

Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Cloonmorris Community Centre, Bornacoola, Co Leitrim on Tuesday, 7th May 2019

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

And Councillor McGowan, Sean
Cathaoirleach presiding

Apologies: Councillor Warnock, Justin

Officials Present: Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive
Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Transportation
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services
Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water Services & Environment
Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner
Mr Terry McGovern. A/Senior Engineer
Mr Justin Fannon, Senior Executive Officer
Ms Samantha Healy, Senior Executive Officer
Mr Michael Hand, Financial Management Accountant
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

At the outset of the meeting the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed the Members, Staff and Media to Cloonmorris Community Centre for the last meeting of this Council's term.

19/58
07/05/2019

Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Paul Mayville, Gubagraphy, Dromod on the death of Therese Mayville.
- Seamus McGovern, Clooncorruck, Carrigallen on the death of Elizabeth McGlynn.
- Leila McCabe, Beaghmore, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of Greta McCabe.
- The family of the late Thomas Joseph Wilford, Aughgrania, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim on the death of Thomas Joseph Wilford.
- The family of the late Sean McWeeney, Drimna, Gortvagh on the death of Sean McWeeney.
- The family of the late Gerard Nangle, Park Lodge, Castleknock, Dublin 15 on the death of Gerard Nangle.

19/59
07/05/2019

Deimhniu Miontuairisci

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson by Councillor Mary Bohan and RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of Leitrim County Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday, 4th March 2019 be adopted”.

Councillor Des Guckian noted the minutes lacked details of discussions that took place.

19/60
07/05/2019 Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2018

The Annual Financial Statement for Leitrim County Council for the year ended 31st December, 2018 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance & Water Services advised Members Leitrim County Council had continued to implement a programme of monitoring and reviewing expenditure to ensure that budgetary limits are not exceeded. The effect of such tight budgetary management and control has resulted in a surplus of €3,466 leaving a reduced cumulative deficit of €260,640 at the end of 2018. Total revenue expenditure by Leitrim County Council in 2018 was €38,565,368. The total capital expenditure by Leitrim County Council in 2018 was €9,738,683. Income received from NPPR was greater than anticipated. Budgeted income was €340,000 while actual income received was €553,946.

In 2018, Leitrim County Council continued to pursue the collection of outstanding revenue through a combination of engagement and enforcement. In this regard, Commercial Rates Collection has increased to 83% in 2018.

Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, seconded by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council’s Annual Financial Statement for the Year ended 31st December, 2018 be adopted in accordance with Section 108 of the Local Government Act, 2001.”

19/61

07/05/2019 Additional Expenditure incurred by Leitrim County Council during 2018

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance & Water Services provided an overview of the report on additional expenditure incurred by Leitrim County Council in 2018. Mr. Dwyer outlined that in accordance with Section (108) 4 of the Local Government Act, 2001 the approval of the Members is sought for the additional expenditure incurred by Leitrim County Council in 2018. The report as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fallon AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That additional expenditure incurred by Leitrim County Council in the performance of its functions in 2018 in accordance with the provisions of Section 108(4) of the Local Government Act, 2001 be approved”

19/62

07/05/2019 Revised Local Improvement Scheme

Cathaoirelach, Councillor Sean McGowan noted that this had been discussed previously at a Workshop by the Members and it was agreed to defer it to a future Council meeting.

This was agreed by the Members.

19/63

07/05/2019 Draft Annual Report 2018

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services informed the Members that the Draft Annual Report, 2018 is listed as an agenda item for adoption. The Draft Annual Report, 2018 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That Leitrim County Council’s Draft Annual Report, 2018 be adopted”.

19/64

07/05/2019

Date and Time of Annual Meeting

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services outlined in line with the legislative provisions for the holding of the Annual Meeting in a year in which a local election is held, that the Annual Meeting is to take place on Friday, 7th June 2019 at 12 noon.

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

“That the Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council be held on Friday, 7th June 2019 at 12 noon in the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

19/65

07/05/2019

Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1st February 2019 to 28th February 2019 and 1st March 2019 to 31st March 2019 by Lar Power, Chief Executive, dated 20th March 2019 and 16th April 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 4** and **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The reports were noted by Members.

19/66

07/05/2019

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.

19/67

07/05/2019

Corporate Policy Group Report

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

- Members ICT
- Update from Strategic Policy Committee's
- Update from LCDC

Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee

Councillor Gerry Dolan, Chairperson, outlined that a meeting of the Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee was held on Wednesday, 10th April 2019 and the following items were considered:-

- Overview of Social Housing Delivery Targets
- Update on Housing Grants
- Affordable Housing Scheme
- Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme

Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee

Councillor Sean McDermott outlined that an Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee meeting took place on Tuesday, 23rd April 2019 and considered the following items:

- Presentation on Renewable Energy Strategy
- Update on County Heritage Plan
- Update on National Broadband Plan & Digital Strategy
- Update from Scott Coombs on PPN Forestry Report

Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural Policy Strategic Policy Committee

Councillor Sinead Guckian outlined that an Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural Strategic Policy Committee meeting took place on Monday, 29th April 2019 and considered the following items:

- Update on Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Litter Management Update
- LIS Scheme

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.

19/68
07/05/2019

Conferences/Training

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

“That the attendance of Councillor Caillian Ellis, Councillor Frank Dolan and Councillor Paddy O’Rourke at the AILG Training on the 23rd March 2019 in the Arklow Bay Hotel, be retrospectively approved”.

19/69
07/05/2019

Meeting Correspondence

1. Thank You card from North West Stop.
2. Letter from the Office of the Tánaise and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade received 7th March 2019 in relation to resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to measures to deal with impacts of Brexit.

Councillor Paddy O’Rourke expressed his disappointment with the reply received in this regard.
3. Submission from Leitrim County Council to Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government regarding reform of Electoral Register.
- 3(a) Acknowledgement received 19th March 2019 from Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government acknowledging receipt of submission on the reform of the Electoral Register.
4. Resolution from Cork County Council dated 13th March 2019 asking the Government to bring the Petroleum and other Minerals Development (Amendment) (Climate Emergency Measures) Bill before the Dáil for consideration and passing in legislation without delay.
5. Resolution from Carlow County Council dated 21st March 2019 in relation to band 3 appendix 2 for assessing eligibility based on income for social housing.
6. Letter of acknowledgement received 25th March 2019 from the Office of the Taoiseach in relation to the VAT Rebate/VRT Exemption on Publicans vehicles.
- 6(a) Letter of acknowledgement received 16th April 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Finance regarding Economic Pressures facing rural publicans.
7. Letter of acknowledgement received 25th March 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Health in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to public nursing hours in Drumkeerin and home help hours provision.

Councillor Mary Bohan stated that Public Nurse hours which was 31 hours is now reduced to 19 hrs since last year. Councillor Bohan said that this is a very serious issue and on behalf of her constituents she is not going to stand over this and she proposed that a letter issue to the HSE requesting that the shortfall of 11 hours be restored immediately.

Councillor Padraig Fallon supported this proposal.

- 7(a) Letter from the Head of Social Care dated 26th April 2019 in response to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to public nursing hours in Drumkeerin and the provision of home help hours.
8. Resolution from Tipperary County Council dated 26th March 2019 calling on the Minister for Justice to “introduce a cap on the number of times that a repeat offender can avail of free legal aid”.
9. Resolution from Westmeath County Council dated 27th March 2019 calling on the Government to accelerate its insurance reform programme.
10. Letter from Transport Infrastructure Ireland dated 1st April 2019 acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to proposed road safety legislation.
11. Resolution from Donegal County Council dated 1st April 2019 in regard to Ireland Pollinator Plan about everyone working together and contributing to making the landscape more pollinator friendly.
12. Letter received 4th April 2019 from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to capital grants. Cllr Logan said that grants are not substantial in this regard and more infrastructure should be put in place.
13. Resolution from Kilkenny County Council received 5th April 2019 calling on all state bodies of Ireland to position a “fada” where it should be, in any given word in Irish, in all communications and relevant places when printing words in Irish.
14. Letter from the Department of Justice and Equality dated 9th April 2019 in regard to resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Criminal investigations.
15. Letter from the Office of the General Manager Services for Older Persons in the HSE in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to St Patrick’s Hospital.
16. Letter from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills dated 25th April 2019 in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to introduction of Occupational First Aid Training for all teachers and SNAs.

17. Resolution from Kilkenny County Council received 30th April 2019 calling on the Minister for Health to extend the scheme for the provision of the cancer drug Pembro, which was previously granted to cervical cancer patients, to other cancer patients who have been determined through medical testing, to be compatible with and responsive to the drug.

**Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson seconded by Councillor Felim Gurn
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

“That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health to extend the scheme for the provision of the cancer drug Pembro, which was previously granted to cervical cancer patients, to other cancer patients who have been determined through medical testing, to be compatible with and responsive to the drug”.

Other Items discussed under Meeting Correspondence

Councillor Caillian Ellis queried if there had been any response from the Minister for Agriculture in relation to land drainage. Mary Quinn confirmed that there was no reply to date. Councillor Caillian Ellis proposed that a further letter should issue to the Minister in this regard.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan supported this.

19/70

07/05/2019

Vote of Congratulations

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

- Staff and Management of Merenda who won the All Ireland Manufacturing Award.

Notices of Motions

19/71

07/05/2019

Additional Funding

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

"That the Members of Leitrim County Council urge the Chief Executive and Council officials to demand from the Government an extra 20 million euro, over a five year term, to surface all our lanes and by-roads."

Councillor Des Guckian said that rural regeneration begins at the farm gate and he

called on the Government for additional funding to surface lanes and by roads.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported the motion and she noted that when a delegation from Leitrim met with Minister Ross he did not acknowledge rural Ireland.

Councillor Brendan Barry paid tribute to Minister Ring for the funding he provided to this county from his department and noted that Leitrim would be further on if additional funding had been forthcoming from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke said the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport has abandoned rural Ireland and has not visited the county despite giving a commitment in 2017 to do so.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Transportation advised Members that €1.5 million has been spent on the Local Improvement Scheme since 2017 and 126 applications remain on the Local Improvement Scheme from the original list of 205.

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

That Leitrim County Council demand from the Government an extra 20 million euro, over a five year term, to surface all our lanes and by-roads."

19/72

07/05/2019

Discounts be offered to Owner Occupiers

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

"With over €24 Billion worth of loans having been sold to vultures funds in recent years at discounts of over 52%, all aided by a tax system designed to incentivise them, I propose that Leitrim County Council ask the Minister for Finance, why can't similar discounts be offered to owner occupiers in danger of losing the family home?"

Councillor Pdraig Fallon gave the background to his motion and called for everything to be done to ensure that owner occupiers are supported and protected from the danger of losing their family homes.

Councillor Mary Bohan and Brendan Barry supported the motion and acknowledged that everyone is aware of hardships cases.

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

"With over €24 Billion worth of loans having been sold to vultures funds in recent

years at discounts of over 52%, all aided by a tax system designed to incentivise them. That Leitrim County Council ask the Minister for Finance, why can't similar discounts be offered to owner occupiers in danger of losing the family home? "

19/73

07/05/2019 **Greenway from Sligo to Enniskillen as a flagship tourism Project**

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to prioritize the proposed Greenway from Sligo to Enniskillen as a flagship tourism project for North Leitrim."

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

"Leitrim County Council has prioritised the SLNCR Greenway project as the key tourism project for the North Leitrim area. In order to advance the 58km in Sligo, Leitrim and Cavan an application seeking developmental costs of €635,000 was submitted by Leitrim Co. Co to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in November 2018 on behalf of the three County Councils under the National and Regional Greenways Fund. The announcement of funding by the DTTAS under this scheme is anticipated in June."

Councillor Sean McDermott stated he is hopeful the application will be successful as North Leitrim has been missing out on a flagship project. This project would be going through the heart of Leitrim and would generate a lot of investment from tourism.

Councillor Caillian Ellis supported the motion. Councillor Ellis highlighted that every effort should be made to attract tourism from Ballinamore to Ballinaglera. He noted that Slieve Iarainn is a great asset, more signage is necessary and it is very important that Leitrim is promoted as a county.

Councillor Mary Bohan pointed out Leitrim County Council is trying to get the funding but the problem is the lack of funding. Councillor Mary Bohan said many tourists are visiting Parkes Castle and are not travelling on any further.

Councillor Felim Gurn insisted that Leitrim should be the lead partner and €600,000 is needed to kick start this project.

All Members supported the motion.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation advised Members that the Business Case for this project has been completed. He stated that he is hopeful that funding will be forthcoming to move this project to the next phase. If funding is not forthcoming Leitrim County Council will be unable to move this project to the next phase. Mr

Gilhooly confirmed that additional signage will be considered for the Slieve Iarainn Drive.

19/74

05/07/2019

Incentives for Towns and Villages

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

"That in the future Leitrim County Council do more to stimulate and support, by way of incentives, businesses on our main streets in towns all over Leitrim. This is urgently required to have a plan to bring businesses and residential premises back to our main streets."

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

"Within the last number of years Leitrim County Council has put in place the following incentive schemes to encourage start up businesses into the town centres.

The Incentivised Scheme for Town Centres gives an incentive to both landlords and new aspiring business owners/leasers to occupy vacant premises by lowering entry costs through a grant related to the level of rates payable on the property.

The grant operates on a sliding scale over 3 years as follows:

- Year 1 - 75% of the annual rates paid in year 1 of trading.
- Year 2 -50% of the annual rates paid in year 2 of trading.
- Year 3 - 25% of the annual rates paid in year 3 of trading.

A new incentive scheme specifically related to Art, Craft Studio/Art, Craft /Artisan Food Shops is also now available, the details of which are as follows:

100% of Commercial Rates paid in years 1 to 3 of trading (i.e. 12 month period of trading)

This grant will be discharged by way of an offset against commercial rates due.

In addition the Council works directly with and assists town teams and has been maximizing all investment opportunities for the towns through funding programs such as Towns and Villages and both the Urban and Rural Regeneration Funds along with continued promotion and marketing of the county as a tourism destination."

Councillor Felim Gurn gave the background to this motion and stated that an Rates Incentive Scheme in our Towns is paramount in order for towns to survive.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire said that car parking spaces for customers and residential car parking also needs to be addressed in our towns and villages.

Councillor Seadhna Logan paid tribute to Cllr Felim Gurn on his motion and said that these problems are no longer confined to small towns. Cllr Logan insisted that proper incentivised town plans need to be put in place.

Councillor Frank Dolan said that the way people conduct business has changed dramatically with a lot of shopping now done online.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services advised that people are coming from far and near and this brings vibrancy into a lot of towns and villages in Leitrim. Mr Gilhooly acknowledged that retail is certainly changing.

19/75

07/05/2019

Housing Renovation Grants

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to support me in calling on the Department of Environment to provide a meaningful "simple to apply" grant, to renovate some of the many vacant houses in our towns, villages and countryside. Many of these houses with a small amount of grant aid would provide comfortable houses for families that our communities badly need. The existing schemes such as 'Rebuilding Ireland' etc are too convoluted and are simply not working. What's required is an easy to administer grant which would bring many of these potentially good homes back into a position to contribute to community life."

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke said that such a scheme is important in order to rebuild Ireland and that rural communities could do with such scheme to renovate existing homes.

Councillor Mary Bohan and Councillor Pdraig Fallon supported the motion.

Councillor Sean McDermott said that this could prevent rural schools from closing.

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

"Leitrim County Council to support me in calling on the Department of Environment to provide a meaningful "simple to apply" grant, to renovate some of the many vacant houses in our towns, villages and countryside. Many of these houses with a small amount of grant aid would provide comfortable houses for families that our communities badly need. The existing schemes such as 'Rebuilding Ireland' etc are too convoluted and are simply not working. What's required is an easy to administer grant which would bring many of these potentially good homes back into a position to contribute to community life."

19/76
07/05/2019

Cost Insurance Report

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

"I request that Leitrim County Council ask the Government have any of the recommendations from the Cost of Insurance Report which was published in January 2017 being implemented? Such as, establish an Insurance Fraud Unit within An Garda, a national Insurance Claims database, and a place cap on claims and an obligation on Insurance companies to legally challenge claims that are suspected of being fraudulent. The State makes having motor Insurance a legal requirement and so has an obligation to the people, to make sure that insurance is affordable and fair."

Councillor Brendan Barry gave that background to his motion and said that this issue is affecting community groups.

All Members supported the motion.

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

"That Leitrim County Council ask the Government have any of the recommendations from the Cost of Insurance Report which was published in January 2017 being implemented? Such as, establish an Insurance Fraud Unit within An Garda, a national Insurance Claims database, and a place cap on claims and an obligation on Insurance companies to legally challenge claims that are suspected of being fraudulent. The State makes having motor Insurance a legal requirement and so has an obligation to the people, to make sure that insurance is affordable and fair."

19/77
07/05/2019

Taking in Charge of Residential Estates

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

"I ask what progress has been made with completion and taking in charge of residential estates requested by our taxpayers in past two years? I particularly refer to the Marymount and Sinann Apartment area and through road leading to Ard Alainn, Mt Temple Mews, Mt St Josephs and Marist Convent. Potholes of large size have developed in this road. Residents are 20 years with roads of poor quality and deteriorating."

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

"Whilst the process has not been finalised in respect of the referenced estates,

significant progress has been made by the Council in respect of the potential taking in charge of these, and other, estates. Notwithstanding that the Council is favourably disposed towards taking in charge of residential estates, as previously advised the Council has to ensure that it does not expose itself to unacceptable risk in taking these estates in charge and also that the process of taking in charge is done so fully and in accordance with the legislative requirements. In processing taking in charge requests the Council may have to engage with various banks, insurance companies as well as third party property owners and Irish Water. Such engagements can be protracted and may also involve recourse to the legal route. The Council intends to move to the public advertisement/consultation phase in respect of a large number of estates in the next few weeks, however, the exact number is dependent on the provision of certain easements by third parties outside the control of the Council.

In relation to the referenced estates, unfortunately the Council still has not received the requisite wayleave/easements over third party private properties to enable the taking in charge of these services. In order to facilitate and expedite the taking in charge process the Council has itself assumed the costs of the preparation and registration of these wayleaves. Until such time as the relevant property owners return the wayleave documents the Council is not in a position to take these in charge."

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire acknowledged that this is private property and she said that there are very large potholes developing on this road, residents have been living in this area for 20 years and this poor service can't continue. Leitrim County Council have to put in place safety measures in this area. There are a significant number of residents that need to be looked after and she appealed to the Council to get this issue sorted out.

Councillor Mary Bohan noted that there are a number of estates in Drumkeerin in a similar situation waiting for their estates to be taken in charge.

Councillor Brendan Barry queried when the next tranche of housing estates will be taken in charge.

Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner confirmed that an advertisement is currently being prepared for publishing in the Local Media and this issue will be considered at the July Council Meeting.

Mr. Greene highlighted Leitrim County Council have no legal obligation to enter into housing estates that are not in Charge by Leitrim County Council. Mr Greene confirmed Leitrim County Council may be able to take in charge Roads but not the foul sewer as this will remain the responsibility of the estate owner.

19/78

07/05/2019 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

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

"I will ask the Elected members to support this motion, to call on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Eoghan Murphy TD, to review the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme, which is biased towards residents of one-off Local Authority houses on family farms in Rural Leitrim and Rural Ireland. There has to be more flexibility where the tenants cannot, for various reasons, meet the financial requirement of the Purchase Scheme and a role should be given to their adult children to assist with the purchase."

Councillor Sinead Guckian moved this motion on behalf of Councillor Justin Warnock as he was unable to attend the meeting due to an appeal on afforestation.

Councillor Mary Bohan sought an update on the Tenant Purchase Scheme and proposed the Minister be contacted to give more flexibility to tenants who want to avail of this scheme.

Ms Mary Quinn, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services confirmed that there is no further update on this scheme to date and agreed to contact the Minister in this regard.

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Eoghan Murphy TD, to review the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme, which is biased towards residents of one-off Local Authority houses on family farms in Rural Leitrim and Rural Ireland. There has to be more flexibility where the tenants cannot, for various reasons, meet the financial requirement of the Purchase Scheme and a role should be given to their adult children to assist with the purchase."

19/79

07/05/2019 Fair Deal Scheme

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that Motion No 20 in his name and Motion No 26 in the name of Councillor Gerry Dolan would be taken concurrently as they all relate to the Fair Deal Scheme. This was agreed by the Members.

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

"I will seek the support of Members in calling on the Department of Health and the HSE to extend the "Fair Deal Scheme" to people in their home who fulfil the criteria on a needs assessment."

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to call on the HSE to make the fair deal scheme more attractive for people who have to use nursing homes, hospitals or private care as some people have to pay approx €1600 a week. As some people are living in fear of loosing their homes and in some cases their farms which they want to leave to their families. Also to provide extra home help to enable as many of those people affected to live out their lives at home."

Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that the Fair Deal Scheme should be extended to facilitate people who want to live in their own homes, in their own communities and this would save the HSE and Department of Health in the long term a considerable amount of money.

Councillor Gerry Dolan supported the motion.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan and seconded by Councillor Gerry Dolan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Health and the HSE to extend the "Fair Deal Scheme" to people in their home who fulfil the criteria on a needs assessment."

"That Leitrim County Council call on the HSE to make the fair deal scheme more attractive for people who have to use nursing homes, hospitals or private care as some people have to pay approx €1600 a week. As some people are living in fear of loosing their homes and in some cases their farms which they want to leave to their families. Also to provide extra home help to enable as many of those people affected to live out their lives at home."

19/80

07/05/2019 Local Government (Water Pollution) (Amendment) Bill 2018

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

"I request that we as a Council write to the Minister and ask that Martin Kenny, TD's bill titled 'Local Government (Water Pollution) (Amendment) Bill 2018' be put before

the Oireachtas Committee as a matter of urgency as it is a major concern for people in Leitrim.

This bill is proposed to amend the provisions of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 to provide for the granting of discharge licences by a water services authority for the development of single houses."

Proposed by Councillor Caroline Mulvey and seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council contact the Minister and ask that Martin Kenny, TD's bill titled 'Local Government (Water Pollution) (Amendment) Bill 2018' be put before the Oireachtas Committee as a matter of urgency as it is a major concern for people in Leitrim.

This bill is proposed to amend the provisions of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 to provide for the granting of discharge licences by a water services authority for the development of single houses".

19/81

07/05/2019

Disabled Persons Grant Scheme

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to update its rate of payment under the Disabled Persons Grant scheme which has not been updated for a number of years. Also to know what provisions are in place for ongoing assistance under the scheme for people with long term requirements such as people who suffer from disease such as Parkinson's, DMD (Duchenne Muscular Disease) who may need equipment such as hoists to be updated."

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

"The unit rates under the Housing Grant schemes have been updated and are being applied to all current applications."

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing , Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services confirmed that the updated rates have been applied and there is no delay in processing applications for the Disabled Persons Grant Scheme.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon highlighted that there is a delay in Occupational Therapists getting out to assess applicants.

19/82
07/05/2019

Broadband connections

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to write to EIR for an explanation as to why people are not being connected up for broadband even where the cable is in place. Many households are frustrated with the fact that the cable is beside them, that they are quite willing to pay, but cannot get connected."

Councillor Frank Dolan said EIR have laid broadband cables in Dromahaire and people are willing to subscribe to their service and they can't get access to the service even though cables are located beside them. People are frustrated at the way this service is being rolled out..

Councillor Mary Bohan said that this is a very big issue in Dromahair and Drumkeerin and it is very difficult to explain to people why they can't get access to the service.

Councillor Fallon said that there are a lot of black spots in North Leitrim.

Cllr Stenson insisted that this issue needs to be looked at.

Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that EIR be invited to the July meeting to give a presentation in this regard.

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

"That Leitrim County Council write to EIR for an explanation as to why people are not being connected up for broadband even where the cable is in place. Many households are frustrated with the fact that the cable is beside them, that they are quite willing to pay, but cannot get connected".

19/83
07/05/2019

Housing Assistance Programme

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

"Rents are soaring and suitable accommodation across the county is becoming very hard found by those in receipt of HAP. I am calling on Minister, Eoghan Murphy TD and his Housing Department to immediately review the HAP scheme with a view to address the limitations of the scheme as a consequence of rent limits."

Councillor Seadhna Logan said rents in Carrick-on-Shannon and the wider Carrick area are increasing. New tenants are finding it very difficult to get landlords who will

take HAP tenants.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Service said it was demand led in South Leitrim, this would be kept under view.

Proposed by Councillor Seadhna Logan and seconded by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister, Eoghan Murphy TD and his Housing Department to immediately review the HAP scheme with a view to address the limitations of the scheme as a consequence of rent limits as Rents are soaring and suitable accommodation across the county is becoming very hard found by those in receipt of HAP."

19/84

07/05/2019

Home Help Hours and Home Care Packages

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that Motion No 25 in the name of Councillor Mary Bohan and Motion No 27 in the name of Councillor Enda Stenson would be taken concurrently as they both relate to home help and home care. This was agreed by the Members.

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call once again on the Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris TD and the HSE to provide adequate home help hours and home care packages to those who urgently need this service in our communities."

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

"I call on all of members of Leitrim County Council to support my calls on the HSE to immediately address the major issue that has arisen over the Non Appointment of Carers to our people who vitally need this service, there are excellent carers only too willing to carry out this much needed service, but the HSE are refusing to act on advice of our Public Health Nurses, also the issue of long delays at present being encountered by Children that have been sent forward by their GP for an appointment with CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services) those delays now can be up to 2 years."

Councillor Mary Bohan said home help and home care is the most serious issue coming to the forefront. In the 2019 Budget for Home Care, there was no mention of home help, which shows that home care is not a priority. Councillor Bohan proposed that Leitrim County Council call on the HSE and the Minister for Health to provide adequate packages in this regard to our communities.

Councillor Enda Stenson said that this is a critical situation that people are faced with today.

Councillor Gerry Dolan said people are in fear they will lose their land or house and he highlighted that it is ridiculous what people have to pay to stay in Nursing Homes.

All Members supported the motion.

Councillor Sean McGowan, Cathaoirleach proposed that Mr Paul Reid, CEO of the Health Service Executive be invited to a meeting of Leitrim County Council in this regard.

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

"That Leitrim County Council call once again on the Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris TD and the HSE to provide adequate home help hours and home care packages to those who urgently need this service in our communities."

"That Leitrim County Council support calls on the HSE to immediately address the major issue that has arisen over the Non Appointment of Carers to our people who vitally need this service, there are excellent carers only too willing to carry out this much needed service, but the HSE are refusing to act on advice of our Public Health Nurses, also the issue of long delays at present being encountered by Children that have been sent forward by their GP for an appointment with CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services) those delays now can be up to 2 years."

Cathaoirleach's Address

Cathaoirleach, Sean McGowan outlined that he was honoured and privileged to have served as Cathaoirleach and to have represented the Council and the people of County Leitrim both throughout the County and abroad. Councillor McGowan thanked the Elected Members of Leitrim County Council for affording him that privilege and for all their support throughout the year. He also expressed thanks to Lar Power, Chief Executive, all the Staff of Leitrim County Council and the Leas Cathaoirleach, for their support, co-operation and courtesy shown to him as Cathaoirleach. Councillor McGowan also thanked the local media for their coverage of activities throughout the year and paid tribute to his family for their continued help, co-operation and support throughout the year.

The Members unanimously complimented and expressed thanks to Councillor McGowan on his fairness and impartiality in the role of Cathaoirleach and on the way in which he had represented the Council and the County with pride, respect and distinction and with a smile on his face throughout his year as Cathaoirleach.

The Chief Executive, Mr. Lar Power, on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff of the Council, thanked Councillor Sean McGowan for his support and co-operation

during his term as Cathaoirleach. Mr. Power then presented Councillor McGowan with a pictorial memoir of his year as Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council.

Retirement of Councillors Sinead Guckian and John McCartin

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan outlined that this was a particularly special meeting, being the last meeting for two outgoing Councillors. He paid tribute to Councillors Sinead Guckian and John McCartin on their retirement from Leitrim County Council, following dedicated and distinguished service. He outlined that Councillor Sinead Guckian was first elected to Leitrim County Council in 1999 and was a great friend and would be a loss to this Council and he wished her and her husband good health, happiness and success for the future.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan outlined that Councillor John McCartin was first elected to Leitrim County Council in 2009. Councillor Sean McGowan said he was very articulate, fair, made a worthwhile contribution to this Council and was a loss to this Council. Councillor Sean McGowan wished him, his wife and family good health, happiness and success for the future.

All of the Members in turn concurred with the good wishes to the outgoing Members. They paid tribute to the integrity and the ability of all Councillors retiring and to the great dignity and dedication with which each of them had served the County. They thanked both members for being great colleagues over the years.

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive, on his own behalf, and on behalf of the staff of Leitrim County Council, congratulated Councillor Sinead Guckian and Councillor John McCartin on their retirement and wished them good health and happiness for the future. He thanked all of them for their unfailing courtesy and business-like approach and for working in partnership with the Executive.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan then made a presentation to Councillor Sinead Guckian and Councillor John McCartin on behalf of the Members and Staff of Leitrim County Council.

Councillor Sinead Guckian and Councillor John McCartin in turn thanked the Cathaoirleach, Members and Staff for the presentation and good wishes. They each paid tribute to the various Members and Chief Executives with whom they had served. They thanked everyone for their unfailing courtesy, friendliness and support shown to them over the years. They all outlined some highlights of their period as elected members of Leitrim County Council. They each individually thanked past and present Members, the staff and the media for many happy years and memories. On their own behalf, and on behalf of their extended families they conveyed their best wishes to each Member in the forthcoming elections.

Signed:

**Cllr Enda McGloin
Cathaoirleach**

**Kieran Brett
Meetings Administrator**

Dated: 1st July 2019