

Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Old School House, Bredagh, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on Monday, 11th May 2015

Members Present: Councillor Armstrong–McGuire, Finola
Councillor Barry, Brendan
Councillor Bohan, Mary
Councillor Dolan, Frank
Councillor Fallon, Pdraig
Councillor Ellis, Caillian
Councillor Guckian, Des
Councillor Guckian, Sinead
Councillor Gurn, Felim
Councillor Kenny, Martin
Councillor Logan, Seadhna
Councillor McCartin, John
Councillor McDermott, Sean
Councillor McGowan, Sean
Councillor Stenson, Enda
Councillor Warnock, Justin

And Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, Cathaoirleach presiding

Apologies: Councillor Gerry Dolan

Officials Present: Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services
Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation
Ms Katrina Murphy, Head of Finance & Water Services
Mr Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure
Ms Vivienne Egan, A/Senior Planner
Mr Shane Tiernan, Senior Executive Officer
Ms Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator
Ms Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

At the outset of the meeting the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke welcomed the Members, Staff and Media to the Old School House, Bredagh, Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim. He outlined that he was delighted to host his last meeting as Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council in this historic building. Councillor O'Rourke stated that the building had fallen into a state of disrepair, however, the local community successfully secured funding under the Leader Programme and other funding streams to completely refurbish the building and it is now used as a community facility.

15/67

11/05/2015 Deimhniu Miontuairisci

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Leitrim held in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday 2nd March, 2015 be adopted”.

15/68

11/05/2015 Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31st December 2014

The Annual Financial Statement for Leitrim County Council for the year ended 31st December, 2014 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor Martin Kenny AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council’s Annual Financial Statement for the Year ended 31st December 2014 be adopted, in accordance with Section 108 of the Local Government Act 2001.”

15/69

11/05/2015 Additional Expenditure incurred by Leitrim County Council during 2014

Report on Financial review on expenditure 2014 as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson seconded by Councillor Martin Kenny AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That additional expenditure incurred by Leitrim County Council in the performance of its functions during 2014 in accordance with the provisions of Section 108(4) of the Local Government Act, 2001 be approved”.

15/70

11/05/2015 Disposal of Land at Tullaghan, Co Leitrim

Notice of intention dated 21st April, 2015 from Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transport to dispose of 0.1 acres/405 sq.m of land at Tullaghan, Co. Leitrim to Mr. Paul McGovern, Tullaghan, Co Leitrim in the sum of €1,500 as circulated to each Member, appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Justin Warnock, seconded by Councillor Frank Dolan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the disposal of 0.1 acres/405 sq.m of land at Tullaghan, Co. Leitrim to Mr. Paul McGovern, Tullaghan, Co Leitrim in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention dated 21st April, 2015 from Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transport be approved.

15/71

11/05/2015 Disposal of land at Aghameeny Td, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim

Notice of intention dated 29th April, 2015 from Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator to dispose of a plot of land comprising circa 2.96 Acres (1.2 Hectares) in the townland of Aghameeny, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim to the Minister, Department of Education and Skills, for the sum of €230,000 (Two Hundred and Thirty Thousand Euro). The report as circulated to each Member, appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Des Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the disposal of a plot of land comprising circa 2.96 Acres (1.2 Hectares) in the townland of Aghameeny, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim to the Minister, Department of Education and Skills, for the sum of €230,000 (Two Hundred and Thirty Thousand Euro) in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and the Notice of Intention dated 29th April, 2015 from Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator be approved’.

15/72

11/05/2015

Ireland West Airport Knock

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive gave a detailed presentation on the investment proposition for Ireland West Airport, Knock, Co. Mayo. He outlined that the proposal for consideration by the Elected Members is to approve the purchase of a 17.5% equity stake in Ireland West Airport on behalf of Leitrim County Council. He also outlined that 7 of the local authorities in the Region - Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim Roscommon and Galway City and County are proposing to invest a total of €7.3 million in the project. Mr. Curran informed the Members that an independent assessment of the financial model was completed by Deloitte & Touché and they concluded that the financial model is robust. He also outlined that if the investment opportunity is approved by the Members that Leitrim County Council will be assigned one position on the Board of Directors and in this regard be directly involved in the future growth of the airport. He concluded by stating that the projected increase in passenger numbers will greatly assist in providing regional airport access for tourists to Leitrim. A copy of the presentation as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Des Guckian outlined that while he is supportive of Ireland West Airport, he expressed concern that this investment is being requested directly from the 7 Regional Local Authorities. He stated that this funding should be provided by central government funding and that a small local authority like Leitrim should not be expected to provide the funding necessary for the future growth of the airport.

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive responded to Councillor Guckian by stating that funding cannot be sought from central government as it would contravene competition regulations.

Councillor John McCartin acknowledged Councillor Des Guckian's concerns, however, he stated that Leitrim County Council must support this initiative in order to attract more visitors to the West/North West Region and in particular to attract more visitors to Leitrim. Councillor Enda Stenson also supported the proposal.

Councillor Felim Gurn supported the proposal and stated that the presence of Ireland Knock Airport as a gateway for tourists to provide access to the North West could not be underestimated. He also suggested that the signage at the airport needed to be improved to provide appropriate signage for tourists to visit Leitrim.

Councillor Sean McGowan also supported the proposal and stated that the investment would be very beneficial for the County particularly for the tourism sector.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported the proposal and also acknowledged Councillor Des Guckian's concerns and stated that Central Government should be investing in the future growth of Ireland Knock Airport.

Councillor Sean McDermott voiced his support for the proposal which will potentially increase the number of tourists visiting Leitrim.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, also supported the proposal and welcomed the appointment of the Chief Executive Mr. Frank Curran to the Board of Management of Ireland West Airport Knock to ensure that Leitrim will be involved in discussions in relation to the future growth and development of the airport.

Proposed by Councillor John McCartin, seconded by Councillor Felim Gurn AND RESOLVED:

"That the proposal for Leitrim County Council to purchase a 17.5% equity stake in Ireland West Airport, Knock, Co. Mayo in collaboration with the Local Authorities of Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Galway City and County be approved."

15/73

11/05/2015 Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1st February 2015 to 28th February 2015 and 1st March, 2015 to 31st March, 2015 by Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive, dated 12th March, 2015 and 14th April, 2015 respectively, prepared in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 6** and **Appendix 7** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive gave an overview of the February 2015 and March 2015 reports.

The reports as circulated were noted by the Members.

15/74

11/5/2015 Date and Time of Annual Meeting

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke outlined that the Corporate Policy Group has discussed the date and time for the Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council. He outlined that it is proposed to hold the Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council on Friday, 26th June 2015 at 12 noon.

Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That the Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council be held on Friday, 26th June 2015 at 12 noon in the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim

15/75

11/05/2015 **Voluntary Housing Sector Nominee**

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate, Culture and Emergency Services referred to the report dated 9th April, 2015 from Ms. Aideen McGovern, Senior Executive Officer, Housing and Corporate Services in relation to the appointment of the Voluntary Housing Sector nominee Ms. Marie Finney to the Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Development SPC. The report as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 8** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Martin Kenny, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“To approve the Voluntary Housing Sector nominee, Ms Marie Finney, Tenancy Sustainment Officer, North West Simon, 23 Mailcoach Road, Sligo to the Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Development SPC”.

15/76

11/05/2015 **Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee**

Report dated 5th May, 2015 from Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Community, Corporate, Cultural & Emergency Services in relation to Appointments to Leitrim County Council Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, in accordance with the provisions of Section 21 and 22 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 9** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services outlined that approval is sought for the appointment of Ms Kathyne Bohan (Administrative Officer, Housing Department) and Mr. Shane Tiernan (Senior Executive Officer, Housing & Corporate Services) to replace Ms. Sinead Flynn and Ms. Aideen McGovern as Members of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) arising from the recent change to the staff structure in the Housing Department.

Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the nomination of the following persons to the Leitrim Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC), in accordance with the provisions of Section 21 and 22 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, be approved:

- Ms. Kathyne Bohan, Administrative Officer, Housing Department, Leitrim County Council
- Mr. Shane Tiernan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing & Corporate Services, Leitrim County Council

15/77

11/05/2015 **Standing Orders – Strategic Policy Committees**

Report dated 5th May, 2015 from Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services in relation to the Standing Orders for the

Strategic Policy Committee's, following recommendation from each SPC in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 7.3 of the Guidelines for the establishment and operation of Corporate Policy Groups and Strategic Policy Committee's as issued by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 10** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms. Quinn informed the Members that all three Strategic Policy Committee's had considered the Draft Standing Orders and that it was proposed to adopt the Draft Standing Orders without amendment.

Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Padraig Fallon AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That the Standing Orders for the following Strategic Policy Committees:-

- Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC
- Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Development SPC
- Environmental, Transportation and Infrastructural Policy SPC

be adopted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 7.3 of the Guidelines for the establishment and operation of Corporate Policy Groups and Strategic Policy Committee's as issued by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in June, 2014'.

15/78

11/05/2015

Draft Speed limits and Traffic Calming Policy

The report from Environmental, Transportation and Infrastructural SPC in relation to the Speed Limits and Traffic Calming Policy as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 11** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transport advised that Leitrim County Council must complete a review of speed limits in the County to confirm they are in compliant with the new guidelines within the next 2 years. He outlined that it is anticipated that the review process will commence later this year once training has been received in the operation of the new guidelines. Notification is expected shortly about the timeframe from the DTTAS. However the following should be noted about certain items that are regularly brought to attention of the Members with regard to speed limits:

- If a road width is less than or equal to 7.0m then an 80km/hr speed limit is recommended. In Leitrim this may have an implication for roads such as the N16. The guidelines do however recommend an assessment of the complete road for such a situation.
- The use of a lower speed limit e.g. 50km/hr in rural areas, is only recommended for towns and villages. The definition of a village is as per the County development Plan or an area with a road greater than 300m long and with 20 or more houses.
- Rural Speed Limit Sign (RUS 041A) will be erected at the locations identified where local tertiary and local secondary roads form a junction with roads that have a 100km/hr speed limit.
- Bye laws for the introduction of 30km/hr and Slow Zones in our housing estates will be brought before the Municipal Districts. If the introduction of a 30km/hr speed limit in a housing estate does not bring down the 85th percentile speed below the 30 km/hr other traffic calming measures will be considered for these estates.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke proposed that Motion 22 would be taken at this point as it relates to the same matter.

This was agreed by the Members

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council draft up the necessary amendments in order to have the bye-laws changed pursuant to the Road Traffic Act 2004 in order to have the Speed limit reduced on the road from Cornageeha to Neilers Cross."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development

"The Department of Transport has recently published a new set of Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits. This Council will be carrying out a review of speed limits in accordance with these new guidelines. This road will be considered as part of this review."

Councillor Caillian Ellis queried when the review of the speed limit on the road from Cornageeha to Neilers Cross would be completed.

Mr Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer confirmed that the review would be completed before year-end.

Councillor Felim Gurn proposed that discussions should take place between the local authority and schools in relation to the provision of speed ramps outside schools.

Councillor Martin Kenny referred to a motion he had listed at the March Council Meeting with regard to the need for safety for children at play in the housing estates in which they live, and calling on the Minister for Transport to pass the Road Traffic Amendment Bill 2015, commonly known as Jake's Law in memory of Jake Brennan in order to introduce a new mandatory speed limit of 20km specifically for housing estates. Councillor Martin Kenny stressed the importance of having special speed limit bye laws of 20km in housing estates in the interests of safety for children.

Councillor Des Guckian expressed his concern in relation to the suggested time-frame of completing the review of speed limits within the next 2 years.

Councillor Justin Warnock outlined that Speed Limits only apply to public housing estates and he stated that the Bye Laws must apply to every estate, irrespective of whether the estate has been taken in charge by the local authority or not.

Councillor John McCartin raised an issue in relation to a number of locations where the speed limit has been changed but the signage has not been updated to reflect the change.

Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure outlined that byelaws and speed limits are only for public roads and can only apply to public roads. He advised that the Council conducted a public consultation in relation to a 30km/h speed limit in housing estates towards the end of last year and proposals to reduce the speed limit in housing estates to 30km/h were to be brought to the SPC. He advised that the proposal for a 20km/h speed limit as proposed in this Law complicates matters as it is not now clear which speed limit is to be introduced. He reiterated that the proposed Bye-Laws will apply to all estates, provided they are public/taken in charge.

Mr O'Connor advised that the Guidelines for setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland are available to the Members for viewing on the Extranet. He confirmed that he will arrange to have the speed limit signs changed in the locations where the speed limits have already been reviewed.

Councillor Mary Bohan queried if all speed limits in the County will be reviewed. Mr O'Connor confirmed that all speed limits will be reviewed.

Councillor Brendan Barry proposed that all motions raised in regard to Speed Limits to date would be considered under the review.

Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council Draft Speed Limits and Traffic Calming Policy be adopted".

15/79

11/05/2015

Adopt a Bring Bank Programme

Report dated 30th April, 2015 from Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transport in relation to the Adopt a Bring Bank Programme as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 12** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council Adopt a Bring Bank Programme be adopted".

15/80

11/05/2015

Allocation of Grants under the Art Act, 2003

Report from Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services in relation to the Arts Festivals Support Scheme, 2015 as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 13** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Mary Bohan referred to the fees charged by The Dock, Carrick-on-Shannon to community groups and organisations that wish to hire the venue to host events. She outlined that the venue hire for this facility is approximately €400 per night and she considered this cost excessive by comparison with the fees charged by the Glens Centre, Manorhamilton. Councillor Bohan also acknowledged the role of parents and their children participating in the Arts in Leitrim. She stated that the voluntary activities of these groups should be encouraged and she suggested that the fee policy for The Dock be reviewed.

Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fallon AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council Arts Festivals Support Scheme, 2015 be approved".

15/81

11/05/2015

Draft Annual Report 2014

Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the Draft Annual Report, 2014 was circulated to the Members. She outlined that the Draft Annual Report, 2014 must be adopted by the Elected Members. Ms. Flynn advised that there will be no changes to the current format of the Draft Annual Report, 2014 other than to include the introduction to the Annual Report by the Chief Executive, Mr. Frank Curran and to insert photographs of the various events documented in the Report. The Draft Annual Report, 2014 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 14** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book

Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council’s Draft Annual Report, 2014 be adopted”.

15/82

11/05/2015 **Section 138 (1) of the Local Government Act 2001**

Report from Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transport as circulated under Item No 17 Meeting Correspondence to the Members with regard to the Community Tourism Diaspora Initiative, appears as **Appendix 15** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

This update was noted by the Members.

15/83

11/05/2015 **Corporate Policy Group Report**

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

Ms. Flynn advised that the three Strategic Policy Committees had taken place since the last meeting of the Corporate Policy Group and she gave an over-view of the items considered by each SPC:

- **Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC**

The Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC had their first meeting on Tuesday, 31st March 2015 and a report from the meeting, which appears as **Appendix 16** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book, has been circulated to each Member.

She advised that the SPC had considered updates in relation to the following:

- Draft Standing Orders
- Proposed Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC Work Programme
- Presentation received on Growth Strategy for Tourism in Leitrim 2015-2021
- Presentation received on Draft Leitrim County Council Economic Strategy 2015-2021
- Draft Business Startup Incentive Scheme for town centres
- Appointment of Councillor Frank Dolan to the Advisory Group of the Leitrim Local Economic and Community Plan

- Agreed on Dates/Times for Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC Meetings during 2015.

- **Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Development SPC**

The Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Development SPC had its inaugural meeting on Tuesday, 31st March 2015 and a report from the meeting, which appears as **Appendix 17** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book, has been circulated to each Member.

She advised that the SPC had considered updates in relation to the following:

- Draft Standing Orders
- Proposed Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Development SPC Work Programme
- Agreed on Dates/Times for Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Development SPC Meetings during 2015.

- **Environmental, Transportation and Infrastructural Policy SPC**

Ms. Flynn outlined that the Environmental, Transportation and Infrastructural Policy SPC had its first meeting on 18th June, 2014 and a report from the meeting, which appears as **Appendix 18** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book, has been circulated to each Member.

She advised that the SPC had considered updates in relation to the following:

- Draft Standing Orders
- Proposed Environmental, Transportation and Infrastructural Policy SPC Work Programme
- Waste Presentation and Pay by Weight
- Draft Speed limits and Traffic Calming Policy
- Agreed on Dates/Times for the Environmental, Transportation and Infrastructural Policy SPC Meetings during 2015.

Ms. Flynn informed the Members that the Corporate Policy Group had also considered the following items:

- Date and time of Annual Meeting which was agreed to take place on Friday 26th June, 2015 at 12 midday.
- Attendance of Elected Members at forthcoming conferences and training events.

This update was noted by the Members.

15/84

11/05/2015

Conferences/Training

Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan, seconded by Councillor Brendan Barry AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the attendance of Councillor Caillian Ellis, Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, Councillor Justin Warnock and Councillor Martin Kenny at the LAMA Spring

Training Seminar, in the Ard Ri House Hotel, Tuam, Co Galway on the 10th April, 2015 to 11th April, 2015 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire at the ALLG Training in the Clayton Hotel, Galway on the 23rd April, 2015 be retrospectively approved”.

15/85

11/05/2015

Meeting Correspondence

The following items were considered under Meeting Correspondence:

1. Letter from Waterways Ireland dated 19th February, 2015 in relation to the Slip Way for Small Boats at Spencer Harbour.
2. Letter dated 20th February, 2015 from Bank of Ireland in relation to the Nightsafe Deposit Box.
3. Resolution passed by Monaghan County Council dated 12th March, 2015 with regard to Public Participation Networks – Co-Ordinator Post.
4. Resolution passed by Offaly County Council dated 24th March, 2015 with regard to parking fines.

Councillor Sinead Guckian proposed that a letter issue to the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government calling on a change to the existing provisions relating to the revenue collected by the Court Services for the non-payment of parking fines.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported this Notice of Motion.

Councillor Seadhna Logan queried as to how many parking fine cases have been pursued through the courts and he asked that these figures be circulated to all the Members.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transport agreed to this request.

5. Letter dated 23rd March, 2015 from Inland Waterways Association of Ireland in relation to their 55th Shannon Boat Rally.
6. Letter dated 27th March, 2015 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Co-ordination of Construction 2020.
7. Letter dated 8th April, 2015 from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs acknowledging receipt of the resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to Early Childhood Care.
8. Letter dated 8th April, 2015 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills acknowledging receipt of the resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to Early Childhood Care.

9. Letter dated 14th April, 2015 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport acknowledging receipt of a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the compulsory use of hi-visibility jackets by pedestrians and cyclists.
10. Letter dated 15th April, 2015 from the Office of the Minister for Finance acknowledging receipt of a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in relation to commercial rates.
11. Letter dated 8th April, 2015 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport acknowledging receipt of a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in relation to the Local Improvement Scheme.

Councillor Martin Kenny expressed his disappointment with the reply received in this regard and pointed out that Local Improvement Schemes are for private laneways which, of their nature, serve only a small number of houses and properties. He stated that it is not possible, in the present financial climate, to justify taking any funding from the already inadequate provision made for the maintenance of the public road network in County Leitrim, which serves the general public, and to transfer it onto private laneways serving only a few. Councillor Kenny went on to state that the Local Improvement Scheme was of great benefit to the rural community in County Leitrim that there is significant demand for the LIS's.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported Councillor Kenny's comments and outlined that Leitrim County Council do have the funds to carry out Local Improvement Schemes. She suggested that a special case should be made for County Leitrim due to the high road mileage.

Councillor Enda Stenson, Councillor Frank Dolan and Councillor Sean McGowan expressed similar sentiments in relation to the benefit of the LIS's and regretted the lack of funding for the scheme.

12. Letter dated 22nd April, 2015 from the Office of the Taoiseach acknowledging receipt of a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in relation to the early childhood care and education.
13. Report of All-Island Local Authority Forum on regenerating local spaces through effective community planning.
14. Letter dated 22nd April, 2015 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the Community Involvement Scheme.
15. Letter dated 24th April, 2015 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the GLAS Environmental Scheme.

Councillor Brendan Barry welcomed the announcement that the closing date for receipt of applications for the GLAS Environmental Scheme has been extended to 22nd May 2015.

16. Circular RSD 01 2015 dated 23rd April, 2015 with regard to Guidelines for the setting and Managing of Speed Limits in Ireland (2015).
17. Report from Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer with regard to the Community Tourism Diaspora Initiative.

This was noted under Section 138(1) of the Local Government Act 2001.

The following item was also raised under Meetings Correspondence:

- **Sean MacDiarmada Homestead, Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim.**

Councillor Sean McDermott invited all the Members to attend the launch of the Sean MacDiarmada Summer School in Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim. He outlined that the launch was scheduled to take place later this evening on Monday 11th May, 2015 and that the Summer School will take place from the 12th-14th June, 2015.

- **Greenways**

Councillor Felim Gurn proposed that the Council contact Minister Paschal Donohue, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to request a meeting with the Minister in relation to the 'Greenway Project'. This proposal received the unanimous support of the Members.

Part I - Notices of Motion.

15/86

11/05/2015

Rowing Facility at Rynn Lake

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

"I am calling on Leitrim County Council to make it policy that whatever work is carried out on Rynn Lake to complete this excellent Rowing Facility, that it in no way impacts on the farming community, by flooding their lands, or indeed raising water levels that leaves their land unworkable for agricultural use, thus leaving this land also ineligible for agricultural support payments."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development

"Leitrim County Council is currently monitoring the operation of the facility without any adjustment to water levels and based on this monitoring will identify what works, if any, are necessary for the more efficient operation of the facility going forward in future years and confirm that no works will be carried out until prior consultations are held with those who may be affected."

Councillor Enda Stenson stated that he was satisfied with the response to his Notice of Motion and he also expressed his gratitude to Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive and Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transport for the assistance they had provided in relation to this matter.

Councillor Martin Kenny, Councillor Seadhna Logan and Councillor Sean McGowan also supported the Notice of Motion. Councillor Sean McGowan also referred to the requirement to arrange for the cleaning of stretches of rivers/tributaries and that these works should be scheduled for completion in the summer months when water levels are low.

15/87

11/05/2015

Dromod/ Rooskey By Pass

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

"That, in light of the faulty design, the extreme danger already posed to users and the disruption it will cause to owners of property and to affected communities, Leitrim County Council requests the NRA and The Department of Transport to abandon any and all plans they have to further extend the Dromod/Rooskey Bypass a further 27 Km approx, from Farnaught to beyond Carrick-on-Shannon."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development

"The scheme to construct a new national primary road from Dromod to Carrick on Shannon including the Carrick on Shannon By-pass has currently been suspended by the NRA. The Environmental Impact Statement and Compulsory Purchase Order has been prepared but not published. Under present circumstances, it is impossible to know when this scheme will recommence again. It is not reasonable to call on the Government to abandon plans to develop the National Primary N4. It is vital for the economic development of the north west of this country that that this road is developed to ensure access into the area is on par with the rest of the country.

The Member's comment about "faulty design" is assumed to refer to the Type 2 Dual Carriageway that is currently in place on the Dromod Rooskey By-Pass. This type of dual carriageway is in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), the current design standards in operation in this country."

Councillor Des Guckian stated that he was not satisfied with the reply to his Notice of Motion. He stated that the concerns of the local community and the safety and convenience of local people living in close proximity to this 10km stretch of dual-carriageway is being ignored. Councillor Guckian outlined that he had been informed by the Chief Executive Mr. Frank Curran that the design of the proposed extension to the Dromod/Rooskey ByPass will be a similar design as the existing dual-carriageway. Councillor Des Guckian stated that he considered the design of the Dual Carriageway to be faulty, that it was an experimental design and that the route is too narrow with no hard-shoulder or lay-by.

Councillor Guckian also stated that emergency services have concerns in relation to the Dual Carriageway and that at a recent public meeting the local community had also voiced their concerns in relation to the existing facility and any proposed extension of the Dual Carriageway. Councillor Des Guckian also stated that the wire cable divider on the road is banned in most European countries and is extremely dangerous, especially for motorcyclists. He outlined that he had been involved in a serious accident on this route and that he didn't want anyone else to experience a similar incident.

Councillor Des Guckian said that locals along the proposed extension have concerns that they will be cut off from their farms/property on the other side of the road and they will effectively be "locked in" to one side of the road, with unnecessarily long journeys to get across the road and that the concerns of the local people need to be taken on board. Councillor Des Guckian stated that the route is predominantly to meet the need of commuters travelling from Dublin to Sligo and that there is very little benefit to the local surrounding areas of Annaduff, Drumsna and Jamestown. He referred to the possible negative impact of any further development of the Dual Carriageway on the local towns and villages e.g. the withdrawal of bus services and he stated that he did not want to see any further negative consequences for the local community.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, Cathaoirleach queried if Councillor Guckian had the support of the other Members supporting his Notice of Motion.

Councillor Martin Kenny acknowledged that Councillor Des Guckian had raised some valid points and he also expressed concern for the possible negative impact on the local community particularly the business community where towns are by-passed. He stated that any proposed expansion of the route should be progressed in co-operation with the local community.

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive explained that the project proposal was deferred by the NRA for an indefinite period given the lack of finances to fund large-scale capital works in the last number of years. He outlined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) had been prepared but not published and that this type of dual carriageway was built in accordance with the national standards of design for roads and bridges.

Mr. Curran went on to state that it is not reasonable to call on the Government to abandon plans to develop the National Primary N4 Route as the upgrading of the roads infrastructure is vital to assist in the economic development of the North West Region.

Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer, stated that it may have been preferable to have provided a hard shoulder on the Dromod-Rooskey By-Pass, however, he outlined that the provision of a hard-shoulder would have incurred additional costs for which funding had not been available.

Councillor Des Guckian requested clarification from the Chief Executive in relation to the commencement date for the proposed expansion of the Dromod/Rooskey By-Pass. Mr. Curran outlined that no definitive time-frame is known, however, he further outlined that as the economy improves road access into the North West will be reviewed.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke ruled to have the debate concluded, he outlined that Councillor Guckian's Notice of Motion was discussed and was not supported by the other Members. Councillor O'Rourke concluded by stating that the proposed extension to the route was not imminent and that there will be further consultation on the matter if the project is progressed.

15/88

11/05/2015

Flood Risk

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

"I ask the Chief Executive to outline what plans /programmes are in place to reduce the impact of flooding to farms, land holdings and communities on the upper Shannon. Is there ongoing discussions with Roscommon, Longford, Westmeath and the local authorities south of Athlone, also OPW, Waterways Ireland, Inland fisheries, ESB, Parks & Wildlife, the IFA and other interested parties, that when the heavy rainfall comes there is a plan ready to be implemented to limit the impact of flooding on the communities along the Shannon."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development

"The Office of Public Works (OPW) is the lead State body for the co-ordination and implementation of the Government Policy on the Management of Flood Risk in Ireland. The OPW is also the National Authority for the implementation of the Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks.

The National CFRAM Programme commenced in Ireland in 2011. The CFRAM Programme is central to the Medium to Long Term Strategy for the reduction and Management of Flood Risk in Ireland. The OPW as lead Agency for delivering of Flood Risk Management Policy liaises with a range of Local Authorities, organisations and Stakeholders in this regard. Jacobs Consulting

Engineers were engaged by OPW to do the Study in the Shannon River Basin District (RBD). The Shannon RBD includes the entire catchment of the River Shannon and its estuary, covering some 17,800 km² and 20% of the island of Ireland. The RBD covers parts of 17 counties: Limerick, Clare, Offaly, Westmeath, Longford, Roscommon, Kerry, Galway, Leitrim, Cavan, Sligo, Mayo, Cork, Meath and Fermanagh.

The study will focus on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. The final output from the study will be Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans, which will define the current and future flood risk in the Shannon RBD and set how this risk can be managed.

As part of this Programme the OPW with Jacobs Engineering prepared Flood Maps in 2013 – 2014 which were put on display and available for Public Consultation in all Local Authorities within the Shannon RBD. Public consultation took place in various locations in Leitrim in January 2015.

In 2015, the CFRAM Programme will move forward in the preparation of Flood Risk Management Plans in consultation with all relevant Stakeholders. Works on this study are to be completed in 2016."

Councillor Sean McGowan confirmed that he was satisfied with the reply.

Councillor McGowan's Notice of Motion was unanimously supported by all Members.

15/89

11/05/2015

Pay by Weight Waste Presentation Byelaws

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

"I propose that this Council examine ways to deal with the punitive effect that Standing Charges are having in the case of waste charges on single occupancy dwellings and ensure that such consumers are not penalised financially."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development

"The Pay by Weight Waste Presentation Byelaws in County Leitrim have been in place since December 2014 and are operating very effectively and are resulting in considerable savings for households. Leitrim County Council has no legal powers in terms of regulating the charges applied by the Waste Industry. However, the Council maintains close contact with the operators and continues to emphasise the importance of keeping the service cost to the consumer as low as possible."

Councillor Padraig Fallon acknowledged the reply to his Notice of Motion and agreed that for some householders the Waste Presentation Bye-laws have resulted in such households incurring less costs for their waste disposal, however, he stated that there is a particular difficulty for single occupancy householders. He went on to give an example of a householder that had registered with the Waste Collector and paid €40 on his account last December. The individual had only presented his bin for collection on one occasion since then and had recently received a text notification from the company to confirm that his account now had a debit balance of €14.00.

Councillor Mary Bohan concurred with Councillor Fallon in that the new Pay by Weight System is operating well for most households, however, she also referred to the additional costs incurred by single occupancy households under the new provisions.

Councillor Sinead Guckian also supported Councillor Fallon's Notice of Motion and again raised

the issue in relation to single occupancy households who consider that they are being unduly penalised under the new provisions. She acknowledged that elements of the Pay by Weight System are working well and that others aspects particularly in relation to the single occupancy dwellings or households that recycle in large quantities are not working as well. She informed the Members that the Environmental, Transportation and Infrastructural SPC will be reviewing the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws at their next meeting.

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive informed the Members that waste collection operators need to have a standing charge in place. He also stated that under the Pay by Weight System is a clean and efficient method for waste collection and that it is now approximately 20% cheaper for households to dispose of their waste.

Councillor John McCartin requested clarification in relation to the requirement for households to register with an authorised Waste Collector if a household has put alternative measures in place to dispose of their household waste. Councillor Enda Stenson outlined that incorrect information was given to the public in this regard and that this mis-information had caused confusion amongst the public.

15/90

11/05/2015

Improved Signage

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

"I request that Leitrim County Council write to the NRA asking for Signage to be improved on our roads. Towns of Leitrim are seldom sign posted. Leaving Galway driving to Leitrim the first mention of any of our towns is 1 mile from Elphin where Carrick on Shannon is signposted. Along the Roscommon by pass every opportunity is taken to direct commuters into Roscommon town centre. Whose responsibility is this? Carrick bypass has large amounts of traffic each day - 12,000 cars. We must direct all towards our historical town. Taking a break they may decide to visit Leitrim village, Drumshanbo and Ballinamore town. Everything in Tourism is not on the N4."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development

"The signage on national routes in County Leitrim was renewed through an NRA initiative in the last few years.

Along the N4 the following locations are signed - Rooskey, Dromod, Mohill, Drumsna, Jamestown, Leitrim Village, Ballinamore, Drumshanbo, Manorhamilton and Carrick on Shannon. There are tourist signs (brown signs) showing the following locations and services that are available there - Rooskey, Dromod, Mohill, Lough Rynn, Drumsna, Jamestown, Carrick on Shannon and Drumshanbo. There are similar signs along the N16 and N15.

However as Carrick-On-Shannon continues to grow as a regionally significant town, the Council will raise this issue with the NRA."

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire outlined the reason why she had submitted this Notice of Motion and proposed that a letter issue to the NRA requesting them to provide additional signage in order to maximise the number of tourists visiting County Leitrim. Councillor Enda Stenson supported this Notice of Motion.

Councillor Caillian Ellis queried if it would be possible to have existing signage within the County cleaned. This requested was also supported by Councillor John McCartin.

Mr. Shay O'Connor agreed to consider this request.

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

"That Leitrim County Council write to the NRA asking for Signage to be improved on our roads. Towns of Leitrim are seldom sign posted. Leaving Galway driving to Leitrim the first mention of any of our towns is 1 mile from Elphin where Carrick on Shannon is signposted. Along the Roscommon by pass every opportunity is taken to direct commuters into Roscommon town centre. Whose responsibility is this? Carrick bypass has large amounts of traffic each day - 12,000 cars. We must direct all towards our historical town. Taking a break they may decide to visit Leitrim village, Drumshanbo and Ballinamore town. Everything in Tourism is not on the N4."

15/91

11/05/2015

Tourism

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

"At a recent training day held by the Association of Irish Local Government in Galway, one of the speakers showed a short clip on the "Blue Way" in Leitrim, highlighting the various activities taking place on our Waterways which, from a tourism point of view, was very impressive. Earlier in the day the speaker on Local Economic Development showed a clip from "Mayo.ie" showcasing Mayo as a place to invest, work and live etc. If Leitrim County Council has not already something of this nature in place, I think it is well worth looking at it to promote the County in the future."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development

"Leitrim County Council through both tourism and economic development units continues to work actively to promote the County for visitors as a location for investment and to live in. Leitrim County Council has just recently completed an update of the portal site for Leitrim and a specific business/economic development site www.leitrim.ie/business - as part of this a DVD promoting the various businesses in the County was also created and is available for viewing on this site and is also on display on the websites of a number of the main businesses in the County. Further short sectoral DVD's are currently nearing completion. The Council is currently commissioning the development of a new tourism promotion website for the County which will have a significant emphasis on social media and video."

Councillor Frank Dolan outlined that he recently attended a training event organised by the Association of Irish Local Government in Galway. He advised that as part of the event Mr Sean O'Riordan, Advisor on Local Government Policy delivered a presentation promoting Mayo as a destination of choice to live, work and invest in. Councillor Dolan also referred to a promotional DVD that had been prepared in conjunction with the launch of the 'Blue Way' in Leitrim. He went on to state that it is of the utmost importance that similar initiatives are promoted in Leitrim to attract more visitors to the County.

Councillor Felim Gurn also supported Councillor Dolan's Notice of Motion.

Councillor Sean McGowan commended Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive for a presentation he had given to a recent Local Authority Members Association meeting held in Carrick-on-Shannon. Mr. Curran's presentation included a promotional DVD of the County.

Mr. Curran stated that arrangements can be made to have the DVD made available to all of the Members.

15/92

11/05/2015

Repossession of Family Homes

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Martin Kenny;

"I am proposing that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD to legislate to prevent the banks from repossessing family homes and force them to accept reasonable arrangements to keep people in their home and to control interest rates on mortgages. A recent report shows that 16% of mortgages in Leitrim are in arrears and the banks are threatening these people with repossession and many are under great pressure and worry, which is affecting their well being. Of course many more people are barely managing to pay their mortgage and then have so little left that they are also constantly worried and stressed."

Councillor Martin Kenny outlined that he had submitted this Notice of Motion to highlight the grave difficulties that many distressed mortgage holders are experiencing as a result of being unable to meet the current repayments on their mortgages. He referred to the plight of people living under fear of losing their homes and the impact that this was having on the health and well-being of the individuals and families concerned. Councillor Kenny stated that legislation must be enacted to ensure that agreements can be put in place with the banks to ensure that families can remain in occupancy of their homes.

Councillor Mary Bohan also supported this Notice of Motion.

Councillor Felim Gurn called for a county wide Strategy to be put in place in order to address the matter and he also raised concerns in relation to the possible impact to the local authority Housing Waiting List if properties are re-possessed and the families must then seek the assistance of the local authority to provide them with social housing.

Councillor Justin Warnock also supported Councillor Kenny's Notice of Motion and said that he was personally aware of a family that had their home re-possessed by the lender the previous week. He stated that the situation was very distressing and upsetting for the family concerned and he also referred to the difficulties encountered by families in sourcing alternative accommodation given the current supply difficulties in certain locations in the County.

Councillor Martin Kenny concluded by stating that where the mortgage holder is continuing to make repayments on the mortgage that the bank should not initiate proceedings to recover possession of the property.

Proposed by Councillor Martin Kenny, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD to legislate to prevent the banks from repossessing family homes and force them to accept reasonable arrangements to keep people in their home and to control interest rates on mortgages. A recent report shows that 16% of mortgages in Leitrim are in arrears and the banks are threatening these people with repossession and many are under great pressure and worry, which is affecting their well being. Of course many more people are barely managing to pay their mortgage and then have so little left that they are also constantly worried and stressed."

15/93

11/5/2015

Sean MacDiarmada Homestead

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

"I wish to raise the issue of securing more funding for local road L6196 that leads to the homestead of Sean Mac Diarmada. This year a Restoration Improvement Grant is being spent on this road, but it will only cover 1500 meters. The total length of this road is 6km and the rest of the road needs upgrading, with lay-by's incorporated, before the '1916 Centenary Celebrations'. There will be extra traffic on this road next year and with this in mind I will ask Leitrim County Council to write to An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD, the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Paschal Donohoe TD, and the Minister of State at the Department of Finance which has a remit for the O.P.W., Simon Harris TD."

Councillor Sean McDermott outlined the background in relation to his Notice of Motion and he called upon the support of his fellow Councillors to ensure that the funding necessary to carry out the restorative works to the road leading to the homestead of Sean MacDiarmada would be provided in advance of the commencement of the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Celebrations. He also expressed his dis-satisfaction that major levels of funding is being made available to other Counties for works to commemorate the 100th anniversary of 1916 and that Leitrim was not being given a fair share of the funding.

Councillor Sean McDermott proposed that Leitrim County Council call on An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD, the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Paschal Donohoe TD, and the Minister of State at the Department of Finance, Simon Harris TD to provide the additional funding required for the necessary works. He also outlined that the Area Engineer Mr. Pdraig MacShera's had prepared a report on the full cost of the works.

Councillor Felim Gurn supported the Notice of Motion and outlined that two of signatories to the Irish Proclamation Sean MacDiarmada and Thomas Clarke were from Leitrim. He also concurred with Councillor McDermott in relation to the level of funding that was being provided to other locations.

Councillor Bohan also supported the Notice of Motion stating that 100th anniversary celebrations of the 1916 Rising offer a unique opportunity for Leitrim to promote and attract visitors to the Homestead of Sean MacDiarmada and that the funding should be provided to carry out the necessary works to this stretch of road.

Councillor Des Guckian, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke and all of the Members unanimously supported the Notice of Motion.

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

"That Leitrim County Council write to An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD, the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Paschal Donohoe TD, and the Minister of State at the Department of Finance which has a remit for the O.P.W., Simon Harris TD. seeking more funding for local road L6196, that leads to the homestead of Sean Mac Diarmada. This year a Restoration Improvement Grant is being spent on this road, but it will only cover 1500 meters. The total length of this road is 6km and the rest of the road needs upgrading, with lay-by's incorporated, before the '1916 Centenary Celebrations'. There will be extra traffic on this road next year".

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

"I propose (a) a vote of no confidence in the CDM Smiths consortium of researcher's appointed by the EPA to carry out the research programme in relation to fracking and (b) I further call that Leitrim Council Council calls on the Minister for Health and the Taoiseach, in the interests of public health, to have this research carried out by the Department of Health's Chief Medical Officer."

Councillor Mary Bohan wished to put on record that notwithstanding her Notice of Motion that Leitrim County Council remains opposed to fracking in Leitrim. She advised that she had consulted with a number of organisations north and south of the Border in relation to the Researcher's appointed by the EPA to complete a research programme in relation to fracking.

Councillor Bohan outlined that she was of the opinion that CDM Smith's Consortium were not an independent body. She referenced the position of the CDM Smith Vice-President Mr. Kevin Molloy who had criticised the Governor of New York following the imposition of a ban on fracking in New York State. Councillor Bohan further outlined that the decision to ban fracking taken by the New York State was based on comprehensive research which had been commissioned and that the decision to ban fracking was based on the recommendations of the research.

Councillor Mary Bohan proposed a vote of no confidence in the CDM Smith's Consortium and also proposed that a separate letter issue to the Minister for Health and to the Taoiseach calling upon the Department of Health's Chief Medical Officer to complete the research on fracking rather than CDM Smith's Consortium.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon also supported Councillor Bohan's Notice of Motion. He also expressed concern in relation to CDM Smiths Consortium and stated that he did not consider them to be independent and noted their association with a Shale Gas Company Conference where they were one of the sponsors.

Councillor Des Guckian stated that he supported the first part of Councillor Bohan's Notice of Motion, however, he stated that he did not support the second part of the Notice of Motion. He further stated that neither the Government, the EPA or the Chief Medical Officer could be relied upon to carry of the research as they are all in favour of fracking.

Councillor Mary Bohan responded by stating that the Chief Medical Officer would be able to address the sustainable health issues that have been raised by people through submissions last year and these concerns need to be addressed.

Councillor Frank Dolan pointed out that the EPA is a state agency and as such people should have faith in the EPA to fulfil its role and functions as the Environmental Protection Agency.

Councillor Brendan Barry referred to a previous Notice of Notion which called upon Minister White, and Minister of State, Joe McHugh, TD, to meet with Leitrim County Council to discuss fracking.

Councillor Justin Warnock also supported the Notice of Motion and stated that Leitrim as a County is 100% opposed to fracking.

Councillor Mary Bohan acknowledged that Leitrim County Council had imposed a ban on fracking as provided for in the County Development Plan and that the Council remain committed to the ban on fracking imposed. She also referred to a meeting that had been held with a number of the

Elected Members, Minister Alex White and Minister of State, Joe McHugh TD last year in relation to fracking.

Councillor Bohan concluded by stating that her Notice of Motion is to request that CDM Smith's Consortium will no longer be engaged by the EPA to conduct the research into fracking and that if this research is to be continued in the interests of public health, it should be carried out by the Department of Health's Chief Medical Officer.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fallon

"That Leitrim County Council have passed (a) a vote of no confidence in the CDM Smiths consortium of researcher's appointed by the EPA to carry out the research programme in relation to fracking and (b) that Leitrim Council Council calls on the Minister for Health and the Taoiseach, in the interests of public health, to have this research carried out by the Department of Health's Chief Medical Officer."

15/95

11/05/2015

Manorhamilton Fire Station

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

"I ask the Executive to advise if a suitable site for the proposed new fire station for Manorhamilton has been obtained? Further, in light of the fact that the Manorhamilton fire tender has now been in service for fourteen years, and is one of the oldest fire units in the County, has a date been set for its replacement?"

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"Leitrim County Council is exploring possible site options for the location of a new Fire Station in Manorhamilton. In relation to the Manorhamilton Fire Tender no capital funding programme for the provision of new appliances has been announced by the Department. In late 2014, capital funding for the purchase of two new 4X4 vehicles was approved one of which was assigned to Manorhamilton in 2015."

Councillor Felim Gurn acknowledged the reply to his Notice of Motion and outlined that that there are only a few possible sites suitable to locate a new a Fire Station in Manorhamilton.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services advised that there are no Capital Schemes open at the moment and discussions will take place with Members in this regard in the near future.

Councillor Sean McDermott supported this Notice of Motion.

15/96

11/05/2015

Limnology and Oceanography Project

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

"I call on the Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation to prepare a proposal for INTERREG Funding for a Limnology (freshwater study) and Oceanography project, which would have an R&D, Educational and an Environmental dimension to it. For example: Where do our Wild Atlantic Salmon and Sea Trout migrate to and the effect global warming is having on their numbers. Study Ocean Life or Renewable Energy (Wave

Energy) in Donegal Bay."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development

"Considerable research is ongoing, led by Inland Fisheries Ireland, in regard to the life cycle of both the wild atlantic salmon and sea trout. The research involves fish tags and acoustic stations and the assessment of scientific data. Both species are subject to licencing requirements while the wild Atlantic salmon is protected through the Habitats Directive. Considerable expertise is therefore required to become involved in this area and the competent authority is the Inland Fisheries Ireland. The salmon migration is long stretching to the Norweign Sea and Greenland while the sea trout is much shorter. The management of the salmon stock involves review of over 140 rivers each year to determine whether the rivers will be open or closed. As a consequence any proposal would have to clearly identify what is additional to what is occurring already and be led by the competent Authority.

A community group or a river trust could apply for INTERREG funding or other sources of funding for research or education programme or works to be carried out in this area but should consult with Inland Fisheries Ireland in the scoping of such a project."

Councillor Justin Warnock outlined the reason why he had submitted this Notice of Motion. He outlined that Leitrim only has a small area of coastline and that the County needs to consider unique attractions for visitors coming into the County and to maximise the potential of the existing natural resources to be used to their full potential in order to stimulate economic activity and to secure a future for all who live in the County. Councillor Warnock also referred to the loss of jobs in the County and the level of emigration particularly of young people who had been forced into emigration in recent years.

Councillor Justin Warnock stressed that this proposal would have huge potential for County Leitrim. If supported, the Council could submit 2 proposals for INTERREG funding as follows:-

1. Under INTERREG's Innovation and Knowledge Economy Programme, a proposal to consider establishing a Research and Development and an Educational Project such as a Limnology and Oceanography Science Park at Tullaghan to study fresh water and salt water aquatic life.
2. Under INTERREG's Environment and Risk Prevention Programme, funding could be provided for monitoring of environmental risks. For example, the number of Atlantic Salmon returning to our rivers dropped from 20% 20 years ago to just 5% today, why has this happened? What impact is global warming having on the marine life of Donegal Bay? What effect is raw sewage having on the aquatic life of this bay? Would Donegal Bay be suitable for wave energy?

Councillor Warnock outlined that the proposed project at this location would need a partner, possibly from one of the EU land locked countries such e.g. Luxembourg, the Czech Republic or Austria.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transport advised that considerable expertise is required to become involved in this area and the competent authority is Inland Fisheries Ireland. He also outlined that a community group or a river trust can apply for INTERREG funding or other sources of funding for a research or education programme but they should consult with the Inland Fisheries Authority.

Councillor Justin Warnock outlined that he is a member of the Border Midland Regional Assembly and the Assembly advised that the best way to approach this research or education programme is

to get funding from the local authority.

Councillor Des Guckian, Councillor Mary Bohan and Councillor Felim Gurn also supported Councillor Warnock's Notice of Motion.

Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive advised that the Marine Institute would also need to be involved in this project. He agreed to the local authority facilitating an initial meeting with all of the parties to discuss this proposal.

15/97

11/05/2015

State Apology

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

"I request that Leitrim County Council seek a State apology for the unjust and wrongful deportation from Ireland of Efferagh County Leitrim native James (Jimmy) Gralton in August 1933. Relatives still reside in County Leitrim."

Councillor Brendan Barry called upon the support of the Members to seek a State apology for the deportation of Efferagh native James (Jimmy) Gralton. He outlined that Mr. Gralton was the only Irish national ever to have been deported from Ireland in 1933 and that is deportation was wrong and unjust. Councillor Barry noted that members of the Gralton Family continue to reside in County Leitrim. He outlined that President Higgins will be attending a ceremony in the near future at the site of the "Hall" in Efferagh, Co. Leitrim built by Jimmy Gralton.

Councillor Martin Kenny supported Councillor Barry's Notice of Motion and stated that the time for a State Apology in relation to Mr. Gralton's wrongful deportation was long over-due.

Councillor Des Guckian also supported the Notice of Motion, he outlined that he had written a book on Jimmy Gralton at the request of the family entitled "Deported" and that he had spent over 30 years trying to get a State Apology for Mr. Gralton. He also proposed that Leitrim County Council should also seek to establish who was responsible for making the decision to deport Mr. Gralton.

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Barry, seconded by Councillor Martin Kenny AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council seek a State apology for the unjust and wrongful deportation from Ireland of Efferagh County Leitrim native James (Jimmy) Gralton in August 1933. Relatives still reside in County Leitrim".

15/98

11/05/2015

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Government to:

- Protect Irish interests in the ongoing Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations between the EU and the US.
- Take all measures to remove Investor-State Dispute Settlements (ISDS) from the agreement.
- Take all measures to ensure that the terms of the living agreement cannot breach Irish legislation.

- Initiate a public debate on the consequences of TTIP on Ireland.
- Take all measures to protect Irish agriculture in TTIP negotiations.

This Council also affirms that we will not support any trade agreement that includes Investor-State Dispute mechanisms. This Council recognises with vigilance the construction of a Regulatory Co-operation Council through TTIP and affirms the position that this body's authority and remit should allow only for recommendation. Implementation of recommendations should be administered by those elected by and accountable to the citizens of Europe. This Council does not support any trade mechanism that allows Irish law to be superseded for corporate interest."

Councillor Seadhna Logan gave the background to his Notice of Motion and called on the support of the Members to call on the Government to Protect Irish interests in the ongoing Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations between the EU and the US, to take all measures to remove Investor-State Dispute Settlements (ISDS) from the agreement, to ensure that the terms of the living agreement cannot breach Irish legislation, initiate a public debate on the consequences of TTIP on Ireland and protect Irish agriculture in TTIP negotiations.

Councillor Martin Kenny supported this Notice of Motion.

Proposed by Councillor Seadhna Logan, seconded by Councillor Martin Kenny AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Government to:

- Protect Irish interests in the ongoing Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations between the EU and the US.
- Take all measures to remove Investor-State Dispute Settlements (ISDS) from the agreement.
- Take all measures to ensure that the terms of the living agreement cannot breach Irish legislation.
- Initiate a public debate on the consequences of TTIP on Ireland.
- Take all measures to protect Irish agriculture in TTIP negotiations.

This Council also affirms that we will not support any trade agreement that includes Investor-State Dispute mechanisms. This Council recognises with vigilance the construction of a Regulatory Co-operation Council through TTIP and affirms the position that this body's authority and remit should allow only for recommendation. Implementation of recommendations should be administered by those elected by and accountable to the citizens of Europe. This Council does not support any trade mechanism that allows Irish law to be superseded for corporate interest."

15/99

11/05/2015

VAT Rebate Scheme for Local Authorities

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

"I will ask for the support of the Members in calling on the Minister of Finance to introduce a new VAT Rebate scheme for Local Authorities, to incentivise the rejuvenation of our town centres. The proposed scheme would give County Councils permission to introduce VAT rebates to incentivise new businesses and encourage the redevelopment of our towns. The Council could adopt terms and conditions about where and who is eligible to apply, types of businesses and the zones/areas to be covered. The plan could take into account the unique culture and interests of the individual towns."

Councillor Sinead Guckian gave the background to her Notice of Motion and outlined that the new VAT Rebate Scheme is designed to rejuvenate and re-energise town centres. She outlined that if the proposal is approved by the Minister, local authorities will adopt a scheme setting out the terms and conditions of the scheme including the eligibility criteria, types of businesses that may

be eligible to participate in the scheme and areas zoned for VAT Rebates. Councillor Guckian stated that the introduction of a VAT Rebate Scheme will allow the Elected Members to work in conjunction with local business groups attract new business and enterprise back into the centres of towns and villages. She concluded by stating that the Elected Members would also have regard to existing town plans etc in the implementation of the VAT Rebate Scheme for town centres.

Councillor Callian Ellis supported this Notice of Motion and outlined that this would include all the centres of our towns throughout the County. Councillor Felim Gurn also supported the Notice of Motion.

Councillor Des Guckian proposed that the introduction of the new VAT Rebate scheme should be for Government, to incentivise the rejuvenation of our town centres scheme and not local authorities.

Councillor Sinead Guckian disagreed with this recommendation by Councillor Des Guckian.

Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis AND RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister of Finance to introduce a new VAT Rebate scheme for Local Authorities, to incentivise the rejuvenation of our town centres. The proposed scheme would give County Councils permission to introduce VAT rebates to incentivise new businesses and encourage the redevelopment of our towns. The Council could adopt terms and conditions about where and who is eligible to apply, types of businesses and the zones/areas to be covered. The plan could take into account the unique culture and interests of the individual towns."

15/100

11/05/2015

Grant Aid for Septic Tanks

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

"I call upon Leitrim County Council to ask the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government to make available to house holders the grant aid which is intended for individual septic tanks as a top up towards the cost of connecting to the main sewer where possible. This money would be additional to the existing support given to group sewerage schemes and would in some cases offer a final solution to inferior treatment systems."

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke outlined the rationale in relation to the background to his Notice of Motion. He proposed that the grant-aid currently available to householders to upgrade their septic tanks be made available to the same householder to pay their connection costs if they choose to connect into the public mains and de-commission their septic tank as an alternative to upgrading their septic tank.

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council asks the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government to make available to house holders the grant aid which is intended for individual septic tanks as a top up towards the cost of connecting to the main sewer where possible. This money would be additional to the existing support given to group sewerage schemes and would in some cases offer a final solution to inferior treatment systems."

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor John McCartin;

"It is my impression that the litter problem in many areas of the County has worsened over the last year or so. It would seem that the attitude of many citizens to waste disposal is in need of sharp adjustment. I propose that Leitrim County Council engage in a media ad campaign with regard to litter in the County."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development

"Roadside litter and dumping of domestic refuse continue to occur and will require both enforcement and greater community involvement to ensure that the situation does not escalate. A change in the behavioural culture towards littering is required.

The Environment Awareness Officer continues to support the Green Schools Programme and there is now 100% participation from schools in County Leitrim. Adopt a Road is a Programme of Litter Awareness, civic responsibility and regular clean-ups that run all year round. The Adopt a Road initiative involves individuals, businesses and community groups undertaking to litter pick along a designated stretch of road. We currently have 54 groups signed up to the programme, with plans to re-invigorate and expand the programme during the month of May. Over 30 groups took part in Spring Clean events all over the county. The Council has embarked on litter picking on National Primary Roads, as routine seasonal hedge-cutting exposes littering black-spots and will continue to promote awareness of the need for the public to be responsible in regards to disposing of waste items."

Councillor John McCartin paid tribute to the fact that 100% of schools in County Leitrim are participating in the Green Schools Programme, he also acknowledged the success of the 'Adopt a Road Programme' and the contribution of the many volunteers involved in litter picking initiatives and other works as part of the Tidy Town Committees. Councillor McCartin stated that notwithstanding that many positive environmental awareness initiatives in the County that the litter problem in general in the County appears to be deteriorating.

Councillor Caillian Ellis also supported this Notice of Motion and relayed his concern in relation to the impact on the landowner in circumstances whereby rubbish is dumped on a landholding it is the responsibility of the landowner to have the rubbish removed. Councillor Sean McDermott also supported Councillor McCartin's Notice of Motion.

The business of the meeting concluded at 1.20 p.m.

**Signed: Councillor John McCartin
Cathaoirleach**

**Sinead Flynn
Meetings Administrator**

Dated: 6th July 2015