibility under the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016.
10. Letter dated 23rd October 2018 from the Office of the Minister of Housing, Planning and Local Government in regard to Housing Assistance Payment Scheme.
11. Letter dated 22nd October 2018 from the Office of the Minister of Housing, Planning and Local Government in regard to the zero discharge waste water scheme.

Members expressed their dissatisfaction with correspondence from the Office of the Minister in relation to the zero discharge wastewater.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that Motion No 24 in the name of Councillor Sean McDermott and Motion No 25 in the name of Councillor Brendan Barry would be taken concurrently as they all relate to Code of Practice and zero discharge. This was agreed by the Members.

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

"I ask that Leitrim County Council request the EPA to attend a Council meeting as soon as possible, in regard to the impact their Code of Practice has on Waste Water Treatment Systems for single houses, especially in County Leitrim."

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

"I request that Leitrim County Council supports The Local Government Water Pollution Amendment Bill 2018 introduced by Deputy Martin Kenny as an affordable solution for people wishing to build houses in Co Leitrim and calls on The Government to support this Amendment and get it passed into law."

Councillor Sean McDermott outlined that the solution is never going to be achieved as the bar is so high and he proposed that the EPA be invited to come before the Council on this issue. This was supported by Councillor Gerry Dolan, Councillor Des Guckian and Councillor Frank Dolan who sought an update on the pilot schemes.

Councillor Brendan Barry called on the Government to support the Water Pollution Amendment Bill 2018. Councillor Pdraig Fallon supported the motion.

Councillor Justin Warnock expressed his disappointment with the remarks from the EPA and supported the call for the EPA equivalent organisation from Fermanagh be invited to a Council meeting of Leitrim County Council.

Councillor Sean McDermott outlined that he is aware of the Bill and said it is important that the Government look at the Bill and amend it accordingly.

Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that a meeting be sought with the Minister in this regard.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Transportation advised that the Code of Practice was published in 2010 and Leitrim County Council have to comply with the Code of Practice. He outlined that he was familiar with the bill and outlined he has had discussions with Deputy Kenny in this regard. Mr Gilhooly outlined Leitrim County Council is trying to establish national funding for pilot schemes in this regard.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor Brendan Barry AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council request the EPA to attend a Council meeting as soon as possible, in regard to the impact the Code of Practice has on Waste Water Treatment Systems for single houses, especially in County Leitrim."

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

"That Leitrim County Council supports The Local Government Water Pollution Amendment Bill 2018 introduced by Deputy Martin Kenny as an affordable solution

for people wishing to build houses in Co Leitrim and calls on The Government to support this Amendment and get it passed into law."

12. Resolution dated 4th October 2018 from Donegal County Council calling on the "An Post and the Dublin Government to reverse their decision to close 17 post offices in Donegal and also to reverse their decision to close all the other Post Offices across the state. If the Gaeltacht is to survive it needs these services in the community. This Government is on one hand talking about the importance of saving "An Gaeltacht" and "Rural Ireland" but on the other hand it is taking away vital services from our community".
13. Letter dated 26th October 2018 from the EPA in regard to Planning Permission for Rural Houses.
14. Letter dated 26th October 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in regard to the Local Improvement Scheme.
15. Letter dated 31st October 2018 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government calling for submissions in relation to the Local Authority Elected Members Role and Remuneration Review.

Councillor Sinead Guckian called on all Elected Members to participate in the open call for submissions in this regard.

18/170
05/11/2018

Vote of Congratulations

The Members unanimously extended a vote of congratulations to the following:-

- President, Michael D Higgins on his inauguration for the second term as President of Ireland.
- Carrick Hurling Club on winning the Hurling Connacht Junior Club Championship.
- Glenfarne/Kiltyclogher GAA on winning the Junior A Championship of County Leitrim.
- Hugh James Gallaher, Chairman, An Tostal on the success of the Haunted House in Drumshanbo.
- Cllr Seadhna Logan and his partner on the birth of their baby girl.

Notices of Motions

18/171

05/11/2018

Tourism, Recreation and Amenities Funding

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

"When will a response be received to the September motion asking for a breakdown of Tourism, Recreation and Amenities funding received along with a breakdown of spend per project in each Municipal District so far during this Council term."

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

"The breakdown of funding received under the CLAR, REDZ, Towns & Village, Rural Recreation Infrastructure & SAINT Project from 2015-2018 per Municipal District is as follows:

Manorhamilton - €1,439,706.51 encompassing 25 Projects

Ballinamore - €1,877,678.51 encompassing 25 Projects

Carrick on Shannon - €1,729,707.51 encompassing 28 Projects

Total Funding = €5,047,092.53 encompassing 78 Projects.

The amount outlined is the grant aid received in respect of each project while the actual total cost of each project will also include match funding from the Local Authority or Community Applicant.

The breakdown is supplied separately."

Councillor Padraig Fallon thanked the Executive for the comprehensive breakdown received in this regard and highlighted the importance of a Tourism Project for North Leitrim.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported the Greenway Project for North Leitrim.

All Members supported this motion.

18/172

05/11/2018 Village Design Statement for Villages of Dromod & Rooskey

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

"I ask the Chief Executive, Mr Lar Power, to draw up a Village Design Statement for the Villages of Dromod & Rooskey, in view of the fact that both villages have been by-passed. I believe that it is vitally important that such a plan should be put in place as soon as possible for the future development of the villages.

Previously a commitment was given to draw up an Urban Framework Plan for both villages but that fell by the wayside when the recession hit. I would ask that both communities would be consulted during the preparation of such a plan."

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

"Leitrim County Council will be shortly commencing preparatory work for the review of the County Development Plan 2021-2027 with the formal process expected to commence in May 2019. This will include the land use zoning objectives for the villages of Dromod and Rooskey. There are no plans to include Village Design Statements within this process. The review of the County Development Plan will be the priority for the Planning Authority over the next couple of years followed by a review of the Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan in conjunction with Roscommon County Council.

The Council is aware that a similar type plan (Integrated Action Plan) is being drawn up by Rooskey Town and Country Development in conjunction with both Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils. It is considered that a similar type approach by a local community group in Dromod, with potential assistance through the LEADER Programme, should be examined."

Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that an Integrated Action Plan for Dromod and Rooskey should be drawn up for the future development of these villages.

Councillor Des Guckian supported the motion.

18/173

05/11/2018 Disposal of Council Lands

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

"That Leitrim County Council officials not only consult with and gain the approval of Cllrs for sale and disposal of Council properties, but that they do the same in

advance of purchases of properties and the awarding of contracts which involve companies doing work for and on behalf of Leitrim County Council. That this applies, in each case, for purchases and/or contracts valued 3,000 euro and above."

Report by Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services

"The disposal of Council lands is a reserved function of the Elected members in line with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act as amended. Procurement guidelines as set by the Office of Government Procurement are complied with in the buying and procurement of goods and services. The award of Contracts and purchase of property are executive functions."

Councillor Des Guckian expressed his disappointment with the reply received in this regard and highlighted that members should have an oversight of what is going on and there should be openness, transparency and information should be shared with all Elected members.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke outlined that some commercial transactions have to be undertaken sensitively.

Councillor Des Guckian acknowledged remarks from Cllr O' Rourke and sought clarification on what input Elected Members have in this regard.

Councillor McCartin advised an Audit Committee, Risk Register and systems are in place. Procurement guidelines are set by the Office of Government Procurement in regard to the buying and procurement of goods and services. Councillor John McCartin outlined he could not support the motion.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services advised that the disposal of Council lands is a reserved function of the Elected Members in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act as amended. The awarding of contracts and purchase of property are Executive Functions.

18/174

05/11/2018

National Broadband Plan

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

"That Leitrim County Council condemns the ill advised meeting of Government Ministers and representatives of the sole remaining tenderer for the National Broadband Plan, thus ensuring greater delays for the necessary delivery of High Speed Broadband to rural areas. That this Council also notes these meetings were inappropriate and calls on the new Minister for Communications, Climate Change and Natural Resources to prioritise an uncontaminated tendering process in the hope of saving the plan as envisaged."

Councillor Seadhna Logan outlined the impact of lack of broadband on businesses.

Councillor Mary Bohan stressed that Broadband is so essential for people who want to study or work from home. Councillor Bohan queried if Leitrim County Council are still on course to providing broadband in the towns and villages of Leitrim.

Councillor Des Guckian opposed the motion and outlined the Minister in question stood up for the people and proposed that a national company be established to look after this service.

Proposed by Councillor Seadhna Logan seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan and RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council condemns the ill advised meeting of Government Ministers and representatives of the sole remaining tenderer for the National Broadband Plan, thus ensuring greater delays for the necessary delivery of High Speed Broadband to rural areas. That this Council also notes these meetings were inappropriate and calls on the new Minister for Communications, Climate Change and Natural Resources to prioritise an uncontaminated tendering process in the hope of saving the plan as envisaged".

**18/175
05/11/2018**

Home Care Support

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to write to the Minister for Health and the HSE regarding the gross inadequate funding of home care support. Many elderly people, are finding themselves left with no cover at weekends and Bank holidays and with only the minimum provided throughout the week. Appeals to the HSE are met with a recommendation to seek the services of private agencies to fill in the short fall. This is not acceptable and the result inadequate home care provided may in many cases result in people going into long term care. As we approach the winter, something has to give."

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke outlined the background to his motion.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported the motion and outlined that people want to live in their own homes.

Councillor Brendan Barry stated it is insulting for people to receive communication to

employ private home care contractors at weekends.

Councillor Des Guckian proposed that Mr John Hayes, CEO of the HSE be invited to address the Members and hear their views on this issue.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke proposed that any correspondence that is received in regard to this motion be circulated to the members in advance of the January 2019 Council meeting.

All members supported the motion.

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

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Health and the HSE regarding the gross inadequate funding of home care support. Many elderly people, are finding themselves left with no cover at weekends and Bank holidays and with only the minimum provided throughout the week. Appeals to the HSE are met with a recommendation to seek the services of private agencies to fill in the short fall. This is not acceptable and the result inadequate home care provided may in many cases result in people going into long term care. As we approach the winter, something has to give".

**18/176
05/11/2018**

IDA Visits

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

"As we near the end of 2018, I ask has the IDA made many visits to Leitrim this year? And what is the prospects of more jobs being created here in Leitrim?"

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

"IDA reported site visits to County Leitrim were 2 visits in Quarter 1 2018 and 3 site visits in Quarter 2 2018. Figures for Quarter 3 have not yet been made available. By comparison, there were 8 site visits in 2016 and 5 site visits in 2017.

In regard to the creation of further foreign direct related jobs in the County, IDA Ireland continues to highlight the benefits of expanding or locating in all parts of Ireland including County Leitrim. Leitrim County Council endeavours to engage actively with the IDA and property owners in this regard on an ongoing basis and is currently completing additional promotional material for the County. It is important to remember however, that the final decision as to where to invest always rests with the company concerned.

It is also the case that site visit activity does not necessarily reflect investment potential, as almost 70% of all new foreign direct investment comes from existing IDA Ireland client companies. Indeed there are very successful IDA client companies in the County in both Manorhamilton and Carrick on Shannon who are expanding and increasing their staff numbers.

It is also important to note that the growth of jobs in Leitrim occurs across numerous sectors - for example in 2017 Local Enterprise Office supported businesses created 31 jobs while 51 people took part in start your business course and 24 grants were also approved."

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Transportation outlined IDA site visits have been stronger in Leitrim for this year.

18/177

05/11/2018 **Upgrade and Realignment of the R280**

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

"I ask that Leitrim County Council seek funding for the upgrade and realignment of the R280. This road runs right through the heart of North Leitrim from Tullaghan to Carrick on Shannon, and now with so much emphasis on connectivity it is imperative that this road is upgraded."

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

"The R280 is our most important non national road, which connects South and North Leitrim. The realignment and upgrading of this road is a desire of this local authority. Works of such nature were carried out under the Specific Improvement Grants funded by the Department of Transport. These grants were suspended a number of years ago during the economic downturn.

The Department of Transport has reintroduced these grants now for certain projects. Leitrim County Council has obtained funding for Hartley Bridge under this scheme. The Department has advised local authorities that they do not have funding for schemes such as upgrading a regional road like the R280. However we will commence the process of seeking funding for such a project and will keep the Council advised of our progress."

Councillor Frank Dolan referred to the "Smart Villages - An Opportunity to Revitalise Rural Ireland - Autumn Conference" which was held recently in Lough Rynn and he noted Mr David Minton, Director, Northern & Western Regional Assembly displayed a map of the road infrastructure in Leitrim and it showed how serious the issue is in

County.

Councillor Mary Bohan and Councillor Justin Warnock supported the motion

Councillor Enda Stenson complimented Leitrim County Council on the great success of the conference on "Smart Villages - An Opportunity to Revitalise Rural Ireland" held in Lough Rynn recently.

18/178

05/11/2018

Livestock Export Trade

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

"I ask for the support of the Elected Members of Leitrim County Council in calling on the Minister for Agriculture and Food Michael Creed, TD and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney, TD to update the livestock farmers of Leitrim and Ireland on progress to date in sourcing new markets and discussions undertaken with shipping companies to facilitate the increase in livestock exports post Brexit."

Councillor Justin Warnock outlined the importance of live exports to Ireland.

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture and Food Michael Creed, TD and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney, TD to update the livestock farmers of Leitrim and Ireland on progress to date in sourcing new markets and discussions undertaken with shipping companies to facilitate the increase in livestock exports post Brexit".

18/179

05/11/2018

Cervical Checking

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

"In light of the Cervical Check Scandal, I will ask for the support of the Members in calling on the Minister for Health, to guarantee complete transparency in relation to the current screening packages being renegotiated and to ensure, with clarity, that these new packages will guarantee that there won't be any recurrence of misreads. And to also ask the Minister to introduce legislation and policy on accountability and

mandatory open disclosure, independent of the patient safety bill, as soon as possible to rebuild confidence in the healthcare service."

Councillor Sinead Guckian said her thoughts and prayers are with the families of the affected and she expressed her disappointment with the Irish State and its appalling record on addressing Women's health over decades.

**Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"In light of the Cervical Check Scandal, Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health, to guarantee complete transparency in relation to the current screening packages being renegotiated and to ensure, with clarity, that these new packages will guarantee that there won't be any recurrence of misreads. And to also ask the Minister to introduce legislation and policy on accountability and mandatory open disclosure, independent of the patient safety bill, as soon as possible to rebuild confidence in the healthcare service."

18/180

05/11/2018

Signage

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

"I ask if the Executive can look at the possibility of having signage as you enter County Leitrim - Welcome to County Leitrim
The homestead of Sean Mac Diarmada"

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

"Our current signage is consistent with our Tourism Strategy reflecting the broad offering of the County as a tourist destination."

18/181

05/11/2018

Housing Needs

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

"What plans has this Council re housing needs of those of limited ability who may need sheltered / serviced accommodation now and in future years?"

Report by Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services

"The Joint Leitrim County Council / HSE Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2020, developed by the Housing and Disability Steering Group under the provisions of the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability and the associated National Implementation Framework, sets out in detail the approach for the delivery of housing for people with disabilities through mainstream housing options. The four categories of disability referred to in the strategy are Sensory Disability; Mental Health Disability; Physical Disability and Intellectual Disability and/or Autism. The Strategy has been drawn up based on information from the Assessments of Housing Need and broader formalised consultation with relevant statutory agencies, service users groups and disability organisations. The strategy forms an integral part of our Housing Services Plans and promotes and supports the delivery of accommodation for people with disabilities using all appropriate housing supply mechanisms including any one or a combination of the following options - Local Authority Stock; Approved Housing Body Stock; Social Housing Leasing Initiative (SHLI); Rental Accommodation Scheme; Private Rented/Rent Supplement; Housing Assistance Payment (HAP); Housing Grant Schemes etc. The strategy also supports longer term strategic planning.

While the Local Authority, as Housing Authority, has a key role in the provision of social housing supports for all eligible persons with a disability, including people currently living independently, or with families or in other arrangements, in many cases the solution for the individual will also require the support of the HSE (direct service provision) service providers and the non-statutory service providers. The HSE is required to provide individual Care Plans at initial housing application stage in order to assist the local authority in assessing the housing need and recommending an appropriate and suitable social housing support option. Suitable supports / care plan also inform the decision making process to determine the most appropriate social housing support and to ensure that those supports are in place post-tenancy in order to support the applicant in their transition to alternative accommodation and to sustain the tenancy. The core goal of the strategy, while recognising the associated challenges, is to meet the identified housing needs of people with disabilities locally and to facilitate access for people with disabilities to the appropriate range of housing and related support services, delivered in an integrated and sustainable manner, which promotes equality of opportunity, individual choice and independent living."

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire gave the background to her motion.

Councillor Mary Bohan paid tribute to Árus Bride which is a voluntary housing scheme in Drumkeerin.

Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services outlined that she would be happy to discuss this with the Councillor in question.

18/182
05/11/2018

Cleaning of Rivers

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to confirm how many rivers were cleaned in 2017, 2018 and how many are planned for 2019?"

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

"In 2017 this local authority carried out works in the Headford Drainage District and the Ballinamore/Ballyconnel Drainage District. We also carried out improvement works under the OPW Minor Flood Relief Scheme to the main river channel on the River Shannon at Jamestown.

In 2018 we have completed or will complete works on rivers/streams in the Eslin, Headford, Rynn/Black and Ballinamore/Ballyconnel Drainage Districts. These extra works are only possible in 2018 due to the allocation of €50,000 by the OPW for works on drainage districts. We also carried out improvement works in 2018 under the OPW Minor Flood Relief Scheme at Rossinver and Dromore.

In 2019 it will depend on the amount of funding available before we decide on which rivers and streams to work on. The extra funding provided in 2018 was of great benefit but the OPW did stress that this was a once off allocation. Leitrim County Council normally provides €20,000 in the Revenue Budget for this work."

Councillor Caroline Mulvey acknowledged the reply received in this regard.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion.

18/183
05/11/2018

Provision of footpaths and public lighting

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

"I call on the Government to provide adequate funding to Leitrim County Council for the provision of footpaths and public lighting as a matter of urgency in the interest of health and safety."

Councillor Mary Bohan welcomed the funding for sports fields/sports centres etc. However she outlined her dissatisfaction with the need for local communities to provide funding for footpaths and public lighting.

**Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fallon
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Government to provide adequate funding to Leitrim County Council for the provision of footpaths and public lighting as a matter of urgency in the interest of health and safety."

18/184

05/11/2018

Regasification Terminal

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

"I call on Leitrim County Council with the support of the Councillors to support the community in Ballylongford, Co Kerry that are concerned about the construction of a regasification terminal that will bring shale gas from America into Ireland."

Councillor Gerry Dolan gave the background to his motion.

Proposed by Councillor Gerry Dolan seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council support the community in Ballylongford, Co Kerry that are concerned about the construction of a regasification terminal that will bring shale gas from America into Ireland."

The business of the meeting concluded at 3.05 p.m.

Signed:

**Councillor Sean McGowan
Cathaoirleach**

**Kieran Brett
Meetings Administrator**

Dated: 7th January 2019