

**Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 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. 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 Bernard Greene, Senior Planner  
Mr Terry McGovern. A/Senior Engineer  
Mr Michael Hand, Financial Management Accountant  
Ms Samantha Healy, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr Philip Delamere, Arts Officer  
Ms Kathyne Bohan, Administrative Officer  
Mr Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator  
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

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04/11/2019

Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Bridget Brogan, Drumhall, Drumshanbo on the death of Tom Joe Brogan R.I.P.,
- Austin Kenny, Cartron North, Tooreen, Ballyhaunis on the death of Lillian Kenny R.I.P
- Caolinn Bruen, Ballindrimley, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon on the death of Mary Bruen R.I.P.
- Geraldine and Hughie Whelan, Kivvy, Carrigallen on the death of Cathal Whelan R.I.P.
- Tighe Family, Corderry, Peyton on the death of Joseph Tighe R.I.P.
- O'Halloran Family, Summerhill, Carrick-on-Shannon on death of Elizabeth O'Halloran R.I.P.
- Patricia O'Hara, Corona Blanca, Cornaslieve, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Anthony O'Hara, R.I.P.
- Kathleen Lavin, Alderford, Ballyfarnon, Roscommon on the death of Sean Lavin, R.I.P.
- Hackett Family, 1 Antfield, Aughamore, Annaduff, Co Leitrim on the death of Brendan Hackett R.I.P.
- McWeeney Family, Aughadrumderg, Mohill, Co Leitrim on the death of Michael McWeeney.
- Bohan Family, Gortavacan, Eslin Bridge, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of Nell Bohan R.I.P.
- Byrne Family, Howth, Dublin on the death of Gay Byrne, R.I.P.

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04/11/2019

Deimhniu Miontuairisci

**Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That the Minutes of Leitrim County Council Meeting held in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 be adopted".

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

"That the Minutes of Leitrim County Council Special Meeting held in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 be adopted".

**19/170**

**04/11/2019**

**Lease of Lands at Cloone TD**

Notice of Intention dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 in relation to the leasing of lands comprising 0.0395 acres (0.016 Hectares) in the townland of Cloone, Co Leitrim at Lakeview Estate, Cloone to Cloone playground Committee for 25 years for the purposes of development of a playground in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as circulated to all Members which appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

**Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, Seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

"That the leasing of lands comprising 0.0395 acres (0.016 Hectares) in the townland of Cloone, Co Leitrim at Lakeview Estate, Cloone to Cloone playground Committee for 25 years for the purposes of development of a playground in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 as circulated to all Members be approved".

**19/171**

**04/11/2019**

**Disposal of rural House in the townland of Drumkeelwick, Carrigallen**

Notice of Intention dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 in relation to the disposal of interest in vacant rural house in the townland of Drumkeelwick, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim 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 Paddy O'Rourke, Seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

"That the disposal of interest in vacant rural house in the townland of Drumkeelwick, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 as circulated to all Members be approved".

**19/172**

**04/11/2019**

**Overdraft Accommodation**

Notice to approve overdraft accommodation in the sum of €1.5 million for the twelve month period ending 31st December 2020, subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, in accordance with Section 106 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended.

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

“That the overdraft accommodation in the sum of €1.5 million for the twelve month period ending 31st December 2020, subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, in accordance with Section 106 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended be approved”

**19/173**

**04/11/2019**

**Report from Audit Committee**

Report dated 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019 from Bryan Kelly, Chair of the Audit Committee as circulated to all Members appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book. The report was noted by the Members.

**19/174**

**04/11/2019**

**Progress Report on Corporate Plan**

To receive progress report on the Council’s Corporate Plan in accordance with Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended.

The Report as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book. The report was noted by Members.

**19/175**

**04/11/2019**

**Draft Corporate Plan 2019-2024**

Report dated 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019 from the Chief Executive in relation to the Draft Corporate Plan 2019 -2024 prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

**Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan, seconded by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That the Leitrim County Council Draft Corporate Plan 2019-2024, prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, be adopted as presented”.

**19/176**

**04/11/2019**

**Arts Plan 2019-2022**

“Leitrim County Council Arts Plan 2019-2022 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 6** to the Minutes of the this meeting in the Minutes Book.

Mr Philip Delamere, Arts Officer gave a presentation on Leitrim County Council’s Arts Plan 2019-2022.

The Members paid tribute to the Arts Officer and Arts staff for all the work in the development of Arts in County Leitrim.

The Members raised the following:-

- Extension of Art programmes to areas in the county outside of the main towns and particularly in North Leitrim
- Source WRAP funding
- Level of interest in the Rates Incentive scheme on vacant properties for new Arts/Crafts/Artisan Foods businesses
- Increase in the promotion of traditional music
- Promotion of the reservoir of Arts
- Increased use of Community Halls in promoting the Arts
- Development of festivals – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the death of Percy French/O'Carolan

In response to the issues raised Mr Philip Delamere commended the Members for their support of the Arts in County Leitrim and confirmed that with the help of the National Programme for Arts, delivery of Arts programmes outside of the main towns will be further explored. An application for WRAP Funding will be revisited. Mr. Delamere confirmed that there has been little uptake to date of the Rates Incentive scheme on vacant properties for new Arts businesses. Much work is taking place in regard to encouraging and promoting Traditional music and the Arts generally at County, National and International Level.

Cllr Enda McGloin, Cathaoirleach thanked the Arts Officer for his presentation.

**Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan seconded by Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That the Arts Plan 2019-2022 be adopted”

**19/177**

**04/11/2019**

**Winter Service Maintenance Plan 2019/2020**

The Leitrim County Council Winter Service Maintenance Plan 2019/2020 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 7** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Terry McGovern, A/Senior Engineer provided an over-view of the contents of the report. The report was noted by the Members and the following items were raised:

- Councillor Paddy O'Rourke proposed that that acute bend at St. Mary's Church, Carrigallen be included in the Winter Service Maintenance Plan 2019/2020.
- Councillor Justin Warnock proposed that the R281 road from Kinlough to Rossinver be included in the Winter Service Maintenance Plan 2019/2020.

Mr Terry McGovern confirmed that this route will be looked at however, it depends on the reloading time required and the rate salt is being spread at on this route.

- Councillor Des Guckian proposed that the road from Drumboy to Keshcarrigan be included in the Winter Service Maintenance Plan 2019/2020. Councillor Thomas Mulligan said some base work needs to be done on this road e.g. drainage as a section of the road is in a very bad state of repair and a low level of maintenance would improve this road greatly.

Mr Terry McGovern agreed to carry out a review of the road in question.

- Councillor Brendan Barry proposed that at least one road going through Keshcarrigan village should be included on the Winter Service Maintenance Plan as currently none of the roads through the village are gritted in winter.

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

**19/178**

**04/11//2019**

**Corporate Policy Group Report**

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate Services, Community and Cultural Services outlined that the Corporate Policy Group considered the following at the meeting held on Tuesday, 29th October 2019:-

- Draft Budget for Leitrim County Council for the financial year ending 31st December 2020
- Draft Corporate Plan 2019 – 2024
- Update in relation to establishment of SPC's
- Review of items listed on the agenda for the Council meeting.
- Attendance of Members at forthcoming Conferences/Seminars was agreed by the Corporate Policy Group.

**19/179**

**04/11/2019**

**Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive**

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 and 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 by Lar Power, Chief Executive, dated 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and 15<sup>th</sup> October 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.

**19/180**

**04/11/2019**

**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.

**19/181**

**04/11/2019**

**Conferences/Training**

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

“That the attendance of Cllr Enda McGloin and Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire at the Purple Flag Awards 2019 on the 14<sup>th</sup> November to 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in Leicestershire be approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Enda McGloin at the Regional Development and EU Cohesion Policy Beyond 2020 in Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Brendan Barry, Cllr Padraig Fallon, Cllr Gerry Dolan and Cllr Justin Warnock at the AILG Training in Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Mary Bohan, Cllr Sean McDermott, Councillor Frank Dolan and Councillor Paddy O'Rourke at the AILG Training on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2019 in Radisson Hotel, Little Island, Cork be approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Enda McGloin at the Retail Excellence Awards in Killarney on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Enda McGloin at the meeting with Minister Ring on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in Dublin be approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Caillian Ellis, Cllr Ita Reynolds Flynn, Cllr Sean McGowan, Cllr Justin Warnock, Cllr Frank Dolan and Cllr Sean McDermott at the LAMA 2019 Autumn Training Seminar on the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co Clare be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Sean McGowan, Cllr Justin Warnock, Cllr Paddy Farrell, Cllr Finola Armstrong McGuire and Councillor Enda Stenson at the AILG Autumn Seminar on the 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Ita Reynolds Flynn, Cllr Paddy O’Rourke, Cllr Caillian Ellis, Councillor Brendan Barry and Councillor Padraig Fallon at the AILG Training in Dundalk on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2019 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Thomas Mulligan at the AILG Training in Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Sean McGowan and Councillor Caillian Ellis at the Conference on “Ireland and Plastic Waste” held in Clonakilty, Cork on the 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Enda McGloin at the meeting on the Joint Policing Committee Chairpersons and Chief Executives held on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in the Alex Hotel, Dublin be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Enda McGloin and Cllr Sean McGowan at the meeting on the Western Inter-County Railway Committee Meeting held the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in Westport be retrospectively approved”.

**19/182**  
**04/11/2019**

**Vote of Good wishes**

The members extended a vote of good wishes to Former Member, Jim Joe Shortt.

**19/183**  
**04/11/2019**

**Vote of Congratulations**

The Members extended a vote of Congratulations to:

Glencar Manorhamilton Team on winning the County Leitrim Senior Championship for 2019.

**19/184**  
**04/11/2019**

**Meeting Correspondence**

1. Letter of acknowledgement received 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government on receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Local Government Water Pollution (Amendment) Bill 2018.
2. Email received 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 from Members of the Northern & Western Regional Assembly in regard to A Region in Transition Presentation.



Councillor Brendan Barry proposed that the presentation be sent to the Members in a coloured format.

3. Letter of acknowledgement received 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government on receipt of Resolution from Leitrim County Council in regard to grant for renovating vacant houses.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke expressed his dissatisfaction with the reply received and sought clarification on same.

4. Letter of acknowledgment received 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 from Matt Carthy MEP on receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the EU Mercosur Trade Agreement.

Councillor Brendan Barry noted receipt of letter from Matt Carthy MEP.

5. Letter of acknowledgement received 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government on receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in relation to the introduction of a moratorium on the granting of planning permission for new wind farms.

6. Letter of acknowledgement received 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 from the National Transport Authority on receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Local Area Hackney Scheme.

Councillor Padraig Fallon expressed his disappointment with the reply received in this regard and proposed that a further letter issue to National Transport Authority outlining that the uptake on the Local Area Hackney Scheme is low because it is not feasible due to the area of operation of 5-7 kilometres.

7. Resolution received from Sligo County Council in regard to 5G.
8. Letter of acknowledgement received from the EPA in October 2019 on receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to 5G Tests and roll-out in the county.
- 8a Letter of acknowledgement received 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019 on receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to 5G.
9. Letter of acknowledgement received 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019 from ALDI Stores (Ireland) Ltd on receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to the Irish Beef Sector.

Councillor Brendan Barry noted receipt of letter from ALDI Stores (Ireland) in regard to the Irish Beef Sector and the issues that have faced the industry in recent months. Councillor Barry said that he hoped other retailers would respond in this regard.

10. Letter from the County Leitrim Society of New York received 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire commended the work of the County Leitrim Society of New York and welcomed the County Leitrim Society's visit to Leitrim in August of 2020. Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire proposed that at Civic Reception by held for them on the August Bank Holiday weekend 2020 when they arrive. Councillor Sean McGowan supported this.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly said that Leitrim County Council are aware of their plans to visit in August and will be delighted to work with them in this regard.

11. Letter received 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019 from the Office of the Minister of State in the Department of Finance in regard to the Insurance Reform.
12. Letter received 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 from Irish Water on receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding water mains from Carrick-on-Shannon to Ballinamore.
13. Resolution received from Monaghan County Council in regard to recyclable and biodegradable packaging.
14. Letter received 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in regard to Local Area Hackney Scheme.
15. Letter received from the Office of the Minister with responsibility for Defence in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council on the Jadotville medal.
16. Email received from the Office of Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019 acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the industry funding levy for Credit Unions.
17. Letter received 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 from the Commission for Communications Regulation in relation to 5G testing.
18. Email received 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in regard to proposed densification of 4G networks and LED 5G Masts.

Councillor Justin Warnock noted the correspondence received in this regard and said that Leitrim County Council respectfully represent the whole population of Leitrim and don't want to destroy the environment.

19. Circular Letter L2/19 dated 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in regard to Approval of Schemes/Projects under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021 and grant allocations to Local Authorities for 2019.

Councillor Sean McGowan noted that 3 schemes from Leitrim have been approved under this programme.

20. Letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in regard to update for Local Authorities on Budget 2020 and the commencement of the Local Government Rates and other matters Act 2019.

## **Other items raised under Meeting Correspondence**

### **Library Service**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Enda McGloin said contact has been made with a number of Councillors concerning plans to cut library opening hours and people are anxious to know why this occurring.

Councillor Mary Bohan paid tribute to the excellent Library Service that is available in County Leitrim.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke expressed his concern regarding the impact the proposals will have on the citizens and the library staff and he said that during the recession Leitrim County Council were able to keep the Library Service open and Leitrim was a beacon on how to operate the Library Service for other Local Authorities.

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn paid tribute to the Genealogy Service available in Ballinamore Library and referred to the impact the reduced hours will have for other businesses in Ballinamore.

Mary Quinn, Director of Services said that that due to limited staffing resources in the library service, it has become necessary, in the short term, to reduce library opening hours in all branch libraries in the county. A National Framework for the workforce planning of all library services was agreed in 2018 whereby all local authorities were required to undertake consultation with FORSA Trade Union at a local level and submit an agreed Library Service Workforce Plan to the Department for approval.

Leitrim County Council have engaged with FORSA Trade Union locally over the past 12 months, however the proposals made by Leitrim County Council have been rejected by FORSA Trade Union and the matter has been referred to the Workplace Relations Commission. The delay in reaching agreement on the Council's Workforce Plan is very much regretted and it has impacted staffing issues within the Library Service as no permanent posts will be approved by the Department until agreement is reached on the Council's Workforce Plan.

Ms Quinn said that every effort is being made to bring this to a satisfactory resolution and regrets any inconvenience to the Library staff and the public. Leitrim County Council hope to have the matter resolved as quickly as possible, however once agreement is reached it will take possibly six months before vacant positions are filled.

## **Town & Village Renewal Scheme**

Councillor Sean McDermott expressed his disappointment that Glenfarne did not receive any funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme announced recently.

Councillor Mary Bohan welcomed the funding of €100,000 for footpaths in Drumkeerin and she expressed her disappointment that funding for footpaths have to be sought under this scheme.

Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed the funding for works around Dromod Harbour and he paid tribute to Dromod Development Association.

Councillor Thomas Mulligan welcomed the funding for Mohill Enterprise Centre of €90,000.

Councillor Felim Gurn welcomed the funding for Manorhamilton under the Rural Regeneration and Development Programme under which Leitrim was successful for two projects out of a total of 26 successful projects nationally.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly said that there is a very strong rural community network that are submitting excellent applications. The quality of the applications is such that it proves difficult to ascertain which is the best project to put forward for funding, which in turn proves very difficult for the Minister and his team to decide on.

The members paid tribute to the work done by the staff of Leitrim County Council in developing applications and securing funding opportunities.

**19/185**

**04/11/2019      Delegation from concerned residents regarding the proposed Croagh Windfarm.**

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructural Services stated that the Executive would be withdrawn from the Council Meeting at this point for the duration of the deputation to protect the planning process, and that the Executive could not be subjected to undue influence on planning matters. Planning legislation has a clear and transparent process for making submissions on any application and this process has to be adhered to. Mr Gilhooly stated Mr. Kieran Brett, in his role as meeting administrator would remain in the meeting.

Mr. Kevin Duffy, Ms Adrienne Diamond and Mr. Seamus Dunbar delivered presentations to the members on behalf of the deputation. They asked the elected members to consider the following measures in relation to wind turbines:

- To introduce a moratorium on the construction of further wind turbines in County Leitrim

- To facilitate the commencing of genuinely independent environmental impact studies
- To amend the County Development Plan that EU environmental protections are fully adhered to
- To provide a a minimum ten times tip height to places of residence or congregation

On completion of the presentation by the deputation the following motion was proposed;

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

“That Leitrim County Council call again on the Minister Eoghan Murphy, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to put in place a moratorium on the erection of any further wind turbines until the new guidelines are implemented”.

### Notices of Motions

**19/186**

**04/11/2019**

#### Development Funding

It was agreed that Motion No 16 in the name of Councillor Des Guckian and Motion No 27 in the name of Cllr Enda McGloin be taken concurrently as they relation to the same issue.

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

"That Leitrim County Council must, in conjunction with all the other western counties, demand major development funding for the seriously disadvantaged region that is The West of Ireland. That this motion be forwarded to all other western Councils seeking their active support."

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to write to Paschal Donohoe T.D ,Minister for Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform stating that “Eurostat has confirmed that the Northern and Western Region, which includes our Local Authority, has moved back from a 'Developed Region' to 'Region in Transition and considering that this points to a two speed national economy, how is the Minister proposing to address it; is there opportunity for positive discrimination? Can the Minister also confirm that European Regional Development Funding will continue to be delivered in the regions post 2020?”"

Councillor Des Guckian gave the background to his motion and said that the West of

Ireland is in severe and internal decline and major employment, fast broadband is needed for all houses and businesses. Councillor Des Guckian stated that National Funding is totally inadequate.

Councillor Des Guckian's motion was supported by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke and Councillor Justin Warnock.

Councillor Enda McGloin stated that work is currently being undertaken in the North and Western Region in this regard.

**Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council write to Paschal Donohoe T.D ,Minister for Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform stating that "Eurostat has confirmed that the Northern and Western Region, which includes our Local Authority, has moved back from a 'Developed Region' to 'Region in Transition and considering that this points to a two speed national economy, how is the Minister proposing to address it; is there opportunity for positive discrimination? Can the Minister also confirm that European Regional Development Funding will continue to be delivered in the regions post 2020?"

**19/187**

**04/11/2019**

**Dual Pricing in the Insurance Industry**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Governor of the Central Bank to ban the practice of Dual Pricing in the insurance industry."

Councillor Padraig Fallon gave the background to his motion and stated that insurance companies are not acting in the best interests of their customers.

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Governor of the Central Bank to ban the practice of Dual Pricing in the insurance industry."

**19/188**

**04/11/2019**

**Ring of Leitrim**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council explore the idea of developing a concept that could be called "The Ring of Leitrim". Something that would map out a connecting route between all the scenic sites that we have in the county."

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

"We currently have a dedicated and fully signposted Lough Allen Drive (60 Kms) with points of interest highlighted along the way. We also have the two detailed mapped trails/drives, the Northern Glens Trail and Southern Waterways Trail which are also available on an app. However, we will explore the option of possibly combining all trails to develop them into an all-encompassing route."

Councillor Frank Dolan proposed that all attractions in the county be mapped out and signposted. He said that the Wild Atlantic Way is a great success, and tourists who travel to Glencar Waterfall could then travel to other attractions in the county if a map was available to them of the attractions. He proposed that a feasibility study be completed in this regard.

Councillor Enda McGloin and Councillor Sean McDermott supported the motion and noted that this would enhance all of the attractions throughout Leitrim.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon outlined that this has been raised at Council and Municipal District Meetings regularly and a package needs to be put in place in this regard.

Councillor Des Guckian proposed that guided tours should also be made available for tourists coming into the county.

Councillor Mary Bohan said that there are a lot of agencies working on behalf of people and the essence is to sell the whole county as a package.

Councillor Felim Gurn expressed his concerns that there is not enough footfall coming into Manorhamilton from the Wild Atlantic Way and proposed that additional signage needs to be put in place, more heritage towns and sites need to be developed and there needs to be a greater emphasis on communication with service providers.

**19/189**

**04/11/2019**

**Slow Adventure Tourism**

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

"With tourism in mind and the creation of employment, I am asking Leitrim County Council to explore the possibility of using Lough McNea as a hub for Slow Adventure Tourism in the region."

***Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning,***

***Environment and Transportation.***

"County Leitrim is the designated area for Slow Adventure Tourism with experiences located all over the county. Currently, there are no packages developed in partnership with local businesses that include Lough McNea and the surrounding areas. It is planned to develop further slow adventure experiences in conjunction with the trade providers in 2020."

Councillor Sean McDermott gave the background to his motion and proposed that Leitrim County Council explore the possibility of using Lough McNea as a hub for Slow Adventure Tourism.

Councillor Felim Gurn supported the motion.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that if trade providers in this area become part of the Slow Adventure offering, a package to enhance the experience for tourists will have to be developed. It is hoped to get 5 or 6 more service providers on board by 2020.

**19/190**

**04/11/2019**

**Monitoring water systems**

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

"I ask, what monitoring procedures are carried out by the Environmental section on water systems, for herbicides, insecticides, fertilisers and runoff adjacent to forestry planting and clear felling sites which are in the water catchment areas for our towns, villages and group water schemes and do they collaborate with the EPA and Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to this matter?"

***Report by Head of Finance & Water Services***

"The Environment Department work in close collaboration with the EPA office on water sampling programme. The EPA office sets in place all the Water Framework Directive sampling on our Lakes and Rivers by means of an Annual WFD Sampling programme. Water body sampling sites are classified into Surveillance and Operational Sites. The Operational Sites sampled are analysed for general Physical/Chemical analysis with a wide range of parameters. The Surveillance have additional parameters and are monitored for Specific pollutants/Priority Substances and Priority hazard substances fulfilling legal obligations and in accordance with National Surface Water Regulations. The priority substances include a pesticides suite of analysis. Our scientists take all the samples and this year we will have amassed 553 samples taken from lakes and rivers around the County. We sample 13 no Lakes with 29 no sites in the County and 9 no rivers with 14 sites as set out in the EPA Programme. Lough Melvin is a designated surveillance site in 2019 which means it is sampled 12 times a year (Once a month) with 6 no designated sites. All the samples are taken by Council scientific staff and are then sent to EPA Labs in Castlebar/Dublin and Kilkenny accredited Laboratories for analysis. This feeds into the EPA classifying the status of all water bodies and determining pressure areas and sampling programmes for future years. This is one of the most demanding WFD



programmes in the Country and our scientists go to great length to comply with the requirements of the EPA programme as set out at the start of each year.

Pollution complaints on forestry are fully investigated. The Authority responsible for Forestry in Ireland is the Irish Forest Service who operate under the Department of Agriculture Food & Marine (DAFM)

The DAFM have published Environmental guidelines such as "The Forestry and Water Quality Guidelines" which aim at protecting water quality in our streams and lakes and is a matter for forestry companies to comply with these guidelines and the DAFM inspectors to monitor and enforce their guidelines to protect our natural water bodies."

Councillor Justin Warnock proposed that all forestry and clear felling needs to be monitored near water sources. He said that people are being subjected to pesticides that they should not be subjected to.

Councillor Gerry Dolan, Councillor Mary Bohan supported the motion.

Mr Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance & Water Services advised that Leitrim County Council operate as outlined in the reply given. Leitrim County Council investigate complaints in relation to water quality and follow-up with Coillte, farmers etc

Councillor Justin Warnock expressed his concern regarding the use of Round-up in three forests known to him.

Councillor Des Guckian queried where the water quality samples are tested.

Mr Dwyer confirmed that samples can only be taken to ISO accredited laboratories in Castlebar and Dublin.

**19/191**

**04/11/2019**

**Housing Grant Scheme**

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

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

Councillor Sean McGowan gave the background to his motion and noted the current

rules by the Department are very unfair as they are disqualifying people who are unable to fund the repairs themselves. Councillor Sean McGowan said this should be left at the discretion of the Local Authority.

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

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

**19/192**

**04/11/2019**

**Electric Car Charging points**

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

"Leitrim County Council intends to apply for funding for further Electric Car Charging points. How many will be applied for and where are the proposed locations? Will fast charging points be installed?"

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

"Leitrim County Council is currently assessing the public charge point funding opportunity. The Council would like to focus on the provision of additional charge points across the main towns, train stations, and tourist hotspots. The assessment will also need to include match funding commitments, operation and maintenance costs etc before determining the actual number. Given the level of aid within the scheme it would be primarily suitable for the regular charging points as against fast charging."

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire proposed that an open public call should be put in place to allow submissions to be received from the public in regard to the location of charging points.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke supported the motion.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly said the Local Authority are accessing funding currently available in relation to public charge points and this will help to determine the level of investment Leitrim County Council can make in this regard.

19/193

04/11/2019

**Funding for Group Sewerage Schemes**

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

"I ask have Leitrim County Council received funding for Group Sewerage Schemes for this year? How many have we applied for? There are a large number of housing developments in close proximity to sewerage connections and wish to avail of a connection. Is there a reluctance on behalf of Irish Water to Grant aid those schemes?"

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

"Funding for Group Water Schemes (GWS's) and Group Sewerage Schemes (GSS's) is made through the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme. There is now a new Multi Annual Rural Water Programme in place for the years 2019 – 2021. In March, 2019 Leitrim County Council made our Submission for Funding under this 3 Year Multi Annual Programme under the various Measures contained in the Programme including Funding for GSS's which are now called Community Waste Water Connections. Leitrim County Council submitted a total of 17 No. proposed Community Waste Water Connections Schemes for funding under this 3 Year Programme. The Department have advised that a total of 6 Community Waste Water Connection Schemes would be approved for the whole Country for the duration of this 3 year Programme.

Leitrim County Council received our Funding Allocations from the Department on 14th October last. 3 No. Community Waste Water Connection Schemes in County Leitrim have been approved under this 3 Year Programme as follows:-

- Ballynamony Community Waste Water Connection Scheme
- Rossinver Community Waste Water Connection Scheme
- Tully, Jamestown Community Waste Water Connection Scheme

We will now be in communication with these Local Groups in order to progress these works.

We are also working with the department on demonstration schemes approved under the previous program including Hartley/ Cartown and Edenville. We hope to agree a plan of action with the department for their satisfactory progression."

Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed the funding for the 3 No. Community Waste Water Connection Schemes in County Leitrim.

Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Brendan Barry supported the motion.

Councillor Des Guckian said that a total of 6 Community Waste Water Connection

Schemes approved in the whole country was totally unsatisfactory.

19/194

04/11/2019

**Accommodation for Asylum Seekers**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Justice and Equality not to proceed with the plan of accommodating over 140 refugees at one location in Ballinamore town. This plan is not proportional to the needs of the community infrastructure.

The community request an alternative accommodation structure that will be more adequate for the asylum seekers. The plan needs to be more cohesive and measured."

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn stated that Ballinamore are not saying no to asylum seekers and based on the services in the town, 3% of the towns population would be a more appropriate number to receive. Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn said the people of Ballinamore would prefer to see families living in various houses around the area, rather than a large number being placed all together in an apartment complex as is being proposed by the Dept. of Justice. Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn said the issue is about integration not segregation and the number allocated to Ballinamore should be proportionate to the number of people living in the community.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, Councillor Gerry Dolan and Councillor Des Guckian supported the motion.

Councillor Brendan Barry outlined that he was not happy with the number of refugees referred to in the motion as he said that this was over stated. He had been advised at a meeting in Dublin with the Minister recently that the maximum number of people that could be accommodated at the apartments in Ballinamore was 130 asylum seekers.

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn apologised for this error and amended her motion to read 130 asylum seekers.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon said that there has been a serious lack of planning and vision of agencies and the Department and this type of publicity is not good for Leitrim.

**Proposed by Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn, seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Justice and Equality to amend the plan of accommodating over 130 refugees at one location in Ballinamore town. This plan is not proportional to the needs of the community infrastructure.

The community request an alternative accommodation structure that will be more adequate for the asylum seekers. The plan needs to be more cohesive and measured."

**19/195**

**04/11/2019**

**Hedge Cutting**

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

"I request that Leitrim County Council call on the Ministers with responsibility for Transport, Environment and Agriculture to produce and promote a national information and awareness campaign about land owners responsibilities for roadside trees and hedges. Many land owners may not realise the costs, risks and inconvenience these overgrown hedges cause."

Councillor Brendan Barry proposed that an awareness campaign should be carried out to make landowners aware of their responsibilities for their roadside hedges and trees and to highlight the huge financial costs for lorry owners, bus drivers and the inconvenience caused due to their overgrown hedges.

Councillor Justin Warnock said it is important to note that the farmer is not solely to blame it is often absent landlords and forestry companies etc.

All members supported this motion.

**Proposed by Councillor Brendan Barry, seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council call on Ministers with responsibility for Transport, Environment and Agriculture to produce and promote a national information and awareness campaign about land owners responsibilities for roadside trees and hedges. Many land owners may not realise the costs, risks and inconvenience these overgrown hedges cause."

**19/196**

**04/11/2019**

**Industry to Mohill**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to call on the Minister for Jobs and Enterprise and the IDA to bring some industry to Mohill Town. I worked in this town for a long number of years which was a very vibrant town when I started there. Things have changed a lot since then. I feel Mohill is in a perfect location for the development of industry. A town the size of Mohill needs more wage packets to survive."

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion and acknowledged that a lot of good work is being done and a significant stimulus of job creation is needed.

Councillor Thomas Mulligan said that over the past 40 years the significant employers in the Mohill area are local people and he proposed that people in businesses should be helped, encouraged by the authorities and bodies to expand their businesses.

Councillor Brendan Barry supported the motion.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly said that an Active Town Team is in place and a lot of work is ongoing.

**Proposed by Councillor Paddy Farrell, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Jobs and Enterprise and the IDA to bring some industry to Mohill Town. I worked in this town for a long number of years which was a very vibrant town when I started there. Things have changed a lot since then. I feel Mohill is in a perfect location for the development of industry. A town the size of Mohill needs more wage packets to survive."

**19/197**

**04/11/2019**

**Countywide Co-ordinated Text Alert Scheme**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to support and finance the setting up of a countywide co-ordinated text alert scheme (similar to that supported by Monaghan County Council) where by following acts of theft or other criminal activity each existing local text alert scheme would be alerted immediately providing opportunity to track the movements of the suspects and possible assist in their apprehension."

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

"This matter was discussed at the April meeting of the Joint Policing Committee where the Gardaí advised that a programme to amalgamate community alert schemes is underway and will facilitate the sharing of information across a number of community alert groups. The scheme that is in place in Monaghan is a subscription based service, with the Local Authority paying a license fee to a 3rd party vendor. The Local Authority and the Gardaí use this service to broadcast messages to users in the community that have downloaded the vendor's app to their smart phones. All messages are sent to all users that have downloaded the app and signed up to the service for their county. There is no cost to the end user.

The rollout of such a system in Leitrim should be considered by the Joint Policing

Committee as buy-in from the Gardaí and all community groups currently operating a text alert scheme is required for successful and meaningful implementation."

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke proposed that the Joint Policing Committee pursue this matter.

**19/198**

**04/11/2019**

**Regeneration of Towns and Villages**

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

"In an attempt to address the situation of empty commercial and private properties on the streets of our towns and villages I am asking Leitrim County Council to consider hosting a conference, the purpose of which would be;

- (A) To initiate discussion on what might be the best way to approach this problem.
- (B) To gather the views and opinions of Community Groups, Developers, Public Representatives, Planners, Funding Agencies and Government Representatives.
- (C) To generate further serious discussion
- (D) To make recommendations to the appropriate Government Departments."

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

"Under the Smart Green Mohill initiative a conference was at Lough Rynn which focused on similar concepts. Through this and the work of the initiative in Mohill and in conjunction with the various town teams in the County active action plans are in place aimed at the regeneration of the towns and their environs. These plans also provided the basis for funding applications to town and village scheme and the regeneration funds."

Councillor Thomas Mulligan stated that as you drive through towns and villages the presentation of same will create your impression of that town or village. Councillor Mulligan proposed that a Conference should be hosted to initiate discussion and gather views and opinions at a local level and make recommendations to Government Departments to regenerate towns and villages.

Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Felim Gurn supported the motion.

Councillor Enda McGloin noted that there are landlords living outside of the county who have empty commercial and private properties on the streets of towns and villages and are not interested in regeneration of the towns and their environs.

**19/199**

**04/11/2019**

**Flooding in County Leitrim**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim***

**Gurn;**

"I call on the OPW to carry out a study of areas that are prone to flooding in County Leitrim. Climate change and severe weather is causing flooding in areas that have not been flooded for years, if at all."

Councillor Felim Gurn said that there are serious challenges in regard to flooding unless the OPW start addressing areas in our County that are prone to flooding.

Councillor Justin Warnock supported the motion.

Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that an allocation of funding be sought to do small schemes e.g Behavel.

Mr Terry McGovern, A/Senior Engineer advised that under the Flood Migrations Scheme there are a number of parameters to be met and all applications are not always successful.

**Proposed by Councillor Felim Gurn, seconded by Councillor Justin Warnock AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council call on the OPW to carry out a study of areas that are prone to flooding in County Leitrim. Climate change and severe weather is causing flooding in areas that have not been flooded for years, if at all."

**19/200**

**04/11/2019**

**Provision of more home help hours**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris T.D and the HSE to provide extra resources for the provision of more home help hours as a matter of urgency."

Councillor Mary Bohan noted that the figures for October have revealed that 7,300 people are waiting on a list for Home Help and surveys have shown that most people are healthier and have a better quality of life in their own homes. Councillor Bohan said it is not possible for home carers to carry out all duties required in a half an hour.

All Members supported this motion.

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris T.D and the HSE to provide extra resources for the provision of more home help hours as a matter of urgency."



19/201  
04/11/2019

**Extend Solidarity**

**Proposed by Councillor Padraig Fallon, seconded by Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That this Local Authority Condemn the attack which took place at Deputy Martin Kenny’s house and that Leitrim County Council extend our solidarity to the Deputy Kenny and his family”

Councillor Des Guckian condemned all attacks in relation to QIH and called for a proper investigation to be put in place by the Garda Services.

Councillor Paddy O’Rourke and Councillor Thomas Mulligan said that this is bad publicity for County Leitrim.

Councillor Enda McGloin condemned the attacks on QIH directors that have been taking place and the serious effect it is having on the Border region as a whole.

Councillor Mary Bohan condemned the death of 39 people who died in a lorry container recently in Essex, England.

The business of the meeting concluded at 3.35 p.m.

**Signed:**

**Councillor Enda McGloin  
Cathaoirleach**

**Kieran Brett  
Meetings Administrator**

**Dated: 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020**