

Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon on Monday, 1st July 2019

Members Present: Councillor Armstrong–McGuire, Finola
Councillor Barry, Brendan
Councillor Bohan, Mary
Councillor Dolan, Frank
Councillor Dolan, Gerry
Councillor Ellis, Caillian
Councillor Fallon, Pádraig
Councillor Farrell, Paddy
Councillor Guckian, Des
Councillor Gurn, Felim
Councillor McDermott, Sean
Councillor McGowan, Sean
Councillor Mulligan, Thomas
Councillor O'Rourke, Paddy
Councillor Stenson, Enda
Councillor Reynolds, Flynn, Ita
Councillor Warnock, Justin

Councillor McGloin, Enda
Cathaoirleach presiding

Officials Present: Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive
Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructural Services
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate Services, Community and Cultural Services
Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services
Mr Terry McGovern. A/Senior Engineer
Mr Justin Fannon, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

19/113
01/07/2019

Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- The O'Dwyer Family, Cornashamsogue, Drumshanbo on the death of Roseleen O'Dwyer, R.I.P.

- Cllr Enda Stenson & Family, Mohernameela, Eslin Bridge, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of his mother Josephine Stenson R.I.P.
- Bernadette Heraghty, Main Street, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim on the death of Thomas Heraghty.
- The McKiernan Family, Dereenasoo on the death of Marie McKiernan.
- The McSharry Family, Lareen, Kinlough, Co Leitrim on the death of Martina McSharry

19/114

01/07/2019

Deimhniu Miontuairisci

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

“That the Minutes of Leitrim County Council Meeting held in the Cloonmorris Community Centre, Bornacoola, Co Leitrim on Tuesday, 7th May 2019 be adopted”.

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, seconded by Ita Reynolds Flynn and RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Friday, 7th June 2019 be adopted.

Councillor Des Guckian outlined his view that a tape recording be made of all meetings. Councillor Des Guckian proposed two amendments to the minutes of the Annual Meeting.

Councillor Des Guckian proposed the following amendments to the 7th June 2019 minutes – to reflect the Vote of Sympathy expressed to Cllr Enda McGloin on the death of his father and to record that he noted the ban on Fracking contained in the County Development Plan.

The amendments as proposed were agreed and the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 7th June 2019 were amended to reflect same.

19/115

01/7/2019

Rossinver Graveyard

Proposed by Councillor Justin Warnock, Seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

To approve the Chief Executive’s Report and Recommendation pursuant to Section 179 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 - 2018 & Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 – 2018 to construct an extension to the North of the existing Rossinver Graveyard (in partnership with Rossinver Graveyard Committee).

The proposed development includes the provision of 145 no new grave plots with access paths and all associated site works.

The Report as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

19/116

01/07/2019

Housing Finance Agency

Report dated 25th June 2019 from Mr Michael Hand, A/Financial Management Accountant in regard to drawdown of €1,000,000 under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001 for the purposes of financing housing loans. A copy of the report as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book

Councillor Des Guckian sought clarification as to why the Government cannot provide this money and is there a need for €1, 000,000 and how will this be spent.

Mr Vincent Dwyer advised that this drawdown is under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme and is only for the purpose of financial housing loans.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Padraig Fallon AND RESOLVED;

“That the drawdown of €1,000,000 under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001 for the purposes of financing housing loans be approved”.

19/117

01/07/2019 Draft SPC Scheme 2019-2024

Draft SPC Scheme 2019-2024 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms. Quinn outlined that the Draft SPC Scheme 2019-2024 has been prepared in accordance with the Departmental Guidelines and she advised that the Draft SPC Scheme as presented is recommended by the Corporate Policy Group for approval by the Council. She advised that, following approval, the Draft Scheme will be placed on public display for a one month period to allow for the making of submissions on the Scheme. Ms Quinn advised that all sectoral organizations involved in the previous SPC's will be informed and invited to make comments in relation to same. Any submissions received will be considered by the Corporate Policy Group at its meeting on 2nd September 2019 and following this the Draft Scheme will be listed on the agenda for the September Council meeting for consideration for adoption.

Proposed by Councillor Callian Ellis seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council's Draft SPC Scheme 2019-2024 be approved”.

19/118
01/07/2019

Affordable Housing Scheme

Report dated 1st July 2019 from Samantha Healy, Senior Executive Officer, Housing and Corporate Services in regard to scheme of priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan seconded by Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn AND RESOLVED;

“That the Affordable Housing Scheme in accordance with Section 85 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 (Part 5) Regulations 2019 S.I. 81 of 2019 be approved”.

19/119
01/07/2019

Allocations under the Tourism Support Scheme 2019

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, advised Members that the first call under the Tourism Support Scheme 2019 has been completed.

A total of seven applications were received at the closing date of 29th March 2019.

An independent evaluation took place on 18th April 2019 with 2 groups recommended for approved and 5 groups deemed ineligible.

The following groups were recommended for approval under the Tourism Support Scheme:-

- Secret Heart Anusara Yoga - €2,640
- Ballinamore Angling & Tourism - €1,700

A further call for projects in 2019 will be announced shortly.

Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Secret Heart Anusara Yoga and Ballinamore Angling & Tourism be approved for Allocations under the Tourism Support Scheme 2019.

19/120
01/07/2019

National & Local Performance Indicators 2018

Report dated 24th June, 2018 from Mr. Lar Power, Chief Executive in relation to the National and Local Performance Indicators, 2018 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The report was noted by the Members.

19/121
01/07/2019 **Corporate Policy Group Report**

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services outlined that the Draft SPC Scheme 2019-2024 was considered by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting held prior to the Council meeting and recommended for Approval by the full Council.

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.

19/122
01/07/2019 **Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive**

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1st April 2019 to 30th April 2019 and 1st May 2019 to 31st May 2019 by Lar Power, Chief Executive, dated 14th May 2019 and 17th June 2019 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.

The reports were noted by Members.

19/123
01/07/2019 **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.

19/124
01/07/2019 **Conferences/Training**

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

“That the attendance of Cllr Sean McDermott, Councillor Pdraig Fallon, Councillor Brendan Barry, Councillor Caillian Ellis, Councillor Felim Gurn and Councillor Gerry Dolan at the AILG Training on the 11th July 2019 in the Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar be approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Enda Stenson and Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn at the 39th Annual MacGill Summer School on the 21st July 2019 to 26th July 2019 in the Glenties, Donegal be approved”.

19/125

01/07/2019

Meeting Correspondence

1. Resolution from Galway County Council received 1st May 2019 calling on the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection to use all means available to uphold the 2008 Labour Court Ruling and to provide an agreed Pension Scheme for Community Employment Supervisors and Assistant Supervisors.
2. Resolution from Monaghan County Council received 8th May 2019 in relation to Rates and Rateable Valuation which is causing serious problems for business owners, cash flow pressure at a time of uncertainty due to Brexit. Rates levied on business premises is not an appropriate way to raise revenues for local government – a changing world where business is done over the internet. Not a sustainable model long term and needs to be reviewed so that Local Government funding can be made secure against a changing pattern of business. A study is required of local government funding models including models in other jurisdictions.
3. Letter received 14th May 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to regulation of the small public service vehicle industry, including the licensing of local area hackneys, is a matter for the National Transport Authority under the provisions of the Taxi Regulation Act 2013.
4. Letter received 5th June 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Health acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Cancer Drug Pembro.
5. Letter received 5th June 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Health acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to the restoration of Public Health Nursing hours in Drumkeerin, Co Leitrim.

Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that a further letter issue to the Minister for Health outlining that sufficient hours have still not been restored to the Public Health Nursing Hours in Drumkeerin and that they need to be put in place.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon supported this.

6. Letter received 5th June 2019 from the Office of the Taoiseach acknowledging receipt of Resolution regarding additional funding.

7. Letter received 5th June 2019 from the Office of the Taoiseach acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to an Insurance Fraud Unit.

Councillor Brendan Barry expressed his disappointment with the vague reply received in this regard and proposed that a further letter issue to the Government and that the reply received be circulated to all members in advance of the next meeting.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr Enda McGloin proposed that letter issue to Deputy Michael D'Arcy in this regard.

8. Memo to the Elected Members of Leitrim County Council dated 12th June 2019 in regard to the Student Grants Scheme.

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn proposed that a letter issue to Minister McHugh calling for an increase in grants for students.

9. Letter received 14th June 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport acknowledging receipt of Resolution from Leitrim County Council in regard to additional funding to surface lanes and by roads.

10. Letter received 14th June 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to a Land Reclamation Scheme.

11. Letter dated 14th June 2019 from Eir acknowledging receipt of resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Broadband.

Councillor Padraig Fallon outlined that there are pockets in the Manorhamilton Municipal District which have very poor broadband.

Councillor Enda Stenson noted that the phone coverage has got worse.

Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed the investment of €4m by Eir in fixed fibre infrastructure in County Leitrim and insisted that they need to be more flexible in their approach to installing this infrastructure.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr Enda McGloin proposed that Eir be invited to make a presentation to the Members in this regard. Councillor Enda Stenson supported this.

12. Resolution from Clare County Council dated 20th June 2019 opposing the roll out of 5G and the massive increase in involuntary exposure to electromagnetic radiation, calling on CommReg to deny licensing for 5G roll- out and calling on the Minister for Communication, Climate Change and the Environment to establish a working group to establish the facts about the radiation impact 5G on the environment and Human health due to the current questionable scientific knowledge.

Councillor Justin Warnock supported the Resolution from Clare County Council.

Councillor Enda McGloin noted that there is an inferior mobile signal in this county and noted that it is very poor in his electoral area.

13. Resolution from Clare County Council dated 20th June 2019 calling on the Minister for Health to provide for the rollout of free folic acid for all women of childbearing age and to run an educational programme in tandem, not unlike the hugely successful HPV Vaccination Campaign championed by Laura Brennan.
14. Notice publishing Commencement of Audit of the accounts for the financial year ended 31st December 2018.
15. Letter received 24th June 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Housing Assistance Payment Scheme.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire sought clarification on the maximum rent limit on the HAP payment.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services outlined that the prescribed thresholds are set nationally.

Other issues raised under Correspondence

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services advised the Members as follows:-

- A workshop with Members would be held at 2.30 pm following the Council meeting in regard to the Socio Economic study of Forestry in County Leitrim.
- The submission regarding the Fracking licence in County Fermanagh has been submitted to the Department of Petroleum in Northern Ireland
- A number of overlays are imminent in the Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District commencing this week.

Councillor Des Guckian complimented the submission made in relation to fracking and welcomed the works of a 5 km stretch from Masonite to Jamestown.

Renovation of Vacant Houses

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke queried if there had been any response from the Minister for the Environment in regard to a grant to renovate some of the many vacant houses in our towns, villages and countryside.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services confirmed that there was no reply to date.

Beef Trade Deal

Councillor Ellis proposed that a letter issue to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, MEPS, Farming Organisations and All Local Authorities to oppose the EU Mercosur trade deal.

All Members supported the proposal.

Local Link Services

Councillor Des Guckian highlighted that the Local Link Services Office will be relocated to Donegal and he proposed that a letter issue to TII registering a protest to this and requesting that the name of the new Liaison Person for County Leitrim be submitted to Leitrim County Council.

The Members paid tribute to Camilla Kelly and staff of the Local Link Office which was located in Carrick-on-Shannon.

Japanese Knotweed

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke highlighted the problem regarding the growth of Japanese Knotweed on minor and local roads.

Councillor Thomas Mulligan proposed that the granular product that is used by the Local Authority to control this be made known to households in order that people can buy it and make use of it to control this problem.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly agreed to make the name of the product available in Libraries/Area Offices and on the website.

Workshop with Members

It was agreed that Members would have a further workshop with the Executive on the 2nd September 2019 following the Council meeting.

19/126
01/07/2019

Vote of Congratulations

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

- Leitrim Hurling Team on winning the Lory Meagher Cup Final in Croke Park recently.

Councillor Enda Stenson proposed that a reception be held for the Leitrim Hurling Team who won the Lory Meagher Cup Final recently.

It was agreed that this be discussed at the next Corporate Policy Group meeting.

Notices of Motions

19/127
01/07/2019

Forestry

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Enda McGloin proposed that Motion No 13 in the name of Councillor Des Guckian, Motion No 15 in the name of Councillor Felim Gurn, Motion No 23 in the name of Councillor Justin Warnock and Motion No 27 in the name of Councillor Gerry Dolan would be taken concurrently as they all relate to Afforestation. This was agreed by the Members.

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

"That Leitrim County Councillors agree that we are very opposed to blanket afforestation. As part of that opposition we must demand

1. That farm payments, in disadvantaged areas, be brought up to allow farmers earn a living income and
2. That all TDs must, now, oppose the changes in rules that see full forestry grants being given to all-comers, including vulture funds. Ireland must revert to the situation where full forestry plantation grants are paid to actual farmers or to people who live within 50 Km of the lands being planted.

These demands to be sent to the DAFM and to each and every one of our TDs."

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

"That forestry is put into the County Development Plan; to ensure forestry goes through the planning process as regards:

1. The amount of Silka Spruce planted per hectare.
2. That there is a mixture of hardwood trees planted per hectare.
3. That environmental conditions are considered:
 - a. Water pollution

- b. Animal habitats
- c. Sparrowhawk Conservation
4. The impact on the landscape of tree felling in tourist locations
5. Damage to roads - bonds be put in place.
6. Access and water supply to be considered to mitigate against future forest fires
7. Strict planning guidelines like for housing"

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

"The review of the County Development Plan will commence within 13 weeks of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) being adopted. It is understood that the material amendments to the RSES will be placed on public display over the coming weeks and this process is due to be completed by Autumn. This would require the review of the County Development Plan commencing by year end or early 2020. The review of the County Development Plan will consider the attached Notice of Motion in that context. However, the Council must be mindful of the need for the County Development Plan to take into account any relevant policies or objectives of the Government which include forestry. The Council has been reminded on a number of occasions that nothing in a Development Plan can remove a statutory entitlement provided for under legislation. In this regard, initial afforestation (which is not defined) is exempted development and does not require planning permission. The consent requirement for both planting and felling (which includes an automatic requirement to replant the lands within 2 years) is managed by the Forest Service.

The inclusion of a policy as outlined, however well intended, would have no legal effect on the management of forestry in Co. Leitrim on the basis of the existing consent process in place and the stated policy of this Government with regard their afforestation strategy."

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to write to the Forest Service and request that all Afforestation Licence Applications for Leitrim be referred to them and to all other agencies including (EPA, NPWS, An Taisce, IFI) for comment prior to granting a Licence."

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council what submissions have they made to the Government's National Risk Assessment in relation to forest fire risks in County Leitrim."

Report by Head of Finance & Water Services

"The National Risk Assessment was produced by the Office of Emergency Planning who work under the Department of Defence in 2017. We were not consulted directly in relation to this at the time and as such did not make any submission. However as

part of our local and regional risk assessments that we produce and update annually for emergency management purposes, we continue to consider the risk of forest fires in County Leitrim."

Councillor Des Guckian demanded that farm payments, in disadvantaged areas, be brought up to allow farmers to earn a living income and called all TDs to oppose the changes in rules that see full forestry grants being given to all-comers, including vulture funds.

Councillor Felim Gurn said it is very difficult to promote Leitrim with the level of afforestation.

Councillor Justin Warnock called on the forest service to refer Afforestation Licences Applications for Leitrim to Leitrim County Council for comment.

Councillor Gerry Dolan called for afforestation to be stopped in County Leitrim and stated that there are houses in close proximity to forests with no proper access for Fire Brigades or water facilities available in the event of forest fires in County Leitrim.

Councillor Mary Bohan referred to the Government's silence on this issue.

Councillor Enda Stenson proposed that a copy of the motions in this regard be sent to the 4 Dail Deputies. Councillor Pdraig Fallon outlined that Deputy Kenny has raised this issue in the Dail previously.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon highlighted that farming incomes needs to be supported further and direct support should be forthcoming from the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in this regard.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that the review of the County Development Plan is awaiting commencement of review next year and Leitrim County Council will be mindful to take these items into consideration under the review. However, the Council must be mindful of the need for the County Development Plan to take into account any relevant policies or objectives of the Government which include forestry. Initial afforestation is exempted development and does not require planning permission. The consent requirement for both planting and felling is managed by the Forest Service.

Mr Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance and Water Services confirmed that Regular Risk Assessments are carried out by the Fire Service and continue to consider the risk of forest fires in County Leitrim.

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

"Leitrim County Councillors agree that Leitrim County Council are very opposed to blanket afforestation. As part of that opposition Leitrim County Council demand

1. That farm payments, in disadvantaged areas, be brought up to allow farmers earn a living income and
2. That all TDs must, now, oppose the changes in rules that see full forestry grants being given to all-comers, including vulture funds. Ireland must revert to the situation where full forestry plantation grants are paid to actual farmers or to people who live within 50 km of the lands being planted.

These demands to be sent to the DAFM and to each and every one of our TDs."

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Forest Service and request that all Afforestation Licence Applications for Leitrim be referred to them and to all other agencies including (EPA, NPWS, An Taisce, IFI) for comment prior to granting a Licence."

**19/128
01/07/2019**

Croagh Wind Farm

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council meet a deputation from concerned residents regarding the proposed Croagh Wind Farm. I further propose that members of this delegation would address the Council at the September meeting."

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

"The matter of proposed development of this nature is considered in accordance with the Planning and Development legislation through the executive functions of the local authority once a planning application is received. The planning and development legislation provides a statutory consultation period for all planning applications during which anyone who has concerns or views on any proposed development can make detail submissions on the proposed development. These submissions are duly considered by the relevant planner in the assessment and recommendation on the application for the proposed development which in turn is considered by the relevant deciding official, either the Chief Executive or Director of Services through delegated functions. Therefore the acceptance of a deputation to the Council as requested by this motion is both inappropriate and irrelevant."

Councillor Mary Bohan outlined that she had been approached by concerned residents regarding the proposed Wind Farm and a number of families have serious concerns about the proposed development and she had been asked if they could address the Council to raise their concerns.

Councillor Frank Dolan supported this.

Councillor Enda McGloin outlined that a Circular had issued to all Local Authorities from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to the discussion of planning applications at Council Meetings.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation advised Members that the acceptance of a deputation to the Council from concerned residents regarding the proposed Croagh Wind Farm would be inappropriate as outlined in the Circular received from the Department.

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive advised Members that they have no role to play in the planning process and he outlined that by allowing a delegation to address the Chamber on a proposal which will probably be the subject of a planning application could be seen as an attempt to undermine due process. Mr Power said that if it is decided to accept the delegation he and the Executive will be withdrawing from the meeting in order to protect the planning process.

Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her disappointment with this response from the Executive and insisted that where constituents have serious concerns and express a desire to address the Council it should be allowed.

Mr Power referred to the circular letter received last March from the Minister in this regard.

Councillor Padraig Fallon said he had met with this group of individuals on a number of occasions who have real and genuine concerns and he struggled to understand why this group or any other group cannot be facilitated regardless what the issue is.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Enda McGloin outlined that if people have a concern they should make a submission once the planning application is made to the Council.

Councillor Frank Dolan proposed that the delegation attend the council meeting but not address it.

Councillor Mary Bohan insisted that she was not going to withdraw her motion and she was going to leave it on the Agenda for the September Meeting, discuss it with other Councillors in the area and seek legal advice. Councillor Bohan requested that the circular referred to in this regard be circulated to all the Members.

19/129
01/07/2019

One Off Planning

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

"I propose that this Local Authority reaffirm it's commitment to one off planning in

light of recent revelations which come on foot of the 'Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework which will encourage more focused settlements in this country where cluster living around towns and villages will emerge."

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

"The existing County Development Plan 2015-2021 provides the stated policy framework for all development in the county including individual houses in the countryside.

The National Planning Framework does not seek to prohibit one off housing in the countryside and force rural dwellers into towns and villages. The policy differentiates between areas surround large towns and cities which are considered under increased pressure for 'urban generated rural housing' and other areas of the country. The framework also seeks to target the reversal of rural decline in the core of small towns and villages through sustainable targeted measures that address vacant premises and deliver sustainable reuse and regeneration outcomes. This includes a programme for 'new homes in small towns and villages' with local authorities, public infrastructure agencies such as Irish Water and local communities to provide serviced sites with appropriate infrastructure to attract people to build their own homes and live in small towns and villages.

In relation to one off housing, National Policy Objective 19 of the National Planning Framework seeks to:

Ensure, in providing for the development of rural housing, that a distinction is made between areas under urban influence, i.e. within the commuter catchment of cities and large towns and centres of employment, and elsewhere:

In rural areas under urban influence, facilitate the provision of single housing in the countryside based on the core consideration of demonstrable economic or social need to live in a rural area and siting and design criteria for rural housing in statutory guidelines and plans, having regard to the viability of smaller towns and rural settlements;

In rural areas elsewhere, facilitate the provision of single housing in the countryside based on siting and design criteria for rural housing in statutory guidelines and plans, having regard to the viability of smaller towns and rural settlements.

At a local level, the core strategy of county development plans will account for the demand for single housing in the countryside. This will be related to the local authority's overall Housing Need Demand Assessment (HNDA) that will be required to be undertaken in future planning. Quantifying the need for single housing on an evidence basis will assist in supporting the preparation of a comprehensive housing strategy and associated land use policies."

Councillor Pádraig Fallon gave the background to his motion and welcomed the lengthy reply received in this regard.

Councillor Pádraig Fallon proposed that replies to notices of motions should be made available to Members a few days in advance of the meeting.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported the motion and said that this item is on the Agenda for more than 10 years, promises have been made and nothing has been put into practice to date.

Councillor Justin Warnock outlined that if people were left on their family farms this would result in less afforestation and people would be able to work and live in the County.

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn concurred with the comments from Members in this regard and said she would like to see replies to the motions in advance of the meeting.

Councillor Sean McGowan said he was heartened with the recent meeting with Minister English.

Councillor Enda Stenson thanked the Executive for facilitating the meeting with Minister English and he said that he believed positive progress can now be made in this regard. Cllr Stenson also noted that he would like to see a proper report from the meeting.

Mr Gilhooly confirmed the Chief Executive, the delegation as appointed at the Annual Meeting on the 7th June 2019 and Mr Gilhooly met with Minister Damian English in relation to the Code of Practice. Mr Gilhooly confirmed that a meeting has since been held with the Code of Practice Steering Committee. In the last number of weeks there has been positive engagement, and positive acceptance of the issues which is very encouraging in this regard.

Councillor Enda McGloin outlined that he met with Minister Damian English and Minister Michael Ring in this regard and it has been agreed that 50% of cost funding will come from each Department.

Councillor Pádraig Fallon and Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed this update and noted that positive progress can be made in this regard.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Enda McGloin thanked the Executive for all their work in this regard.

19/130

01/07/2019

Patient Health Record Card

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

"I will seek the support of Members in calling on the HSE & the Department of Health to Introduce a "Patient Health Record Card" similar in size to a credit card. This card would provide accurate health care records; it would also prevent time wasted by

medical personnel, asking patients the same questions over and over again."

Councillor Sean McGowan gave the background to his motion and said this card would cut out a lot of unnecessary bureaucracy.

All Members supported the motion.

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the HSE & the Department of Health to Introduce a "Patient Health Record Card" similar in size to a credit card. This card would provide accurate health care records, it would also prevent time wasted by medical personnel, asking patients the same questions over and over again."

**19/131
01/07/2019**

Surfacing of Public Carriageway

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

"I ask if Leitrim County Council have a standard policy in relation to the surfacing of the area between the edge of the public road and someone's boundary wall. During the canvass this issue was raised on numerous occasions."

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

"The Department of Transport provides funding for the surfacing of the public carriageway only, (i.e. from the road edge to road edge). They will not fund surfacing for the area between the road edge and a private boundary wall. However, if a road surfacing / overlay job resulted in a raised level of a section of road adjacent to a property, then localised remedial works would be carried out to insure a smooth transition to the area between the road edge and the boundary wall / entrance."

Councillor Frank Dolan gave the background to his motion and proposed that a policy be put in place in regard to surfacing of the area between the road edge of the public road and the private boundary wall.

Councillor Enda Stenson supported the motion.

Councillor Mary Bohan said it is a very valid motion and she noted that in some cases it is at the discretion of the Area Engineer.

Mr Terry Mc Govern, A/Senior Engineer advised it is from road edge to road edge and this funding is provided by the Department of Transport and they will not fund surfacing between the road edge and the private boundary wall, if there is a situation where it is dangerous it will be married in. Mr McGovern advised Members if there

are cases where it is dangerous between the road edge and the boundary wall to contact him in this regard.

19/132

01/07/2019

Hartley to Carrick Town Sewerage Scheme Extension

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

"I ask the Engineer with responsibility for Sewerage schemes for a progress report on the approved Hartley to Carrick town extension."

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

"Ensen Consulting Engineers have been retained by the local group to design, tender and manage this scheme. The Ground Investigation, (GI), contract is awarded and will be commencing in the coming weeks, pending department approval. The tender documents for the main contract will be finalised and advertised for tender after the results of the GI is determined. A revised cost plan has recently been received from the consultant and is now with the Department for approval. Pending this revised budget approval, the main contract will be advertised for tender, with a view to having the main contractor on site in the coming months."

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire advised that there has been many ground investigations carried out at this location for different projects.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire expressed her concerns in relation to the revised cost plan.

Councillor Sean McGowan queried as to why this scheme is taking so long.

Councillor Paddy Farrell noted that many residents in Hartley are experiencing a lot of hardship with water and sewerage issues.

Mr Terry McGovern confirmed that the ground investigation contract is awarded and will be commencing in the coming weeks, pending department approval. The tender documents for the main contract will be finalised and advertised for tender after the results of the ground investigation is determined. The revised cost plan is now with the Department for approval. Pending this revised budget approval, the main contract will be advertised for tender, with a view to having the main contractor on site in the coming months.

19/133

01/07/2019

Provision of Public Lighting out of Mohill to Rowing Centre

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Thomas Mulligan;

"That Leitrim County Council include as a priority in our lighting programme the provision of public lighting on the Rinn road out from Mohill to the Rowing Centre and Caravan park. This is essential infrastructure to ensure maximum use of these facilities and also to strengthen the connection with Mohill."

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

"While the Council acknowledges the merit of this proposal, there is no funding available under the 2019 Roads Programme for the provision of new public lighting schemes. However, an application for funding under the Town & Village and / or Clar schemes in the future, for provision of lighting along the section of footpath on this road, can be considered."

Councillor Thomas Mulligan gave the background to his motion and outlined that the footpath ends short of 300 metres to the Rowing Club and Hotel.

Councillor Enda Stenson supported the motion.

Mr Terry McGovern said the original foot path was provided under the Smarter Travel Programme. He outlined there is possibly land acquisition involved and this proposal should be led by the Community.

Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her disappointment that adequate funding is not being provided for footpaths and she referred to a similar situation in Drumkeerin where a footpath is needed.

19/134

01/07/2019

Carbon Neutral or Green County

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

"I ask, can Leitrim County Council look at the possibility of having the county designated as a Carbon Neutral or Green County?"

Report by Head of Finance & Water Services

"Leitrim County Council are in the process of preparing a Renewable Energy Strategy for County Leitrim and one of the areas which our consultants are considering is the scope for County Leitrim to actually become, as far as is practicable, a carbon neutral or green County Leitrim County Council have also prepared a draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy which is currently at public consultation stage. This draft strategy, together with a report on submissions will be considered by the Members for adoption in September."

Councillor Sean McDermott gave the background to his motion and outlined that it would be very positive for Leitrim to be the 1st County designated as a Carbon Neutral/Green County.

Councillor Justin Warnock supported the motion.

Councillor Enda Stenson expressed his concerns about going down this route and the effect it might have on farmers and bog-owners.

Councillor Des Guckian stated he was not in favour of this motion.

Mr Vincent Dwyer advised the Members that a Renewable Energy Strategy for the County is currently being prepared and a draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is at public consultation stage and which will be presented to the Council at the September meeting for adoption.

19/135

01/07/2019

Consultation with the Department of Justice and Equality

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Paddy Farrell;

"I call on Leitrim County Council to contact the Minister of State for Justice at the Department of Justice and Equality, David Stanton TD to establish the sequence of events which resulted in the arrival of a number of refugees to Carrick-on-Shannon last week. Whereas I completely welcome and support Ireland providing accommodation both temporary and permanent to refugees I think it's unfair that their arrival in the town was carried out without any consultation with key stakeholders such as the Local Authority and indeed representatives of the local community."

Councillor Paddy Farrell gave the background to his motion and welcomed the refugees to Carrick-on-Shannon but called for more consultation with key stakeholders before the arrival of refugees to Carrick-on-Shannon to ensure accommodation and services are in place to cater for their needs.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire and Councillor Sean McGowan called for more consultation with local stakeholders in this regard in the future.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Transportation advised that it is up to the Department of Justice and Equality to ensure accommodation is suitable for the people they are seeking to accommodate.

Members insisted that proper services are in place to cater for their needs when they arrive.

Proposed by Councillor Paddy Farrell seconded by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council contact the Minister of State for Justice at the Department of Justice and Equality, David Stanton TD to establish the sequence of events which resulted in the arrival of a number of refugees to Carrick-on-Shannon last week. Whereas I completely welcome and support Ireland providing accommodation both temporary and permanent to refugees I think it's unfair that their arrival in the town was carried out without any consultation with key stakeholders such as the Local Authority and indeed representatives of the local community."

19/136

01/07/2019

Housing & Disability Steering Group

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn;

"There is a lack of high dependency units in South Leitrim for people with high dependency needs. I have researched this issue and there are many other county councils whom have worked alongside the HSE, to ensure that such facilities are available throughout their counties. I request Leitrim County Council, to look into this matter as a matter of urgency."

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

"Respite care is the responsibility of the HSE and as the HSE are part of the Leitrim Housing and Disability Steering Group this matter can be raised at the next steering group committee meeting."

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn gave the background to her motion and proposed that a second respite centre be made available for high dependency special needs people living in South Leitrim. At present there is just one home in Tullaghan which operates 5 days a week but this is not enough. Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn said that it is important for people with high dependency needs to live in their Community and a special unit nearby would help this.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke supported the motion. Cllr O'Rourke outlined he was aware of many families in these circumstances and he proposed that Leitrim County Council be advocates to put this in place.

All members supported the motion.

19/137
01/07/2019

GLAS Scheme

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

"I request that Leitrim County council call on the Minister for Agriculture to reopen the GLAS Scheme for those farmers who have finished up Aeos and are under serious financial pressure with the loss of this income and to put in place plans to extend GLAS contracts until a new scheme can be opened. The loss of these payments means a more than 50% reduction to gross margin for many farms."

Councillor Brendan Barry gave the background to his motion and proposed that the Department of Agriculture should extend contracts until there is a new scheme in place.

All Members supported this motion.

**Proposed by Councillor Brendan Barry seconded by Councillor Padraig Fallon
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture to reopen the GLAS Scheme for those farmers who have finished up Aeos and are under serious financial pressure with the loss of this income and to put in place plans to extend Glas contracts until a new scheme can be opened. The loss of these payments means a more than 50% reduction to gross margin for many farms."

19/138
01/07/2019

Treatment Purchase Fund

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to call on Minister of Health, to instruct the HSE to honour the terms of the treatment purchase fund in providing the reimbursement to the patients under the terms agreed i.e. within 21 days of their claim. Unfortunately this is not the case now and patients are now being told that it may take at least three months for their claim to be processed placing many patients under severe financial strain because of short term loans that they had arranged to make the initial payment to the hospitals in Northern Ireland when having these procedures and operations carried out."

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke gave the background to his motion and said that this is creating a lot of stress and worry for patients.

All Members supported the motion.

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on Minister of Health, to instruct the HSE to honour the terms of the treatment purchase fund in providing the reimbursement to the patients under the terms agreed i.e. within 21 days of their claim. Unfortunately this is not the case now and patients are now being told that it may take at least three months for their claim to be processed placing many patients under severe financial strain because of short term loans that they had arranged to make the initial payment to the hospitals in Northern Ireland when having these procedures and operations carried out."

19/139

01/07/2019

Tax Incentive Scheme

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

"I request that Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure, Paschal Donohoe TD if his department would consider as part of budget 2020 initiating a feasibility study around a structured Tax Incentive scheme to include the redevelopment of commercial buildings with living accommodation (overhead) in our towns and villages to encourage owners and potential developers to invest in our towns and villages which could be cost neutral in the long run but provide the basis for town and village renewal within our County."

Councillor Enda McGloin gave the background to his motion and said this incentive would revitalise our towns and villages and Leitrim would be a good pilot for such a Tax Incentive Scheme.

All members supported the motion.

**Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure, Paschal Donohoe TD if his department would consider as part of budget 2020 initiating a feasibility study around a structured Tax Incentive scheme to include the redevelopment of commercial buildings with living accommodation (overhead) in our towns and villages to encourage owners and potential developers to invest in our towns and villages which could be cost neutral in the long run but provide the basis for town and village renewal within our County."

The business of the meeting concluded at 2.15 pm

Signed:

**Cllr Enda McGloin
Cathaoirleach**

**Kieran Brett
Meetings Administrator**

Dated: 2nd September 2019