

Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon on Monday, 2nd September 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 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

Apologies: Councillor Gurn, Felim

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 Francis Gaffney, A/Senior Engineer
Mr Justin Fannon, Senior Executive Officer
Ms Vivienne Egan, Senior Executive Planner
Mr Martin Donnelly, Executive Technician
Ms Mairead Shanley, Administrative Officer
Mr Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

19/140
02/09/2019

Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- The Gill Family, Foxborough, Drumsna on the death of Daniel Gill, R.I.P.
- Mr & Mrs Tommy McCormack, Tarmon, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim on the death of Tommy Spike McCormack R.I.P.
- Mrs Mary O'Boyle, Park Drive, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Brian O'Boyle R.I.P.
- Martin & Bernadette Talbot & Family, Corbally, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of Sarah Talbot R.I.P.
- Claire Cull, Hilly Road, Drumcoura, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim on the death of James Cull R.I.P.
- Michael & Judith Bohan, Shannon View, Rossy, Keshcarrigan, Co Leitrim on the death of Daniel John Bohan R.I.P.
- Maureen Reynolds, Coolebawn, Mohill, Co Leitrim on the death of John Reynolds R.I.P.
- The Lawrence Family, Aughadrumderg, Mohill on the death of Frank Lawrence R.I.P.

19/141
02/09/2019

Deimhniu Miontuairisci

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

“That the Minutes of Leitrim County Council Meeting held in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-o-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday, 1st July 2019 be adopted”.

Councillor Des Guckian queried if a workshop was taking place following this meeting as agreed at the 1st July 2019 Council meeting.

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive advised that this workshop would take place on Monday, 23rd September 2019 from 11.30 am to 1.30 pm in the Council Chamber and a special meeting would take place after this on the same day. It was agreed that the Ballinamore Municipal District meeting would take place, prior to the workshop on September 23rd, in the Council Chamber at 10 am.

Councillor Des Guckian sought a further explanation to be submitted to him in relation to one off planning in light of recent revelations which come on foot of the 'Project Ireland 2040' as discussed at the July meeting. Mr Joseph Gilhooly agreed to this.

19/142

02/09/2019

Land at Dristernan Td., Drumshanbo

Notice of Intention dated August 2019 in relation to the disposal of a small plot of land at Dristernan Td., Drumshanbo, comprising circa 127m² (0.012 Hectares) in the townland of Dristernan (Folio No LM19301) in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as circulated to all Members which appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan, Seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

“That the disposal of a small plot of land at Dristernan Td., Drumshanbo, comprising circa 127m² (0.012 Hectares) in the townland of Dristernan (Folio No LM19301) in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention dated August 2019 as circulated to all Members be approved”.

19/143

02/09/2019

Land at Gortnaskeagh, Leackaun

Notice of Intention dated 20th August 2019 in relation to transfer of a plot of land comprising 0.0023 hectares (Freehold) at Gortnaskeagh, Leackaun (Folio No LM 19158) in the townland of Gortnaskeagh, Leackaun (Folio No LM 19158) in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as circulated to all Members which appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan, Seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fallon and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

“That the transfer of a plot of land comprising 0.0023 hectares (Freehold) at Gortnaskeagh, Leackaun (Folio No LM19158) in the townland of Gortnaskeagh, Leackaun (Folio No LM 19158) in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention dated 20th August 2019 as circulated to all Members be approved”.

19/144

02/09/2019

Leitrim County Council Strategic Policy Committee Scheme

Report from the Chief Executive dated 27th August 2019 on the submissions received on the Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2019-2024 as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Des Guckian sought clarification on whether agriculture would be included as part of an SPC.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr Enda McGloin advised that agriculture would be part of Environment, Climate Action and Agriculture Strategic Policy Committee as previously agreed.

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

“That Leitrim County Council Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2019-2024 be adopted in accordance with the provisions of Section 48 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by Section 41 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014”.

19/145

02/09/2019 Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

Report dated 2nd September 2019 from Lar Power, Chief Executive on the submissions received on the draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 be approved”.

19/146

02/09/2019 Taking in Charge of Roads

Report dated 2nd September 2019 from Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning & Infrastructural Services as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan seconded by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire AND RESOLVED;

“That the Taking in Charge of roads in 36 housing estates in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 be approved”.

In approving the taking in charge of roads in the 36 estates the following points were highlighted by members:-

- Extra Cost on the Council
- Public Lighting in estates not working

Councillor Des Guckian said that the taking in charge of roads in 36 Housing estates is a huge number and this obviously has to have a cost on the Council and this will be passed onto the taxpayer.

Councillor Mary Bohan also raised the issue of a workshop for Members and it was agreed that workshops would be facilitated in October at the end of each Municipal District meeting.

Councillor Enda McGloin paid tribute to Mr Martin Donnelly and his team for all their work in this regard.

19/147

02/09/2019 Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2019-2024

Report from Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 6** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr Vincent Dwyer outlined that 13 submissions have been received following the Public Consultation.

Councillor Des Guckian said that he was not opposing the adoption of the strategy but outlined that he had certain reservations in relation to the practical implementation.

Councillor Justin Warnock said that he was not happy with the plan in relation to afforestation and referred to the close proximity of afforestation to homes.

Councillor Padraig Fallon sought clarification if the Environment SPC will have input into the Climate Change Adaptation Plan if a future need arises.

Mr Vincent Dwyer said that the issues highlighted will be referenced in the report as the period for submissions has expired and he confirmed that the Environment SPC will have input into the plan.

Councillor Mary Bohan queried as to when the review of the County Development Plan will commence. Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that process will commence early in 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan seconded by Enda Stenson AND RESOLVED;

“Pursuant to the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 and the National Adaptation Framework (NAF), 2018, Leitrim County Council

resolves to approve the Leitrim County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024, having considered the draft strategy, the contents of the CE report on submissions received during the period of consultation and the SEA an AA Screening Reports carried out in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive (DIR 2001/42/EC) and Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC).

19/148

02/09/2019 Tourism Support Scheme 2019

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Economic Development, Planning & Infrastructural Services advised members that the Tourism Support Scheme 2019 was put into operation arising from 2019 budget and the first call has been completed. A further call was initiated and a total of two applications were received at the closing date of the 24th July 2019. A significant external evaluation of the received applications was carried out and the following were the recommendations:

- Carrick on Shannon Chamber of Commerce Tourism Sub Committee - €2,970
- Leitrim Tourism Network - €1,989

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Carrick on Shannon Chamber of Commerce Tourism Sub Committee and Leitrim Tourism Network be approved for allocations under the Tourism Support Scheme 2019.

19/149

02/09/2019 Audit Committee

Report dated 27th August 2019 from Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services in relation to the establishment of the Audit Committee and the nomination of external members to be appointed to the Committee in accordance with Article 7 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014 as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 7** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms. Quinn advised that the Corporate Policy Group has considered the requirements set out in the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014 and, having consulted with the Chief Executive at the Corporate Policy Group Meeting is nominating the following external members to be appointed to the Audit Committee.

- Mr Stephen Hennessy, Financial Controller at Mullins Foodstores
- Mr Brian Kelly, former Financial Controller, Bank of America
- Mr Martin Dolan, Former Director of Services, Leitrim County Council

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

“That the following external members be appointed to the Audit Committee in accordance with Article 7 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014:

- Mr Stephen Hennessy, Financial Controller at Mullins Foodstores
- Mr Brian Kelly, former Financial Controller, Bank of America
- Mr Martin Dolan, Former Director of Services, Leitrim County Council

19/150

02/09/2019

Corporate Policy Group Report

- Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate Services, Community and Cultural Services outlined that the Corporate Policy Group is recommending that the Budget Meeting be scheduled for Monday, 11th November 2019 at 11.00 am.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Budget Meeting will be held on Monday, 11th November 2019 at 11.00 in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim”

- Ms Quinn outlined the Corporate Policy Group considered communication from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council on foot of a request from Leitrim County Council to meet counterparts in Fermanagh & Omagh District Council to discuss the current Petroleum Licence Application for County Fermanagh. The CPG agreed that 4 members and the Cathaoirleach attend a meeting with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council in this regard.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Enda McGloin proposed that a member from each members grouping within the Chamber put their name forward for consideration to attend such a meeting.

- Ms Quinn outlined that a workshop would be held for Elected Members on Monday, 23rd September at 11.30 am to 1.30 pm to discuss the Local Property Tax Rates for 2020 followed by a Special Meeting at 1.30 pm.

Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, seconded by Councillor Frank Dolan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That a Members workshop be held on Monday, 23rd September 2019 in the Council Chamber, Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon to consider the Local Property Tax Rates for 2020 followed by a Special Meeting at 1.30 pm”.

- 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.

19/151

02/09/2019

Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1st June 2019 to 30th June 2019 and 1st July 2019 to 31st July 2019 by Lar Power, Chief Executive, dated 9th July 2019 and 12th August 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 8** and **Appendix 9** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The reports were noted by Members.

19/152

02/09/2019

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.

19/153

02/09/2019

Conferences/Training

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

“That the attendance of Cllr Mary Bohan at the La Touche Legacy Seminar on the 13th September 2019 to 14th September 2019 in the Greystones Golf Club, Whitshed Road, Greystones, Co Wicklow be approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Sean McDermott, Councillor Frank Dolan and Councillor Enda McGloin and Councillor Thomas Mulligan at the conference on “A Practical Guide to Budget 2020” on the 11th October to 13th October 2019 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Pdraig Fallon, Councillor Gerry Dolan, Councillor Brendan Barry, Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn, Councillor Sean McDermott, Cllr Felim Gurn, Councillor Caillian Ellis and Councillor Enda McGloin at the Association of Irish Local Government Seminar on the 11th & 12th September 2019 in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan –“ Climate Change and Planning – New Challenges for Local Authorities” be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn and Councillor Paddy O’Rourke at the LAMA 2019 Autumn Training Seminar on the 17th to 19th October 2019 in the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co Clare be approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Enda McGloin at the AILG Training on the 12th October 2019 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk on “The Planning Process, the Elected Member and the office of the Planning Regulator” be approved”.

19/154

02/09/2019

Meeting Correspondence

1. Letter received 27th June 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in response to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to the possibility of a Land Reclamation Scheme for Farmers in County Leitrim.
2. Letter received 27th June 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Finance acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Owner Occupier Discounts.
3. Letter received 1st July 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016.
4. Letter received 5th July 2019 from the HSE in regard to Public Health Nursing in Drumkeerin.
5. Letter received 9th July 2019 from the HSE in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard the Fair Deal Scheme.
6. Letter received 15th July 2019 from the HSE in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to home Care Packages and HSCAs and referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.
7. Letter received 13th July 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Health concerning Home Help, Home Care and CAMHS.

8. Resolution dated 16th July 2019 from Kerry County Council calling on the Minister for Defence and An Taoiseach that the long over due medals for gallantry and distinguished service specifically for the Irish soldiers of A Company who served as Jadotville in 1961 be awarded as promised by Former Taoiseach Enda Kenny.
9. Resolution dated 16th July 2019 from Kerry County Council calling on the Irish Government to bring the Equal Status Act in line with legislation in the 6 county state and include political belief as an unlawful ground for discrimination.
10. Letter received 18th July 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Health in relation to Pembrolizumab.
11. Email received 22nd July 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Finance in regard to the Insurance Fraud Unit.
12. Email received 22nd July 2019 from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council in regard to request for a delegation from Leitrim County Council to meet Fermanagh & Omagh District Council.
13. Letter received 24th July 2019 from the Office of the Taoiseach acknowledging receipt of Resolution from Leitrim County Council in regard to Insurance Fraud.
14. Email received 24th July 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Health in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to the treatment purchase fund.
15. Letter received 26th July 2019 from the Assistant Principal Officer, Forestry Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding referrals for afforestation licence applications.

Councillor Justin Warnock said he was not happy with the reply received in this regard and said that there are high quality water courses in this county and every agency should be notified. Councillor Mary Bohan said that it is crucial that all agencies should be notified.

16. Letter received 29th July 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to accommodation for refugees in Carrick-on-Shannon.
17. Letter received 29th July 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to the Student Grant Scheme.
18. Letter received 30th July 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in regard to afforestation.

19. Letter received 12th August 2019 from the Office of the Minister acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Patient Health Record Card.

Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed the reply in this regard.

20. Letter received 7th August 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Afforestation.

21. Letter received 7th August 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the GLAS scheme.

22. Email received 9th August 2019 from the National Transport Authority with contact details for Manager of Local link in Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim.

23. Letter dated 15th August 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Health in relation to the Nursing Homes Support Scheme and Home Care.

Councillor Brendan Barry noted the correspondence referred to SláinteCare Implementation Strategy which is to be introduced in 2021 and he queried as to what is going to happen between now and 2021 and he outlined that this is an emergency.

Councillor Sean McGowan said that weekend support is on a priority list and people are not getting it. All Members supported the issue.

24. Letter dated 15th August 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to the funding to surface lanes and by-roads.

Councillor Des Guckian said that bye roads should be resurfaced free to those who reside on them.

25. Email received 19th August 2019 from Kildare County Council in regard to Economic and Business Opportunities from Climate Change.

26. Letter received 20th August 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to EU Mercosur Political Agreement.

Councillor Caillian Ellis queried if any acknowledgements has been received from MEP's in relation to his motion on the Beef Deal.

Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator confirmed that acknowledgments have been received from MEMP's in relation to the resolution passed by Leitrim County Council on the EU Mercosur Trade Deal.

27. Letter dated 21st August 2019 from Marie Foullon in regard to concerns around the deployment of 5G in County Leitrim.
28. Circular Letter LG 07 2019 dated 30th August 2019 in regard to Adjustment to Elected Members' Representational Payment from 1st September 2019.

Other issues raised under Correspondence

LIS Scheme

Councillor Caillian Ellis sought an update in relation to the opening of the Local Improvement Scheme.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly confirmed that this scheme is due to be discussed at the next meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee.

Housing & Disability Steering Group

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn queried as to when the next Housing and Disability Steering Group Committee meeting is due to take place.

Ms Mary Quinn advised a meeting will be held in November.

Grant to Renovate Homes

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.

Mr Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator confirmed that there was no reply to date and that the matter will be followed up.

Notices of Motions

**19/155
02/09/2019**

Single One off Rural Housing

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

"I ask the Chief Executive has there been any response from our Meeting with

Minister Damian English in early June with regard to the problems we have here in Leitrim with Zero Discharge in relation to obtaining planning permission for single one off rural housing? Has the planned meeting with the Dept. of Housing, Planning and Local Government, the EPA and Council officials taken place yet?"

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

"The enhanced engaged with the Council has continued in regard to the impact of the Code of Practice for one off waste water treatment systems on the County. Following the meeting with the Minister meetings collectively with the Department Officials and relevant EPA staff have occurred. Through these meetings it has been agreed to explore the transition of the pilot scheme to a research programme. This step would be viewed as very positive as the management of the trials within the parameters of a research programme would provide the basis for the publication formerly of the outcomes of the trials along with an identified process to deal with these outcomes at a national level. In this regard the Council has been working with its technical partners to devise the specification for the research programme. This process should be completed in the coming month. The matter of funding support towards part of the cost of the trialed systems remains a matter of discussion with the relevant Departments."

Councillor Sean McGowan sought an update in relation to the zero discharge in regard to Planning Permission for Single One-off Rural Houses.

Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructural Services outlined that a number of meetings have taken place with the EPA and the Department and it has been agreed to explore the transition of the pilot scheme to a research programme. Leitrim County Council has been working with technical partners to develop the specification for such a programme which is due to be completed in the coming month.

Councillor Mary Bohan welcomed this update.

19/156

02/09/2019

Industry Levy on Credit Unions

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

"Leitrim Co Council calls on the Minister of Finance, Paschal Donohoe TD, to reverse the decision he made in June 2019, when he agreed to a proposal from the Central Bank to substantially increase the current industry levy on Credit Unions up to 50% by 2022. This increase can be regarded as a tax on Credit Union member's loans and savings. Credit Union Directors are fully aware of the need for the current regulatory environment however an increase in the levy of this magnitude threatens the very existence of Credit Unions in Co. Leitrim."

Councillor Enda McGloin gave the background to his motion and proposed that this Resolution be forwarded to Sligo, Cavan and Roscommon Local Authorities.

Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin seconded by Councillor Des Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister of Finance, Paschal Donohoe TD, to reverse the decision he made in June 2019, when he agreed to a proposal from the Central Bank to substantially increase the current industry levy on Credit Unions up to 50% by 2022. This increase can be regarded as a tax on Credit Union member's loans and savings. Credit Union Directors are fully aware of the need for the current regulatory environment however an increase in the levy of this magnitude threatens the very existence of Credit Unions in Co. Leitrim".

**19/157
02/09/2019**

Beef Plan Campaign

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Enda McGloin proposed that Motion No. 17 in the name of Councillor Des Guckian, Motion No. 22 in the name of Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, Motion No. 27 in the name of Councillor Brendan Barry and Motion No. 31 in the name of Councillor Paddy Farrell would be taken concurrently as they all relate to the Beef Plan Campaign. This was agreed by the Members.

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

"That we, the elected members, unanimously support The Beef Plan Campaign in seeking to get for its members and all producers a much fairer percentage share of the income from the livestock they are producing. In particular, we want to see all thirteen of their key grievances, concerning policy and technical issues, addressed in full by the meat factories. Also, that this motion is forwarded to the Minister for Agriculture and to all other Councils seeking their full support."

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

"That this council unanimously agrees to call on the Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed and the Government to reject the Mercusor Trade Deal in light of the threat that it poses to our main industry and more specifically to our beef industry which is already experiencing great difficulty in the marketplace with diminishing returns to the primary producer. The Mercusor deal coupled with the proposals coming from the National Climate Change Council which is proposing to terminate beef production via the suckler herd has potential to shut down rural Ireland particularly the Northwest where the land type doesn't lend itself to any other type of production."

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

"I request that Leitrim County council supports The Beef Plan Movement and farmers in their campaign for a fair share of profits that are being made from beef and lamb sales, and calls on the Minister for Agriculture to help free farmers from the beef baron's shackles of slavery."

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to call on the Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed T.D., to take some positive action to alleviate the crisis that is looming in the beef sector at the moment."

Councillor Des Guckian said that Farmers have a premium product and an overall price should be set and a moral stand should be taken on this issue.

The Members discussed the issues facing Farmers and the current challenges in the beef industry.

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

"That Leitrim County Council contact Tesco, Aldi, Gala, Centra and Supervalu and ask what is their specification on Irish Beef Purchase as regards age at slaughter; - 30 months or higher? Movements: 4 movements or more? Days of quality assured farm before slaughter - 70 days or less? Would they accept an animal once it was on a quality assured farm or farms? These specifications have a huge effect on farmers and the price they receive for livestock. Many farmers feel these current specifications are anti competitive and too restrictive. Farmers as primary producers are not getting a fair share of the retail price.

All members supported the motions for farmers to get the right price.

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

"That Leitrim County Council unanimously supports The Beef Plan Campaign in seeking to get for its members and all producers a much fairer percentage share of the income from the livestock they are producing. In particular, we want to see all thirteen of their key grievances, concerning policy and technical issues, addressed in full by the meat factories. Also, that this motion is forwarded to the Minister for Agriculture and to all other Councils seeking their full support."

"That Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed and the Government to reject the Mercusor Trade Deal in light of the threat that it poses to our main industry and more specifically to our beef industry which is already experiencing great difficulty in the marketplace with diminishing returns to the primary producer. The Mercusor deal coupled with the proposals coming from the National Climate Change Council which is proposing to terminate beef production via the suckler herd has potential to shut down rural Ireland particularly the Northwest where the land type doesn't lend itself to any other type of production."

"That Leitrim County Council supports The Beef Plan Movement and farmers in their campaign for a fair share of profits that are being made from beef and lamb sales, and calls on the Minister for Agriculture to help free farmers from the beef baron's shackles of slavery."

"That Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed T.D., to take some positive action to alleviate the crisis that is looming in the beef sector at the moment".

19/158
02/09/2019

5G Rollout

Councillor Justin Warnock moved Councillor Felim Gurn's motion as he was absent from the meeting. Cathaoirleach, Councillor Enda McGloin proposed that Motion No. 28 in the name of Councillor Justin Warnock be taken concurrently as both motions relation to 5G. This was agreed by the members.

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

"We know there is a rush to roll out 5G across Ireland but there have been no scientific studies to show the effects on human life or the environmental damage that will be caused in the next 20-30 years. I definitely think that phone coverage has deteriorated in the county, with areas now with no signal where we previously had coverage. Can we get an update on phone coverage in the county?"

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

"The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) has an online outdoor mobile phone coverage map available on their website which allows consumers to check ComReg's calculation of operators' mobile phone coverage and signal levels at locations throughout the country. The mobile coverage map can be found on the ComReg website at www.comreg.ie/coveragemap.

This allows mobile phone users to see the level of mobile coverage in their area of concern. The online tool allows consumers to search and zoom in to a particular area or address. It has been designed to use eircodes and or local addresses for information on coverage at specific locations.

The ComReg mobile coverage map has been generated using data provided by the Mobile Network Operators: Eir, Three Ireland and Vodafone and also includes data for the mobile virtual network operators MVNOs (service providers whose services are hosted by the main mobile network operators Eir Mobile, Three Ireland and Vodafone). These MVNOs include 48, Lycamobile, Postmobile, Tesco Mobile and Virgin Media."

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

"I ask that Leitrim County Council, in exercising its responsibility to protect the environment and the public from harm, and in invoking the precautionary principle in relation to 5G, opposes the testing of 5G, the roll out of 5G, and any action that would facilitate the deployment of 5G in the County, calls on ComReg to deny licensing for its rollout, and calls on the Minister for Communications, Climate Change and the Environment Richard Bruton to establish the facts about the radiation impact of 5G on the environment and human health with reference to global scientific knowledge."

Councillor Warnock outlined his concerns in relation to potential effects of 5G and the lack of information.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr Enda McGloin proposed that the resolution be sent to the EPA as a special dedicated group has been setup to deal with this issue by the Minister for Communications, Climate Change and the Environment.

Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that this resolution be also sent to the Minister for Health.

Councillor Sean McGowan outlined his view that if any planning application in this regard should be put on hold until Leitrim County Council have a clear understanding of the issue.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that in relation to planning issues in this regard a number of exemptions have been introduced by the Minister in 2018. If a development is outside of the exemptions a planning application will be lodged.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon proposed that Leitrim County Council call for a review of all developments and infrastructure granted exemption under planning legislation. The number of exemptions of exempted infrastructure is increasing all the time. This was supported by Councillor Mary Bohan.

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive acknowledged the concerns of people to this issue.

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

"That Leitrim County Council, in exercising its responsibility to protect the environment and the public from harm, and in invoking the precautionary principle in relation to 5G, opposes the testing of 5G, the roll out of 5G, and any action that would facilitate the deployment of 5G in the County, calls on ComReg to deny licensing for its rollout, and calls on the Minister for Communications, Climate Change and the Environment Richard Bruton to establish the facts about the radiation impact of 5G on the environment and human health with reference to global scientific knowledge."

19/159

02/09/2019

Local Area Hackney Licenses

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

"I propose that that this Local Authority call on the National Transport Authority, The Minister for Transport and his Department to extend the area of operations for Local Area Hackney licenses from 5-7 kilometers to 16 - 20 kilometers."

Councillor Padraig Fallon gave the background to his motion on foot of a number of consultations that have taken place with people applying for local hackney licenses in Leitrim. Councillor Fallon proposed that this resolution be circulated to all Local Authorities.

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the National Transport Authority, The Minister for Transport and his Department to extend the area of operations for Local Area Hackney licenses from 5-7 kilometers to 16 - 20 kilometers."

19/160

02/09/2019

EIR

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

"I ask the Director of Services if Leitrim County Council have control over EIR in relation to the erection of poles along the public roadside."

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

"The engagement with Eir in regard to location and erection of poles along public roads arises through different scenarios. For example where new developments are occurring a requirement may arise for the developer to underground the services as part of the works while should the Council be realigning a road or footpath the relocation of the services must be agreed with the service provider and relocated at the Council cost. In general replacement of existing poles due to damage or age results in like for like replacement. Should the works relate to service provider led new services the provision of road opening license requirements could apply. Finally, should any of the above generate a road safety hazard at construction stage the developer would be required to deal with the matter effectively."

Councillor Frank Dolan outlined his dissatisfaction with the reply and queried if Leitrim County Council has any control over the erection of poles by EIR.

Mr Terry McGovern A/Senior Engineer said that where poles are replaced like-for-like, Leitrim County Council have no grounds for applying any conditions. When new poles are being erected a road opening license will apply.

Councillor Frank Dolan said that Leitrim County Council should have more control from a safety point of view when poles along public roadsides are being erected.

19/161

02/09/2019

Local Link Transport

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

"I ask that ask Leitrim County Council engages with Local Link Transport to see if a service could be provided to tourists coming into the county."

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

"Engagement with Local Link has previously occurred in regard to the servicing of some key towns and villages and the contribution this could play in assisting tourist traffic. Examples of other routes include daily connection between Carrick on Shannon and Arigna Mines and routes to Manorhamilton and Ballinamore etc. Should any particular route or route extension be seen as beneficial and of interest to users this could be pursued with the Local Link Office for consideration in regard to their available resources."

Councillor Sean McDermott outlined the need to ensure services are maintained.

Councillor Enda McGloin proposed that a meeting take place with the Directors of Local link.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That Leitrim County Council engages with Local Transport to see if a service could be provided to tourists coming into the county”.

19/162

02/09/2019

Jadotville in 1961

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

"That Leitrim County Council write to Department of Justice calling on the Minister Charlie Flanagan to recognise the bravery and skill of the men of Company A who fought at Jadotville in 1961. Comdt. Pat Quinlan, recommended all 33 men for Distinguished Service awards; this must be carried through with the dignity it deserves. Comdt. Quinlan must be given due recognition for his leadership role; leading a small number, greatly outnumbered by the enemy, to battle end with no life lost. We must show we have learned from these men and give them recognition for the terrible experience which lives with them and their families to this day."

Councillor Finola Armstrong gave the background to her motion and said it is important that these men who fought at Jadotville in 1961 are given recognition for the bravery and skill of the men of Company A.

Councillor Des Guckian said that these men are worthy of praise and honour.

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

“That Leitrim County Council write to Department of Justice calling on the Minister Charlie Flanagan to recognise the bravery and skill of the men of Company A who fought at Jadotville in 1961. Comdt. Pat Quinlan, recommended all 33 men for Distinguished Service awards; this must be carried through with the dignity it deserves. Comdt. Quinlan must be given due recognition for his leadership role; leading a small number, greatly outnumbered by the enemy, to battle end with no life lost. We must show we have learned from these men and give them recognition for the terrible experience which lives with them and their families to this day”.

19/163
02/09/2019

Wind Farms

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for the Environment to introduce a moratorium on the granting of planning permission for new wind farms until such time as the long overdue new guidelines are issued by the Minister."

Councillor Mary Bohan said that various concerns have been raised by residents in Manorhamilton Municipal District in regard to the wind farms and she said it is very important that full discussions and adequate time is given to the public and the Local Authority in relation to the matter.

She proposed that this motion be circulated to all local Authorities, Dail and the Seanad.

Councillor Mary Bohan outlined there are a large number of wind farms in Leitrim and that the proposed new wind farms will be 60% larger in height and positioned on the top of mountains affecting the natural beauty.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon said that all local residents will be affected by this. He referred to the health impacts and lack of genuine consultation with residents.

Councillor Des Guckian highlighted issues regarding location.

Councillor Frank Dolan referred to the impact on residents living in the area if the development proceeds.

Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her disappointment with the reply she received at the July meeting to her motion in this regard outlining she had received legal advice that the motion was relevant and appropriate.

Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that Leitrim County Council receive a delegation from concerned residents regarding the proposed Croagh Windfarm at the November Meeting. Councillor Bohan said that she did not force a vote previously on this matter and she noted that a letter from the Minister cannot stop a delegation from the Elected Members.

Councillor Mary Bohan said she was not responsible for the actions of the Chief Executive and she believed that she was doing the right thing.

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 informed the Members that if it is decided to accept the delegation he and the Executive will be

withdrawing from the meeting at the point for such a discussion to take place, in order to protect the planning process.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Enda McGloin agreed that the delegation could be listed on the Agenda.

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

"That the delegation be received at the November meeting after the statutory items".

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for the Environment to introduce a moratorium on the granting of planning permission for new wind farms until such time as the long overdue new guidelines are issued by the Minister."

19/164

02/09/2019

Vacant Commercial Properties

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

"I call on Leitrim County Council to consider reviewing its decision to impose a 25% surcharge on vacant commercial properties in Co Leitrim in 2018.

Can the Head of Finance provide the following information; how many properties have been issued with the vacant premises rate of 25%, if the premises has been closed for a number of years and cannot be leased, how is the rateable amount decided and what do you envisage the amount to be collected for the year with this scheme?"

Report by Head of Finance & Water Services

"1,089 commercial rate payers were issued with Rate Demands in March, 2019. The 1st moiety (50% of the total rate demand) was due for payment with the issuing of the rate demand and the 2nd moiety (the remaining 50% of the total rate demand) was due from 1st July, 2019.

The 2019 Budget provided for an amendment to the Vacancy Write-off Scheme, whereby Leitrim County Council will grant a maximum write off equivalent to 75% of commercial rates invoiced during 2019 for vacant commercial rates properties, subject to the standard conditions of the scheme being in place. Therefore, with effect from 1st January, 2019 vacant properties are no longer eligible for a 100% Vacancy Write Off. The purpose of the amendment to the Vacancy Write Off Scheme is to encourage property owners to re-let or address their vacant commercial premises across the county and particularly within our Towns and Villages.

There is no provision to amend the scheme retrospectively for 2019 and owners of vacant rated commercial properties are obliged to pay the 25% of the total rate demand for their property in 2019.

As Leitrim County Council are not aware of the current status of all commercial premises throughout the county, reminder letters were issued to all commercial rate payers in July, 2019 notifying rate payers of their obligation to pay their commercial rates together with information on the amendment to the Vacancy Write Off Scheme for 2019. It is a matter for the individual property owners to contact the Finance Department if the property in their ownership is vacant and to submit a full completed application form for Vacancy Rates Adjustment together with all of the relevant supporting documentation. The processing of the Vacancy Rates Adjustment applications will be completed in Quarter 4,2019. The property owner is obliged to pay the balance of 25% of the total rates demand for the year.

At this early stage there is no definitive estimate of the amount of income that will be generated. However this initiative was not introduced to raise income, but rather as a regeneration measure to change behaviour and address the commercial vacancy rate within County Leitrim which is one of the highest nationally, thereby regenerating and improving the presentation of our Towns and Villages."

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn gave the background to her motion and called for a review of the decision to impose a 25% charge on vacant commercial properties in 2018.

Mr. Lar Power, Chief Executive outlined that this initiative was not introduced to raise income, but rather as a regeneration measure to change behaviour and address the commercial vacancy rate within County Leitrim which is one of the highest nationally, thereby regenerating and improving the presentation of our Towns and Villages.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr Enda McGloin noted that a new Bill has been passed in relation to rates.

Mr. Power said that the details of the Bill have not yet been notified to the Local Authority.

19/165
02/09/2019

Narrow Gauge Rail Line

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

"With tourism being our only positive outlook on the creation of further employment, what is the possibility of again looking at the prospect of laying the Narrow Gauge Rail line, from Dromod through Mohill and on to Belturbet, with a green way alongside the track. This is a very successful tourism venture right across Europe, and has to be worth at least exploring this venture. Funding, I'm sure, would be

forthcoming for a project such as this."

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

"The Council continues to work closely with Cavan County Council in the pursuit of the development of a greenway along the Cavan Leitrim Railway line. This greenway would facilitate cycling and walking. However, there are no prospects for renewal of the actual narrow gauge line which would appear to be suggested in this motion. Such an imitative would be extremely costly both in terms of capital expenditure and operationally and as a consequence there are no plans to examine such a project at this time."

Councillor Enda Stenson gave the background to his motion.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported this motion and said he would love to see this project in operation and queried if it would be viable and who would be responsible for its operation.

Councillor Thomas Mulligan said he would be delighted to see such a project in operation and outlined that a feasibility study had been already carried out on this.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly said Leitrim County Council continues to work with Cavan County Council in regard to the development of a greenway along this narrow gauge line.

19/166

02/09/2019

Carrick-on-Shannon to Ballinamore Water Mains

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council write to Irish Water insisting that the water mains from Carrick-on-Shannon to Ballinamore be replaced in full as there is a leak or burst pipe on this mains every week."

Councillor Caillian Ellis said that the water mains from Carrick-on-Shannon to Ballinamore should be replaced.

Mr Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance said he was happy to support this and said that in 2020 this should be progressed to Castlefore.

**Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, seconded by Councillor Gerry Dolan
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council write to Irish Water insisting that the water mains from Carrick-on-Shannon to Ballinamore be replaced in full as there is a leak or burst pipe

on this mains every week."

19/167

02/09/2019

CAP Reforms

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

"With Brexit still not finalised it looks like the next round of CAP reforms will not be introduced in 2020 as originally planned. With this in mind, I ask this council to demand the Department of Agriculture to consider extending the GLAS 1 & 2 contracts for an extra 12 months or up until such times as a new scheme is introduced in the new CAP."

Councillor Gerry Dolan gave the background to his motion and proposed that the Department of Agriculture extend the GLAS 1 and 2 contracts for 12 months or until such time as a new Scheme is put in place under the new CAP reforms.

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

"With Brexit still not finalised it looks like the next round of CAP reforms will not be introduced in 2020 as originally planned. With this in mind, Leitrim County Council demand the Department of Agriculture to consider extending the GLAS 1 & 2 contracts for an extra 12 months or up until such times as a new scheme is introduced in the new CAP."

The business of the meeting concluded at 2.15 pm.

Signed:

**Cllr Enda McGloin
Cathaoirleach**

**Kieran Brett
Meetings Administrator**

Dated: 4th November 2019