

Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday, 8th January 2018

Members Present: Councillor Mary Bohan
Councillor Barry, Brendan
Councillor Dolan, Frank
Councillor Dolan, Gerry
Councillor Ellis, Caillian
Councillor Fallon, Padraig
Councillor Guckian, Des
Councillor Guckian, Sinead
Councillor Gurn, Felim
Councillor Logan, Seadhna
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

Apologies: Councillor Mulvey, Caroline

Officials Present: Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Chief Executive
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. Shane Tiernan, A/Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation
Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer
Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner
Ms Una Wynne, Financial Management Accountant
Mr Terry McGovern, A/Senior Executive Officer
Mr Darragh O'Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms Vivienne Egan, Senior Executive Planner
Mr Martin Donnelly, Executive Technician
Ms Aoife Mulcahy, Executive Planner
Ms. Joan Lowe, Meetings Administrator
Mr Finbar Keaney, Staff Officer
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

18/01

08/01/2018

Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Mrs Clare Hyland, Corrawallen, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of William Neill.
- Mrs Nora Tubman, Fenaghbeg, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim on the death of Eamon Tubman.
- Mr Sean McIntyre, Clooncorrick, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of George McIntyre.
- John Paul Moran & Family, Cornashamsogue, Drumshanbo on the death of Elizabeth Moran.
- The Family of the Late Gabriel Miney, Amorset, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim.
- The Family of the Late Peter D. Sutherland, Donnybrook, Dublin.

18/02

08/01/2018

Deimhniu Miontuairisci

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

“That the Minutes of Leitrim County Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday, 6th November , 2017 be adopted”.

Councillor Brendan Barry requested the following amendment to the Minutes of the 6th November 2017 Council Meeting.

Land Drainage and Improvement Grant Scheme

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

"With another fodder shortage looming I request that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Michael Creed to put in place a Land Drainage and Improvement Grant Scheme as a long term solution to try and prevent this happening again. The Department needs to look for solutions not obstacles and design a scheme that will get European Commission approval and see all allocated funds being spent on machine hire and materials not assessments or bureaucracy. Land improvement would make Irish farms more viable, sustainable and efficient and add to Ireland's green image."

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Barry seconded by Councillor Gerry Dolan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Michael Creed to put in place a Land Drainage and Improvement Grant scheme as a long term solution to try and prevent this happening again. The Department needs to look for solutions not obstacles and design a scheme that will get European Commission approval and see all allocated funds being spent on machine hire and materials not assessments or bureaucracy. Land improvement would make Irish farms more viable, sustainable and efficient and add to Ireland's green image”.

Councillor Des Guckian requested the following amendment to the Minutes of the 6th November 2017 Council Meeting

- An update on the Capital Works Project planned for the replacement of 1,680 meters of old 300 mm AC Trunk Main at Mountcampbell

The above amendments to the Minutes were agreed by the Members and incorporated into the Minutes of 6th November 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Brendan Barry and RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of Budget Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in Aras An Chontae, on Monday, 27th November 2017 be adopted”.

Councillor Des Guckian noted that he still had not received a breakdown on the Landfill Aftercare Costs.

Councillor Des Guckian requested an amendment to the Minutes of the Budget meeting indicating that he stated that he opposed the Budget.

Councillor Mary Bohan said there was no support for Councillor Des Guckian's counter-proposal.

18/03 Corporate Plan
08/01/2018

Report dated 2nd January, 2018 from Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, A/Chief Executive in relation to progress achieved in 2017 on Leitrim County Council's Corporate Plan 2014-2019, in accordance with the provisions of Section 134 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended, as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, A/Chief Executive gave a summary of the report and highlighted a number of key initiatives delivered in 2017.

The following comments were raised by the Members:

- Councillor Sinead Guckian queried if Leitrim County Council has any indication on how the Leader applications are progressing and when will applicants be advised on the position of their applications. Councillor Guckian stated that applicants have incurred a lot of expense to get these applications to application stage and she acknowledged and expressed her concerns that the process is very long and oversubscribed.
- Councillor Sean McDermott acknowledged that there is a lot less money coming from the scheme and a lot more people are looking for money. Councillor McDermott noted that other Local Authorities are more progressed with this scheme than in Leitrim and he emphasised that these applications should be progressed as quickly as possible.
- Council Paddy O'Rourke noted that the old Leader Programme was a simpler scheme, the current scheme is making community groups disillusioned and the best projects are lost.

Joseph Gilhooly, A/Chief Executive gave an overview on how the Leader applications are processed and he acknowledged that a lot of paperwork and effort has been put into these applications by the applicants. He also acknowledged that the scheme is over subscribed and is a lower value programme. Mr Gilhooly advised that the EU Leader Programme is governed by EU Regulations, transferred into Irish Regulations and procurement rules relate to all equally whether small or large projects. He stated that an applicant can if they wish contact the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) to get an update on their application.

- Councillor Des Guckian queried the absence of any mention of minor roads in report, potholes on N4, Mohill Waste Water Treatment costs and the big turnover of staff.

Mr Gilhooly advised that the above would be addressed in the Road Works Programme for 2018 and cost figures for Mohill Waste Water Treatment Plant would be issued to the Councillor in the coming days.

The report as circulated was noted by the Members.

18/04

08/01/2018 Capital Programme for the forthcoming 3 years

Report dated 2nd January, 2018 from Mr Joseph Gilhooly, A/Chief Executive on Leitrim County Council's Programme of Capital Projects for the forthcoming three years, in accordance with the provisions of Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, A/Chief Executive outlined that the report provides an overview and estimate of capital projects that are anticipated to be progressed over the next three years. He then gave an overview of the report and highlighted a number of significant projects that the Council wish to advance in the next three years to improve the County's Infrastructure and Facilities.

The following comments were raised by the Members:

- Councillor Brendan Barry welcomed the funding for the extension to the Fire Station in Drumshanbo and he queried as to when work would commence and when it was proposed to have the extension completed.
- Councillor Caillian Ellis sought an update in relation to the Fire Station at Ballinamore.

Ms Mary Quinn advised that she wouldn't be able to indicate when work will commence on the refurbishment of Ballinamore Fire Station and the extension of Drumshanbo Station until the procurement process in each case has taken place. Ms Quinn advised that it hoped to have the refurbishment of Ballinamore Fire Station completed by the end of this year.

- Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed funding of €100,000 being made available for the Rooskey Bridge, €25,000 for walking & cycling greenway project and €2,500,000 for 2019 and he queried if this was aspirational or will this funding be available.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that there is a mixture of aspirational and approved works in the programme. With regard to the Greenway projects, a call for co - funding is expected later in 2018

and resources will continue to be monitored during the year. Leitrim County Council are currently in contact with the Department in relation to progressing the Rooskey Bridge Project.

- Councillor Enda Stenson queried how far the following schemes were progressing under the Housing Construction Programme:-
 - **Summerhill, Carrick-on-Shannon**
 - **Attirory, Carrick-on-Shannon**

Councillor Stenson proposed that a meeting be held with concerned residents in regard to both housing construction schemes.

- Councillor Des Guckian queried how much of the €3,743,850 that has been allocated to the Attirory Social Housing Scheme will be given towards the provision of a separate road into the estate.
- Councillor Des Guckian queried where the funding was coming from for the office extension at Aras An Chontae.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that the raising of a loan of €5 million by Leitrim County Council for the purposes of construction of Phase II of the Civic Office Development in Carrick-on-Shannon was approved by Members at the 6th March 2017 Council meeting.

- Councillor Felim Gurn sought an update in relation to the Fire Station in Manorhamilton.

Ms Mary Quinn advised that the next stage to be progressed is the design process.

- Councillor Seadhna Logan queried if there was a plan to bring the County Library to Carrick-on-Shannon.
- Councillor Caillian Ellis sought assurance that the County Library would remain in Ballinamore.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that a bigger branch Library is needed in Carrick-on-Shannon and there are currently no plans to change the location of the County Library.

This update was noted by the Members.

18/05

08/01/2018 Dispose of freehold interest in House at No 16 Dristernan, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim

Notice of Intention dated 22nd December 2017 from Ms Johanna Daly, A/Senior Executive Officer Housing Department in relation to the Disposal of Freehold Interest in House at No 16 Dristernan, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim and adjoining site comprising circa 0.717 acres (0.29 hectares) in the townland of Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim (Freehold Interest Registered in name of Leitrim County Council – Folio No LM115L) 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 Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Brendan Barry and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Disposal of Freehold Interest in House at No 16 Dristernan, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim and adjoining site comprising circa 0.717 acres (0.29 hectares) in the townland of Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim (Freehold Interest Registered in name of Leitrim County Council – Folio No LM115L) in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention dated 22nd December, 2017 as circulated to all Members be approved”.

18/06

08/01/2018

Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1st January, 2017 to 31st October, 2017 and 1st January, 2017 to 30th November, 2017 by Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, A/Chief Executive, dated 15th November, 2017 and 14th December 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, appears as **Appendix 4** and **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The report as circulated was noted by the Members.

18/07

08/01/2018

To Review and Amend the existing Casual Trading Byelaws adopted in 2009 and reviewed in 2013

Report from Shane Tiernan, A/Director of Services Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation on proposed amendments to County Leitrim Casual Trading Bye-laws adopted in 2009 and reviewed in 2013 pursuant to Section 6 of the Casual Trading Act 1995 in relation to the control, regulation, supervision and administration of casual trading in County Leitrim as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 6** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr Shane Tiernan gave an overview of the proposed amendments and indicated that it was intended to place them on public display and invite submissions and representations from interested parties. He stated that any submissions or observations received will be taken into consideration and the Draft Bye Laws will be brought back to a Meeting of the Council for approval.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon queried what benefit will be achieved if the sites available are reduced, if reduced will it be difficult to get them re-instated and when will there be a review carried out in the future.

Mr Shane Tiernan advised that all the existing designated Casual Trading Pitches are located within urban areas and when deciding whether to designate any land as a casual trading area or to revoke a designation made in Bye-Laws under the Act, a Local Authority shall have regard to the proper planning and development of its functional area (including the preservation and improvement of the amenities thereof), the development plan for its functional area and any special amenity order relating to its functional area, the traffic likely to be generated by the casual

trading in the casual trading area and all other matters that it considers relevant to its decision. He also stated that a review of Casual Trading Bye Laws can be carried out every four years.

This report was noted by the Members.

18/08

08/01/2018 An Additional exemption/waiver (with respect to applicants participating in the testing of Zero Discharge Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Systems in Co Leitrim and to amend the wording of an exemption/waiver (with respect to extensions) and a reduction (with respect to replacement houses) in the County Leitrim Development Contributions Scheme 2016-2019

Report from Bernard Greene, Senior Planner regarding an additional exemption/waiver (with respect to applicants participating in the testing of Zero Discharge Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Systems in Co Leitrim and to amend the wording of an exemption/waiver (with respect to extensions) and a reduction (with respect to replacement houses) in the County Leitrim Development Contributions Scheme 2016-2019 as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 7** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Sinead Guckian thanked the Executive and the Elected Members that were in favour and progressed the matter so quickly to waive the Development Contribution costs to any planning applicant who will be participating in the pilot testing of the Zero Discharge Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Systems in County Leitrim and stated that this project will be providing valuable data and research for the sustainability of rural living and culture in Leitrim.

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

“Permission granted for individual dwelling houses after 6th November 2017 to approved participants in the scheme to facilitate testing of Zero Discharge Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Systems in Co. Leitrim shall be exempted from development contributions under this Development Contribution Scheme’

Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the relevant exemptions/waivers and reductions be amended as follows:

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| <p>o) That the first 40 sq. m. of extensions to a residential development where the house has not been extended previously including by exempted developments. The floor area of all extensions in excess of 40 sq. m. shall be subject to the application of the Scheme. This shall only apply in a rural area where the cumulative floor area of the house and extension exceeds 251 sq. m. or in an urban area where the cumulative floor area of the house and extension exceeds 216 sq. m.</p> |
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And

g) For **redevelopment projects**, a charge only of the net additional development (e.g. a redevelopment totalling 200m² of which 150m² is replacing existing development, contribution is only required for the additional 50m²). **In relation to replacement dwelling houses in rural areas, a development contribution will only be applicable to the floor area in excess of 251 sq. m. where the original dwelling house was less than or equal to 250 sq. m. whilst in urban areas, a development contribution shall only be applicable to the floor area in excess of 216 sq. m.**

18/09

08/01/2018

To approve loan to North West Simon Community for the purposes of the purchase of 2 dwellings in Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim

Report dated 2nd January 2018 from Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate, Cultural and Emergency Services recommending approval to increase loan in the sum of €152,750 which was previously approved by the Members of Leitrim County Council at Council Meeting held on Monday, 11th January 2016 to €167,392. This loan has been provided to the North West Simon Community for the purposes of the purchase of 2 dwellings in Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 8** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

“To increase loan in the sum of €152,750 which was previously approved by the Members of Leitrim County Council at Council Meeting held on Monday, 11th January 2016 to €167,392. This loan has been provided to the North West Simon Community for the purposes of the purchase of 2 dwellings in Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim”.

Councillor Des Guckian queried as to why this loan has now to be increased.

Ms Quinn confirmed that additional costs were incurred with the project.

Councillor Des Guckian said he had no objection to increase in the loan.

18/10

08/01/2018

Section 138 (1) of the Local Government Act 2001

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, A/Chief Executive advised that the following 2018 National Road Allocations have been received from Transport Infrastructure Ireland:-

- €3,398,152 for Road Improvement
- €314,537 for Road Maintenance.

Mr Shay O'Connor gave a brief overview of the Allocations. He confirmed that an allocation of €25,000 has been provided for the N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod By Pass. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) intend to undertake a pre-appraisal exercise during 2018 and bring it up to date with Road Design guidelines, Planning Laws and Environmental laws.

Councillor Mary Bohan sought clarification as to whether the Road Allocations for 2018 would be cut.

Mr Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance said he was not aware of the allocation at this time.

Councillor Enda Stenson said that he didn't believe Carrick-on-Shannon traders can wait any longer for the long awaited By Pass and he proposed that Leitrim County Council call on the TII to look at the possibility of creating a Ring Road around Carrick-on-Shannon and this should be developed in conjunction with Roscommon County Council.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire totally agreed with the comments from the Members and she cited that Carrick-on-Shannon Chamber of Commerce had met with the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Transport to discuss the upgrading of the N4. The recommendation received was that the N5 would be put in with the N4 for a Joint Capital Programme. The N5 plan appears to be going ahead and the N4 is pushed out to 2021-2025.

Councillor Des Guckian supported the Ring Road around Carrick-on-Shannon and proposed that resurfacing be carried out on the N4 around Masonite. Councillor Des Guckian said he was totally opposed to the Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod By Pass as it has proved to be a dangerous design.

Councillor Sean McDermott paid tribute to TII and Leitrim County Council on the work done on the hard shoulder on the N.16. Councillor McDermott expressed his disappointment that Fermanagh and Sligo Local Authorities have not been more proactive in this regard as Leitrim have been.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon expressed his disappointment with the reduction of the funding and he noted that less is going to be done and the stark reality is to do more with less.

Councillor Sean McGowan said that a Ring Road around Carrick-on-Shannon should be pursued and this should be incorporated into the by pass design.

Councillor Sean McGowan acknowledged the work done on the lay bys on the Rooskey to Dromod By pass but he expressed his disappointment that the lay bys are very small.

Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her disappointment that land has been frozen for the By Pass and she insisted that landowners should be given some indication as to when this project is about to commence.

Councillor Callian Ellis said that there is no funding to do some of roads and some of the road network is crumbling. Councillor Ellis proposed that pressure should be put on the Department to get funding for these roads.

Mr Shay O Connor advised that there will be discussions with TII later this year and it is positive that this project is under discussion. The original scheme was aspirational and the TII will take an overall look at the whole scheme. The pre appraisal exercise will be open for discussion. Mr O' Connor advised that there has been a 32% reduction on the roads maintenance budget nationally – Area Engineers will be liaising with the TII to get additional funding.

Councillor Justin Warnock referred to the closing of Local Roads in other counties.

Mr Shay O'Connor said that there are no proposals to abandon local roads in County Leitrim and he acknowledged that there is less funding to maintain roads.

Councillor Des Guckian proposed that a letter issue to the Department and to the TII to condemn the cut backs in funding as indicated and request more funding.

Councillor Padraig Fallon supported this. Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that a copy of the letter be sent to Minister Shane Ross. Councillor Brendan Barry proposed that a list of the roads and bridges that require funding to be included with the letter. This was agreed.

18/11

08/01/2018

Corporate Policy Group Report

Ms. Joan Lowe, Meetings Administrator gave an overview of the items considered by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting held prior to the Council meeting.

Update from the Strategic Policy Committee's

- **Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee**

Ms. Lowe outlined that a meeting of the **Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee** was held on Tuesday, 14th November, 2017 and considered the following items:

- **Draft Community Lifebuoy Scheme**

The Draft Community Lifebuoy Scheme was considered at the September Strategic Policy Committee meeting and it was agreed further to a number of minor amendments to refer the document to the Public Participation Network (PPN) for their comments and observations. One submission was received from Carrick-on-Shannon Rowing Club expressing their interest in signing up to the scheme. The Strategic Policy Committee approved the adoption of the Draft Community Lifebuoy Scheme.

- **Presentation on the Leitrim Cultural Strategy**

The Members received a presentation on the Leitrim Cultural Strategy from Ms. Brid Millar. The Leitrim Cultural and Creative Strategy is expected to be finalised and presented to the Elected Members in early 2018.

- **Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural Policy Strategic Policy Committee**

Ms Lowe outlined that a meeting of the Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural Policy Strategic Policy Committee was held on the 12th December, 2017 and considered the following items:

- **Climate Change Strategy**

The Members received a detailed report on the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy from Shane Tiernan, A/Director of Services which outlined a strategy for putting measures in place to deal with Climate Change. A discussion followed re the various issues with regard to effects of climate change and it was agreed that public consultation should be sought with regard to adopting the

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. It is envisaged that the draft Strategy will be finalised by mid 2018.

- **Rainwater Harvesting**

A report on Rainwater Harvesting was presented to the Members. A discussion followed and members stated that it is vital to promote public awareness and that groups should be encouraged to engage in Rainwater Harvesting Projects. It was agreed that Shane Tiernan, A/Director of Services would explore the possibility with the Environment Department in the context of a possible scheme similar to that deployed previously regarding composting bins.

- **Road Safety Plan Update**

The Members received a presentation from Kathryne Bohan, Road Safety Officer on the Road Safety Plan. The report provided an update on the current position with regard to the action items within the plan. Members highlighted areas where speed limits should be implemented and enforced and also that funding should be sought under the Low Cost Safety Scheme for high risk locations.

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

Ms Lowe outlined that an Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee SPC Committee meeting took place on 14th December 2017 and considered the following items:.

- **Report on Irelands National Broadband Plan**

The Members received a comprehensive presentation on Ireland's National Broadband: delivering on the promise from Mr. Shane Campbell, CEO, ICBAN.

- **Update on the Culture and Creative Plan**

The Members received a presentation on the Culture and Creative Plan for County Leitrim 2018 – 2022 from Mr. Philip Delemere, Arts Officer.

- **Update on Casual Trading Bylaws**

The Members received an update from Mr. Finbar Keaney, Staff Officer, Planning Department on the proposed amendments to the Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2009.

It is proposed to reduce the number of designated pitches from 27 to 20 by removing the following:-

2 located at Old Church Street/Library Corner, Manorhamilton

1 located at High Street, Ballinamore

1 located at St. Georges Terrace, Carrick on Shannon

1 located at Main Street, Drumkeerin

2 located at Manorhamilton Road, Drumkeerin.

It was agreed to amend the 2009 Casual Trading byelaws accordingly and to bring the proposed amendments forward for public consultation.

- **Development Contribution Scheme**

The Members received a presentation from Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner on the proposed Amendments to the Development Contribution Scheme.

At the 6th November 2017 Council meeting, Councillor Sinead Guckian submitted the following Notice of Motion:

Following the recent presentation on the successful potential of the Pilot "Waste Water one off zero discharge system", and the associated expensive costs of same, at the November meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask the Chief Executive to commence the process now, to adjust the Council's Development Contribution Scheme to waiver the planning Development Contribution costs for any applicant who will be participating in this pilot scheme and therefore providing valuable data and research for the sustainability of rural living and culture in Leitrim.

It is suggested that exemption (q) to the Development Contributions Scheme would read as follows:

Permission granted for individual dwelling houses after 6th November 2017 to approved participants in the scheme to facilitate testing of Zero Discharge Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Systems in Co. Leitrim shall be exempted from development contributions under this Development Contribution Scheme'

There are 2 other matters which the Planning Department would like to use this opportunity to clarify with respect to the operation of the Development Contributions Scheme, namely extensions and replacement dwellings. Certain operational issues have become apparent with regard to the wording of the relevant exemptions and waivers and whether or not in practice these provisions are reasonable.

At present, the adopted Development Contribution Scheme provides for the following:

Exemption / Waivers

- o) The first 40 sq. m. of extensions to a residential development where the house has not been extended previously including by exempted developments. The floor area of all extensions in excess of 40 sq. m. shall be subject to the application of the Scheme.

Reductions

- g) For redevelopment projects, a charge only of the net additional development (e.g. a redevelopment totalling 200m² of which 150m² is replacing existing development, contribution is only required for the additional 50m²).

It is proposed to amend the relevant Exemption / Waivers as follows:

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| o) The first 40 sq. m. of extensions to a residential development where the house has not been extended previously including by exempted developments. The floor area of all extensions in excess of 40 sq. m. shall be subject to the application of the Scheme. This |
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shall only apply where the cumulative floor area of the house and extension exceeds 251 sq. m.

It is proposed to amend the relevant Reductions as follows:

- g) For redevelopment projects, a charge only of the net additional development (e.g. a redevelopment totalling 200m² of which 150m² is replacing existing development, contribution is only required for the additional 50m²). In relation to replacement dwelling houses in rural areas, a development contribution will only be applicable to the floor area in excess of 251 sq. m. where the original dwelling house was less than or equal to 250 sq. m. whilst in urban areas, a development contribution shall only be applicable to the floor area in excess of 216 sq. m.

It was agreed to bring forward the proposed amendments to the Development Contributions Scheme to the January 2018 Council meeting for approval.

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

18/12

08/01/2018

Conferences/Training

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

"That the attendance of Councillor Pdraig Fallon at the EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 at the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Louth on the 2nd February 2018 to 4th February 2018 be approved".

"That the attendance of Councillor Frank Dolan and Councillor Justin Warnock at the AILG Training in Carrickmacross on the 23rd November 2017 be retrospectively approved".

"That the attendance of Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire at the St Patrick's Day Celebrations in New York from 8th March to 19th March 2018 be approved".

"That the attendance of Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire at the Leitrim/London Association Dinner Dance from 23rd February to 26th February 2018 be approved".

18/13

08/01/2018

Meeting Correspondence

The following items were considered under Meeting Correspondence:

1. Letter received 6th November 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to resources for the Early Years Sector.
2. Letter received 13th November 2017 from the General Manager, Mental Health Service, Health Service Executive, Sligo in regard to the CAHMS Services.

Councillor Seadhna Logan expressed his disappointment that none of the new 114 posts announced in previous correspondence from the HSE are going to be sanctioned for Sligo Leitrim Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.

Councillor Sinead Guckian said that she raised this issue 12 to 18 months and when finally 114 posts are sanctioned, not one post is sanctioned for Leitrim. Councillor Sinead Guckian proposed that a further letter issue to the Minister for Health expressing the disappointment of the Members in this regard.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported this and reiterated that children are being sent home from school due to their behaviour that cannot be accepted at school. Councillor Bohan said she contacted the HSE on two occasions and to date, she or the parent in question has had no reply.

3. Resolution received on the 14th November 2017 from Clare County Council seeking support and calling on An Taoiseach to support enactment by Oireachtas of the National Housing Co-op Bill 2017 to provide for the establishment of an Industrial & Provident Society to be called the National Housing Co-operative Society.
- 4(a) Resolution received on the 14th November 2017 from Clare County Council seeking support and calling on the Minister for Social Protection to reverse the unfair and discriminatory policy of penalising home makers that took some time out to care for their family prior to 1994 and to address the Austerity measure that penalised approximately 35,000 people, mainly women that was brought in by the Government on 6th April 2012 concerning Contributory Pension Entitlements.

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

“That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Social Protection to reverse the unfair and discriminatory policy of penalising home makers that took some time out to care for their family prior to 1994 and to address the Austerity measure that penalised approximately 35,000 people, mainly women that was brought in by the Government on 6th April 2012 concerning Contributory Pension Entitlements”.

- 4(b) Letter received 30th November 2017 from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection in response to Resolution passed by Clare County Council in regard to the State Pension Provision.
5. Letter received 20th November 2017 from the Office of the Taoiseach acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Leader Funding.
- 5(a). Letter received 29th November 2017 from Department of Rural and Community Development acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Leader Funding.
6. Letter received 20th November 2017 from Office of the Taoiseach acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Jobpath Scheme.
- 6(a) Letter received 22nd November 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection regarding Jobpath.

- 6(b) Letter received 23rd November 2017 from the Contracted Public Employment Services, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection in regard to the Jobpath service.
- 7. Letter received 22nd November 2017 from Mr Joseph Smith, Returning Officer, Constituency of Sligo/Leitrim acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Polling stations.
- 8. Letter of acknowledgement received 22nd November 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality regarding criteria for Community Based CCTV system installation in towns.
- 9. Letter of acknowledgement received 23rd November 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding Land Drainage and Improvement Grant Scheme.
- 9(a) Letter of acknowledgement received 29th December 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the Local Improvement Scheme.

Councillor Sean McGowan expressed his disappointment to the reply received in this regard.

- 10. Letter of acknowledgement received 23rd November 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council on Afforestation licenses.
- 10(a) Letter received 19th December 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in regard to Afforestation licences.
- 11. Letter received 24th November 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the GLAS Scheme.
- 11(a) Letter of acknowledgement received 23rd November 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding the GLAS scheme.
- 12. Letter received from Ann Trimble, Lismore, Waterford to the Members of Leitrim County Council complimenting them for taking steps towards making this country a healthier place for all the inhabitants by banning the use of glyphosate herbicide in public spaces.

Councillor Justin Warnock welcomed the ban on the use of glyphosate and insisted that Community Groups also ban the use of glyphosate in all public places.

- 13. Resolution from Galway City Council requesting the Department of the Environment to prepare legislation regarding the disposal of paint under the Producer Responsibility initiative similar to the WEE scheme where paint would be brought back to the suppliers and disposed of by the paint companies.
- 14. Resolution from Clare County Council requesting the Minister for Agriculture to put in place a plan to help Clare farmers through an imminent fodder crisis in 2018.
- 15. Letter from Iarnrod Eireann acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to signage at Carrick on Shannon Railway station.

The following item was also raised under Meetings Correspondence

Councillor Caillian Ellis highlighted that there is currently no Speech Therapist service available at St Patrick's Hospital, Carrick-on-Shannon. Councillor Ellis proposed that a letter issue to the Minister for Health to put in place a Speech Therapist in St Patrick's Hospital for at least 2 days a week.

18/14

08/01/2018

Vote of Congratulations

The Members proposed a vote of congratulations to Michael Beirne & Family, Bar & Restaurant, Mohill on winning Ireland's Fittest Family.

18/15

08/01/2018

Presentation from the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire welcomed Ms Ann Cunningham, Assistant Principal, Mr Seamus Dunne, Senior Inspector, Mr Tom McDonald, Regional Inspector, and Mr Seppi Hona, District Inspector, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to deliver their presentation in regard to the Forest Service to the meeting.

Ms. Ann Cunningham and Mr Seamus Dunne provided a detailed presentation on the Forest Service. A copy of the presentation appears as **Appendix 9** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire thanked Ms Ann Cunningham and Mr Seamus Dunne for their presentation and invited any questions/comments from the Members.

The following items were raised:-

Councillor Enda Stenson stated that the population of Leitrim was being replaced by trees with up to 50% of the agricultural land in the county being planted there is a lot of genuine anger among people in this regard.

Councillor Justin Warnock confirmed that he had made a submission on the mid term review of the Afforestation Scheme and he had submitted 2 motions in the past year in this regard. Councillor Warnock referred to a 2008 Study on land located around Lough Melvin and the high levels of phosphorus that was found in the lake which is detrimental to fish stocks and he expressed his concerns that planting is still taking place in this area. Councillor Warnock said it was time to call a stop to forestry in the County as Leitrim has done enough for forestry.

Councillor Gerry Dolan concurred with the remarks of the Members and referred to the damage that was being done to the roads and bridges in Leitrim where timber is being extracted. Councillor Dolan said that "trees cannot be put before people, before the future of our county".

Councillor Pádraig Fallon expressed his concerns with regard to the appeals process and that the 30 day period is not long enough and needed to be extended to 60-90 days. Councillor Fallon said that there are townlands in the county being taken over by forestry and he referred to the townland of where his father grew up with up to 80% of this townland being planted. He said that he was not opposed to planting in Leitrim and he called for a total review of the afforestation scheme. Councillor Fallon also stated that farmers don't get the same supports in relation to farm land and that leaves it unsustainable to stay on the land.

Councillor Brendan Barry expressed his concerns about the amount of land that is being planted and he proposed that a more balanced regional spread should be considered. Councillor Barry insisted that a farmer who plants land should be residing in a 50 km radius of the plantation and that the premiums/grants received from this plantation are kept in the area by creating jobs and bringing economical benefit to the area. Councillor Barry noted that there was a lot more sawmills in Leitrim when there was little planting.

Councillor Sean McDermott acknowledged that some jobs are created in Leitrim through the forest industry. Councillor McDermott called for a more "level playing field" in regard to planting as many people are very annoyed when they want to build a house and they have a lot of "humps and hills to climb" in order to get planning and there does not appear to be the same requirements when planting land. Councillor McDermott sought clarification as to whether any application for a licence for afforestation had been refused by any Local Authority in Ireland.

Councillor O'Rourke expressed his concerns in relation to the use of sitka spruce in planting and he cited that it devalues land.

Councillor Mary Bohan cited that the Minister should be present today to hear Members questions/concerns/views at this meeting as he makes Government Policy. Councillor Mary Bohan noted that there was a 150% increase in forestry and 40% of this is in Leitrim/Cavan/Clare and Longford. Councillor Bohan insisted that notice of all afforestation and felling licences should be published in the local newspapers and should be subject to Planning Permission regardless of the size of the area to be planted. Councillor Mary Bohan stated that she respects any farmer who wants to sell their land and plant it if they wish but she disagreed with the payment of premiums to non farmers.

Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that she had concerns for the future of farms as a result of forestry and sought clarification on following:-

- Licence Applications – How do the Forestry Service plan for greenbelts within the county.
- Appeals Process - When the Local Authority make a recommendation, is there a weighting points system.
- Are all elements of the County Development Plan for County Leitrim taken into account when issuing licences.

Councillor John McCartin sympathised with people in this regard and enquired about the Agro Forestry and Forestry for Fibre Schemes. Councillor John McCartin said that a development charge should be made a requirement of a licence application to help meet the cost of any damage to infrastructure by forestry extraction.

Councillor Caillian Ellis noted that when forestry is cut away it creates an eyesore.

Councillor Felim Gurn queried when forestry trees become overgrown along public roads who is responsible for cutting them.

Councillor Des Guckian queried what is being done in regard to Ash Dieback.

Ms Ann Cunningham, Assistant Principal, and Mr Seamus Dunne, Senior Inspector, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine responded as follows:

- Population in Co Leitrim has risen as per Census figures from the Central Statistics Office.
- Forestry Appeals Committee is independent from the Department and hear appeals on decisions on afforestation, forest roads and felling licence application.
- Since 24th May 2017 a mandatory site notice must be erected on site - 30 days reasonable for public Notice in line with Planning Permission Guidelines.
- Any information/queries on any particular application will be available from Coillte.
- 12,000 jobs created in the Forestry industry in Ireland.
- Local Authorities do object on landscape points of view.
- Consideration is given to recommendations by local Authorities on licence applications – Department Officials make the decisions.
- There has not been a significant number of observations against licences.
- Forestry Service work in accordance with the County Development Plan.
- Introduced Variable type pressure on machines to reduce damage to road and bridges.
- Details of Registered owners can be received from Land Registry.
- Agro Forestry Scheme - This is a land use system in which trees are grown in combination with agriculture on the same land. This system is ideally suited to farmers who are interested in forestry but who also want to avoid taking their land out of agricultural production.
- Forestry for Fibre - This scheme supports the growing of productive tree species to produce wood biomass.
- Ash Dieback – Where it is necessary to clear out a crop that is bad there is a grant scheme available to give aid towards thinning out the plantation.

Ms Ann Cunningham, Assistant Principal, Mr Seamus Dunne, Senior Inspector, Mr Tom McDonald, Regional Inspector, and Mr Seppi Hona, District Inspector, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine thanked the Members for inviting them to address the meeting.

Notices of Motions

18/16

08/01/2018

Disabilities Tax Relief Scheme

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

"That the medical criteria for entry to the drivers and passengers with Disabilities Tax Relief Scheme be amended to include those without the use of one hand or arm. That the Minister of State for Disabilities and the Minister for Finance be contacted with a view to seeking this amendment and that this Notice of Motion be passed on to all other Local Authorities."

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister of State for Disabilities and the Minister for Finance with a view to seeking that the medical criteria for entry to the drivers and passengers with Disabilities Tax Relief Scheme be amended to include those without the use of one hand or arm.

It was agreed by the Members that this Motion would be circulated to all other Local Authorities.

18/17
08/01/2018

Outstanding Tax Bill

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

"That we the Members of Leitrim County Council urge the Irish Government to set about collecting, with vigour, the outstanding tax bill, of €13 billion euro approximately, owed by The Apple Corporation and that we fight them in any delaying appeal they may bring before the Court of Justice of the European Union."

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

"That Leitrim County Council urge the Irish Government to set about collecting, with vigour, the outstanding tax bill, of €13 billion euro approximately, owed by The Apple Corporation and that we fight them in any delaying appeal they may bring before the Court of Justice of the European Union."

18/18
08/012/2018

Zero Discharge Waste Water Treatment System Pilot Programme

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire proposed that Motion No 16 in the name of Councillor Enda Stenson and Motion No 23 in the name of Councillor Sean McGowan would be taken concurrently as they both relate to the same matter. This was agreed by the Members.

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

"It's a number of months now since we were presented with the news of the cost of each new percolation system, on the building of a rural house. As we have all agreed this cost is prohibitive and will defeat the purpose of this Pilot Scheme. I'm sure that we would all agree to immediately contact Minister English to express our concerns that this much needed Pilot Scheme cannot progress, and I believe that the Department should fund this Pilot Scheme as it is in the interest of rural dwellers throughout Ireland that a solution is found to this problem."

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

"I ask the Chief Executive to write as a matter of urgency to the Minister for Housing, Planning &

Local Government, Mr. Eoghan Murphy TD, to provide funding to assist those participating in the Zero Discharge Waste Water Treatment System Pilot Programme as the cost of participation outlined at the workshop in the Bush Hotel of €55,000 is prohibitive and will result in most shortlisted applicants not being in a position to participate."

Report by A/Director of Services | Economic Development, Environment, Planning & Transportation

Following the recent workshop with the shortlisted applicants in the Bush Hotel, the Council are confident that there will be adequate number of interested applicants to participate in the Pilot Scheme. While an external source of funding would be desirable the County Council's priority is to proceed with the interested applicants in the progression of the planning process and to further the testing of the technology proposed."

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

"That Leitrim County Council write as a matter of urgency to the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government, Mr. Eoghan Murphy TD, to provide funding to assist those participating in the Zero Discharge Waste Water Treatment System Pilot Programme as the cost of participation outlined at the workshop in the Bush Hotel of €55,000 is prohibitive and will result in most shortlisted applicants not being in a position to participate."

Councillor Enda Stenson said that he was aware of a couple who are moving from Cavan to work in Mohill and want to build a house in Eslin but the cost of putting in a Zero Discharge Waste Water Treatment System is prohibitive. If people don't get planning, land will be planted.

Councillor Sean McGowan emphasised that it is important to encourage our sons and daughters to settle down and reside in Leitrim.

Councillor Sean McDermott and Councillor John McCartin supported the motions.

Councillor Sean McDermott said that the EPA has set the bar too high in achieving zero discharge.

Councillor Justin Warnock insisted that there is a need to get around this issue and he cited that nothing has happened over the last 3.5 years and he queried if many applicants have signed up for the scheme.

Councillor Des Guckian said it was unrealistic to have to pay €50,000 to install such a system and insisted that people should not be drawn off their own farms or areas. Councillor Des Guckian said that planning laws should be liberalised and the bars are set too high for the pilot scheme.

Councillor Felim Gurn said that a lot of people are coming back and they are getting annoyed, builders would be delighted with work and this in turn would create employment. Councillor Gurn re-iterated that the pilot scheme is unworkable and far too expensive.

Councillor Mary Bohan said that she cannot understand that the Department has allowed this to continue.

Councillor Brendan Barry acknowledged that a lot of great work had been done in this regard but

the targets to be reached are too high.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly said that the cost of the pilot scheme was not a reflection of the expected general cost of the system, if passed for use. Greater demand for the system and the exclusion of monitoring fees will make this system much cheaper. If this Local Authority wait for funding to pilot this scheme it will take a lot longer. Mr Gilhooly advised that following the recent workshop on the system and the number of applicants shortlisted to participate in the scheme, he is confident that there is an adequate number of applicants available to participate in the pilot scheme.

18/19

08/01/2018

Reactivate Centenary Committee

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

"I ask for the support of the Members in calling on the Chief Executive to reactivate the Centenary Committee with a view to developing a continued programme of Leitrim specific events marking the decade of Centuraries. At the end of the successful 1916-2016 Leitrim programme it was agreed by this Council to broaden and continue the work of the committee, to provide a plan for Leitrim to commemorate the following years and the historical significance of same, in the county."

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

"The Council accepts the merit of such an initiative and the matter will be considered in the first instance within the context of the established process to deliver the Creative Ireland Initiative."

Councillor Sinead Guckian proposed that the Centenary Committee be reactivated to develop a programme of Leitrim specific events marking the decade of centuraries. Councillor Guckian proposed that this committee would decide who they should engage with, in order to help them develop a programme of events. Councillor Sinead Guckian complimented the Centenary Committee on the 1916 celebrations and noted that 1918 was the 1st year women got to vote and she cited that a lot of activity took place around 1918.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported the motion.

Councillor Des Guckian said he could not support the motion. Councillor Des Guckian referred to events that had followed the 1916 which was not very nice e.g. Civil War.

Councillor Brendan Barry acknowledged that the Civil War was a bad time but both parties have joined up and moved on.

Councillor Sinead Guckian thanked the Members who supported the motion.

18/20

08/01/2018

National Planning Framework 2020-2040

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

"Due to our rural population and no town with 10,000 residents, there is nothing for County Leitrim

in the National Planning Framework 2020-2040 or in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) proposals. Therefore as a matter of urgency, I will ask that our Chief Executive, Joseph Gilhooly, lead a delegation on behalf of the citizens of County Leitrim to meet Minister Eoghan Murphy, to demand that measures are put in place to ensure that this county has a future. Under the NPF 2020-2040 if Leitrim fails, so will the rest of rural Ireland."

Report by A/Director of Services | Economic Development, Environment, Planning & Transportation

"Leitrim County Council made a robust and thorough submission to the draft National Planning Framework on 10th November last on behalf of this Council. This submission reflected the concerns expressed by the Elected Members at the 6th November Council Meeting. The submission outlined that there was widespread agreement amongst the Elected Members that it was difficult to foresee the positives for Co. Leitrim in the draft Framework as presented. The consensus is that the Framework is overtly dominated by urban considerations and requires significant 'rural proofing'.

Further, the lack of detail for the intended areas of growth at levels below the 5 no. stated cities effectively means that there is no visible strategy contained therein for the entire North West region including County Leitrim. The imbalance of growth which has been described as 'business as usual' in the Framework will, continue unaffected by this Framework.

The Executive will follow up on this submission and seek to meet with the Minister and his officials to further outline the concerns of this Council with regard to the draft National Planning Framework."

Councillor Justin Warnock stated that jobs need to be created and that there is a need to sustain people and welcome people coming back to live in the county.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported the motion and said that Leitrim needs a devised plan for smaller areas.

All Members supported the motion.

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

"That Chief Executive, Joseph Gilhooly, would lead a delegation on behalf of the citizens of County Leitrim to meet Minister Eoghan Murphy, to demand that measures are put in place to ensure that this county has a future. Under the NPF 2020-2040 if Leitrim fails, so will the rest of rural Ireland. Due to our rural population and no town with 10,000 residents, there is nothing for County Leitrim in the National Planning Framework 2020-2040 or in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) proposals.

**18/21
08/01/2018**

Rural Transport Network

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

"The proposed changes to the drink driving legislation will inevitably result in the further isolation of people living in rural Ireland. Welcome as it is, the recently announced proposal to extend the rural bus service operated by the Rural Transport Network only covers a small portion of North Leitrim. I propose that the Executive contacts the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Mr. Shane Ross TD to have all of the North Leitrim area included in the scheme."

Proposed by Councillor Felim Gurn, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"Leitrim County Council welcomes as it is, the recently announced proposal to extend the rural bus service operated by the Rural Transport Network to only cover a small portion of North Leitrim and that Leitrim County Council contact the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Mr. Shane Ross TD to have all of the North Leitrim area included in the scheme. The proposed changes to the drink driving legislation will inevitably result in the further isolation of people living in rural Ireland. "

All members supported the motion.

18/22

08/01/2018

European Union’s Permanent Structured Cooperation

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

"I request that Leitrim County Council opposes Irish involvement in the European Union’s Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), which is a progression towards the establishment of a European army and damages Irish neutrality. Irish taxpayer’s money would be better spent in Ireland instead of spending in European militarization."

Councillor Brendan Barry opposes Irish involvement in the EU’s Permanent Structures Cooperation as this is progressing to the establishment of an European Army and will damage Irish Neutrality.

Councillor Des Guckian seconded the motion.

Councillor John McCartin opposing the motion proposed a counter motion against the motion and this was seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan.

Ms. Joan Lowe, Meetings Administrator outlined that a vote would have to be taken on the counter proposal.

The result of the poll taken was as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	Abstain	Absent
Armstrong-McGuire, Finola	Barry, Brendan		Dolan, Gerry
Bohan, Mary	Fallon, Pdraig		Ellis, Caillian
Dolan, Frank	Guckian , Des		Mulvey, Caroline

McCartin, John	Logan, Seadhna	Guckian, Sinead	McGowan, Sean
McDermott, Sean		Gurn, Felim	Stenson, Enda
O'Rourke, Paddy			
Warnock, Justin			
7	4	2	5

Ms. Lowe outlined that there were 7 votes in favour of the counter-proposal, 4 votes against and two abstained and 5 absent. She outlined that, accordingly, the counter-proposal is carried and the original proposal is defeated.

18/23

08/01/2018

Tour Guide at Sean MacDiarmada's Homestead

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

"As we begin the New Year, I am asking Leitrim County Council to engage with the O.P.W and the Kiltyclogher Community Council with regard to having a Tour Guide at Sean MacDiarmada's Homestead during the tourism season. Also if funding can be sourced for Information Panels on site at MacDiarmada's Homestead, it is very important to have these panels for tourists that visit outside opening hours."

Report by A/Director of Services | Economic Development, Environment, Planning & Transportation

"The Council have had previous engagement with OPW in relation to this and will continue to pursue this matter with them. Funding avenues for the provision of information panels will be explored."

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, A/Chief Executive advised that Leitrim County Council will engage directly with the OPW and the Community Council to have a good tourism product at Sean MacDiarmada's house.

All Members supported the motion.

18/24

08/01/2018

Garda Resources

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Justice as a matter of urgency to provide extra Garda resources to our rural areas and to seriously consider re-opening many of the Garda Stations that have been closed. The so called 'Smart Policing' is not working."

Councillor Mary Bohan highlighted that it is very difficult to get in contact with the Garda in Drumshanbo.

Councillor Mary Bohan paid tribute to the Gardai as they are doing a good job but resources are stretched and to Superintendent Kevin English who put some resolution to a matter in Drumkeerin recently. Councillor Mary Bohan said there are no Gardai in Drumkeerin, Dromahair and limited resources are available in Manorhamilton. Councillor Bohan acknowledged that she didn't want to create fear among the public but she insisted that smart policing is not working. Councillor Bohan acknowledged and paid tribute to the Local Community Text Groups and noted if they were not in place there would be a worst situation.

Councillor Sean McDermott supported the motion.

Councillor Des Guckian supported the motion and said that one Garda on the ground is better than 10 Garda Patrol cars travelling around.

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Justice as a matter of urgency to provide extra Garda resources to our rural areas and to seriously consider re-opening many of the Garda Stations that have been closed. The so called 'Smart Policing' is not working."

**18/25
08/01/2018**

Household Waste

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

"I ask what procedure is being followed to ensure household waste is being disposed of properly. I am aware that bin collection is available to houses in the county. Is it now available to all? Are there any checks done on households where no bins have been requested?"

Report by A/Director of Services | Economic Development, Environment, Planning & Transportation

Countywide approximately 70% of households are registered for a kerb-side waste collection service. However, based on current regulations there is no requirement on a household to register for a waste collection service and therefore there is no basis for steps to be taken to ensure registration. It should also be noted that some households may prefer to use permitted waste facilities to dispose of their waste where they do not avail of the kerb-side service. Leitrim County Council Waste Enforcement Officer carries out Household Waste surveys including monitoring of compliance with segregation requirements in accordance with EPA RMCEI Planned Target Inspections. When complaints are received or it is perceived that waste from a particular household is not being disposed of in a proper manner, we include these houses in the Inspection rotas by either the Waste Enforcement Officer or other members of the Environment Department team."

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire acknowledged that parents live near family members and share their waste and she cited that there is a problem not only in towns but also in the countryside.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported the motion and said that there is an increased need for CCTV in certain areas. Councillor Bohan sought an update on the appointment of an additional litter warden.

Councillor Justin Warnock said he was very disappointed to see waste dumped outside local authority houses and he queried if all local authority tenants are registered for waste disposal.

Councillor Sean McDermott said that people are very selfish and the only way to combat this issue is to have CCTV and move it around.

Councillor Brendan Barry said people should be able to prove that they can dispose of waste properly.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon stressed that people who bring waste to bring banks can reduce their household waste costs considerably.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly confirmed that the number of Litter Wardens will be increased from two to three. Levels of complaints in regard to waste in 2016 were 410 and the figures for 2017 will be available shortly.

Terry McGovern, A/Senior Executive Officer confirmed that 10 bring banks were covered by CCTV in 2017 and there are a considerable number of prosecutions pending.

Shane Tiernan, A/Director of Services confirmed that a lot of good work is taking place in regard to waste enforcement work through CCTV, Media Campaigns, Signs, Major clean ups and efforts will continue.

18/26

08/01/2018

MBNA Building, Carrick-on-Shannon

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

"I ask this Council to check out if the MBNA Building in Carrick-on-Shannon is for sale and if so maybe this Council might consider buying it at a portion of what it is costing to build the new offices, ready to walk into by all the staff and by selling the existing offices, could offset the cost of the MBNA offices and would take away a lot of traffic from the middle of Carrick-on-Shannon."

Report by Chief Executive

"The campus is established and fully enabled as a call centre. Leitrim County Council continues to engage proactively with the relevant agencies and stakeholders in regard to the future of this facility. A significant property marketing campaign based around the 'Carrick Campus' is also in progress. It is considered that this building by design and operation is geared towards a commercial call centre or financial services centre tenant and that Carrick on Shannon, Leitrim and the broader region would benefit to a much greater extent by having a commercial employer in this facility creating additional skilled jobs and spin-off business activity locally. Part of the facility is currently occupied by AvantCard and is utilised for call centre operations and it would

not be considered suitable to combine Council operations with this existing business nor would the Council wish to negatively impact this operation where there is potential for further expansion. The opportunity for not alone the County but the region arising from this state of the art and ready to go facility cannot be underestimated, a point which has been clearly identified through the work of the Council in the preparation of a new economic strategy. In particular, regular engagement is ongoing with the IDA in regard to the securing of fresh employment and are satisfied that the sourcing of employment opportunities for this location is a key priority for the IDA.

The existing Council buildings are suited to the business of the Council including design, location and accessibility and it is considered more appropriate to expand and continue with the plans on-hand with a centralised campus providing all services and as previously outlined costs can be offset with the disposal of other existing office locations and efficiencies created as a result."

18/27

08/01/2018

Fodder Fund for Farmers

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire proposed that Motion No 26 in the name of Councillor Caillian Ellis and Motion No 28 in the name of Councillor Paddy O'Rourke would be taken concurrently as they both relate to the same matter. This was agreed by the Members.

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Caillian Ellis;

"I call on the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to put in place a fodder fund for farmers who are in difficulty with a shortage of fodder."

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

"I call upon Leitrim County Council to contact the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine with a view to providing support for the many farmers who are experiencing fodder shortage on their farms. Further to Minister Andrew Doyle's visit in the early days of November no action has been taken, meanwhile the situation has worsened."

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke moved Councillor Caillian Ellis's motion as he had to leave the meeting.

All Members supported the motions.

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to put in place a fodder fund for farmers who are in difficulty with a shortage of fodder."

"That Leitrim County Council contact the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine with a view to providing support for the many farmers who are experiencing fodder shortage on their farms. Further to Minister Andrew Doyle's visit in the early days of November no action has been taken, meanwhile the situation has worsened."

18/28

08/01/2018

Ballagh Centre, Rossinver

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

"I ask the support of the members in calling on Minister Michael Ring to over rule the proposal by Pobal to reduce the funding for the Community Services Programme (CSP) being operated at The Ballagh Centre in Rossinver. The proposed cut of €57,000 would have a very serious effect on the services being delivered in the area."

Councillor Frank Dolan noted that this funding has come under the remit of Minister Ring from 1st January 2018. Councillor Dolan cited that the Ballagh Centre provides a vital service and the staff at the centre work above and beyond the call of duty. The proposal is to reduce staffing hours at the centre by 107 hrs week with a saving being achieved of €57,000.

Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor Pdraig Fallon, Councillor Felim Gurn, Councillor Justin Warnock and Councillor Mary Bohan supported the motion.

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on Minister Michael Ring to over rule the proposal by Pobal to reduce the funding for the Community Services Programme (CSP) being operated at The Ballagh Centre in Rossinver. The proposed cut of €57,000 would have a very serious effect on the services being delivered in the area."

The business of the meeting concluded at 4.05 p.m.

**Signed: Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire
Cathaoirleach**

**Signed: Joan Lowe
Meetings Administrator**

Dated: 5th March 2018