

**Minutes of Council Meeting held by Leitrim County Council  
On The Rose of Innisfree Waterbus, Parkes Castle, Dromahaire, Co. Leitrim  
on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008**

**Members Present:** Bohan, Mary  
Brennan, Damian  
Colreavy, Michael  
Dolan, Frank  
Dolan, Gerry  
Ellis, Caillian  
Flynn, Aodh  
Ferguson, Anthony  
Gilmartin, Francis  
Guckian, Sinead  
Hughes, Gordon  
McDermott, Sean  
McElgunn, Liam  
McGloin, Enda  
McGowan, Sean  
McTernan, John  
Mulligan, Thomas  
O'Rourke, Paddy  
Kenny, Martin  
Stenson, Enda

*And Councillor Jim Joe Shortt, Cathaoirleach presiding*

**Apologies:** Reynolds, Gerry

**Officials Present:** Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager  
Ms K. Murphy, Head of Finance  
Mr J. Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community, Cultural and Enterprise Development  
Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services Infrastructure  
Mr. M. Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services  
Ms. M. Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services  
Ms. A. McGovern, Meetings Administrator

At the outset of the meeting the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Shortt welcomed the Members to the beautiful scenic area of Dromahaire for the September Council meeting.

**08/410**

**1/9/08**

**Deimhniu Miontuairisci**

**Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson seconded by Councillor Frank Dolan and unanimously resolved;**

“That the Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2008, be adopted.”

**08/411**

**1/9/08**

**Votes of Sympathy**

*The members extended a vote of sympathy to the following;*

- *Councillor Damian Brennan, Drumlegga, Cloone on the death of Nancy Brennan*
- *Jim & Anita Connolly, Gublaun, Rossinver, Co Leitrim on the death of Barney Connolly.*
- *The Murphy family, Deerpark, Manorhamilton on the death of Patsy Murphy*

- *Mrs Warnock & Family, Doran Close, Bundoran on the death of Alex Warnock*
- *Teresa Hill, Glenview, Edenville, Kinlough on the death of Sean Rogers*
- *Nicholas & Barbara Gallagher & Family, Mullinaleck, Kinlough on the death of Fr. Brian Gallagher*
- *PJ & Valerie Gallagher, Boyannagh, Ballyshannon PO, Co. Leitrim on the death of Margaret Gallagher*
- *Bernard Owens, Sheena, Drumkeerin on the death of Annie Owens*
- *Mrs Wrynn, Drumharkin, Fenagh, Ballinamore on the death of Paddy Wrynn*
- *Brady Family, 18 Barleyfield, Carrigallen on the death of Margaret Brady*
- *Mrs. Bernie Poniard, Donaghmore, Manorhamilton on the death of Michael Poniard*
- *Mr. Liam Burke, Gurteen, Glancar on the death of Mary Burke*
- *Teresa Johnson, Lugnagon, Newtowngore on the death of Graham Johnson*
- *Tommy McLoughlin, Stuck, Eslin Bridge, Carrick on Shannon on the death of Ita McLoughlin*
- *Pat McGettigan, Carrick Road, Drumshanbo on the death of Declan McGettigan*

**08/412**

**1/9/2008**

**Financial Management Report**

Report from Head of Finance enclosing the second quarterly report on income and expenditure for Leitrim County Council for the period ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008, as circulated to the members, appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book. The report was noted by the members.

Ms. K. Murphy, Head of Finance outlined that this is the second Quarterly Report prepared and circulated to members in accordance with the recommendations of Value for Money Unit Report No. 24 - Financial Management Reporting in Local Authorities. She gave an overview of the position and outlined that it will be very difficult to stay within budget for the next 6 months. She outlined various issues impacting on the financial position and highlighted that the allocation for Disabled Persons and Essential Repairs Grants has now been expended and the Council will not be in a position to pay any further such grants in the current year.

The Members expressed serious concern in relation to the situation on the Essential Repairs & Disabled Persons grants. Councillor McGloin queried whether the situation would impact on people already approved for grant aid or just new applicants. Ms. M. Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services advised that the full allocation for the current year has been spent and that the Council would not be in a position to process any further payments under these schemes in the current year and payments would have to be held over until the 2009 allocation is received.

Councillor Colreavy queried whether monies could be reallocated between budget headings and cited cases where there appeared to be under-expenditure. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined that the Financial Report reflects the position at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008. She advised that much of the expenditure, particularly in relation to Roads, would occur over the second half of the year. She advised that it is anticipated that all budget headings will be fully expended and it would be premature to start moving items within the Budget. She further advised that an under-spend in one area would generally go towards an exceptional over-spend in another area eg. costs associated with the recent flooding.

Councillor Gilmartin stated that money must be found to assist those in most need. He stated that these schemes save the Government money in the long run, allowing people to stay in their own homes. He queried whether the Council can borrow to address this shortfall. All the Members outlined the critical importance of these schemes particularly in County Leitrim and the huge importance of the schemes in improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable people in our community.

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager advised that Departmental approval is required for any borrowings and the Department have already precluded borrowing under these schemes. She advised that there is currently approximately €2.5m in outstanding commitments under these schemes which closed on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007. She advised that there is no way of knowing when requests for payment will hit. She confirmed that all approved applicants will be paid their grant but that there will be a delay and that no further ERG or DPG grants can be paid in the current year.

Councillor Brennan queried whether it is the allocation from the Department or the Council's ability to provide the match funding which has been reached. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager advised that it is both. Ms. M. Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services outlined details of the Department allocations under the DPG & ERG Scheme and under the new Housing Grant Schemes which are operative since November 2007. She advised that the Council is liable for payment of 1/3 of each grant under the old scheme and 20% of each grant under the new scheme. She advised that these match funding requirements would present significant difficulties going forward given our reducing ability to generate the necessary resources through house sales etc. She advised that the Department Allocation is broken down between the schemes and we had already sought and received Departmental approval to move funding from the new Scheme to meet the demand under the old Scheme. She advised that the full allocation under the old Scheme has been expended with 25% of the allocation under the new Scheme expended to date. She advised that there is a time limit in relation to seeking payment under the new schemes, unlike the old schemes, and that it is anticipated that the full allocation under the new scheme will also be expended by year-end. She confirmed that the Council is still in a position to pay grants under the new Schemes up to the level of the allocation received and the situation in this regard would be closely monitored.

Members queried whether applicants can switch from the old schemes to the new schemes. They also queried whether it is possible that some of the approved applicants under the old schemes will not proceed. Councillor Flynn suggested that the Housing Section should write to all the approved applicants under the old schemes to establish if they propose to proceed with the works in order to have a clearer picture of our financial requirements. Ms. M. Quinn, Director of Services confirmed that it is open to any applicant to move over to the new schemes but advised that they would have to be reassessed and would have to meet the criteria under the new schemes which are quite different and include means testing etc. The Members again stressed the critical importance of these schemes for the county and the need to find some resolution to the current funding crisis.

**08/413**

**1/9/2008**

**Higher Education Grants Scheme 2008**

Report dated 26<sup>th</sup> August 2008 from Ms. A. McGovern, Meetings Administrator as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

**Proposed by Councillor Francis Gilmartin, seconded by Councillor Aodh Flynn AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

“That the Higher Education Grant Scheme 2008 be approved.”

Councillor Colreavy outlined that there should be some recognition for parents or guardians of students who don't qualify for the Higher Education Grant in terms of an additional Tax Free Allowance or Tax Credit. This was supported by the Members.

**Proposed by Councillor Michael Colreavy, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

“That Leitrim County Council requests that the Department of Education and the Department of Finance change the PAYE Income Tax Regulations to provide a special Tax Free Allowance/Tax Credit for parents and guardians paying fees and maintenance in respect of students ineligible for a Higher Education Grant.”

**08/414**

**1/9/2008**

**Quarterly Reports on Capital Works**

□ **Housing**

Report dated 19<sup>th</sup> August 2008 from Director of Services, Housing and Corporate Services as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of the Meeting in the Minute book. The report as circulated was noted by the Members.

□ **Water Services**

Report dated 15<sup>th</sup> August 2008 from Director of Services, Infrastructure as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of the Meeting in the Minute book. The report as circulated was noted by the Members.

Councillor Frank Dolan queried the position in relation to the Fivemilebourne scheme and outlined that the road is in very poor condition and the water scheme works are delaying any improvement works at this location. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services advised that it is anticipated that the works will commence in October. He undertook to inspect the area in question and carry out some limited repairs if necessary.

Councillor Bohan outlined that she understood that CLÁR funding had now been sanctioned in relation to the School Road/Black Road Group Water Scheme and queried if they could now be given permission to proceed. Mr. J. McGuinness undertook to check the position in relation to this matter. Councillor Bohan thanked the Council staff for their assistance in relation to this scheme and asked that the matter be progressed as quickly as possible.

Councillor Ellis sought an update in relation to the Drumharkan/Drumroosk Group Water Scheme and indicated that funding had been received some week ago. He also queried when the works at Kilnagross/Gowel would be completed. Mr. J. McGuinness undertook to check the position in relation to the Group Water Scheme and revert to Councillor Ellis. He advised that the contract in relation to the Construction of New Trunk Mains under the South Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme will be finished before Summer 2009. In

response to a further query Mr. McGuinness confirmed that the pumping station at Edentenny would now go ahead.

Councillor Flynn asked if the Consultant Engineer had been appointed in relation to the Cloonaquin Group Water Scheme. Mr. McGuinness advised that he understood this appointment had been made.

Councillor McTernan outlined that the new pipe line has interfered with the percolation areas for 3 houses in Killargue. He proposed that they be allowed connect into the existing system as an interim measure. This was seconded by Councillor Bohan.

Councillor Kenny noted the fluoridation contract in relation to the North Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme. He stated that he has issues with fluoridation but recognised that this is a statutory requirement on Leitrim County Council.

Councillor Brennan queried the position in relation to the approval of the Water Pricing Policy Report in relation to the Leitrim Towns & Villages Sewerage Scheme. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager advised that the Council is still awaiting approval of this report by the Department. She advised that approval has also been sought for borrowing for our element of the costs. She confirmed that members would be advised as soon as the matter is progressed and advised that further contact would be made with the Department if no decision has issued in the next 2 weeks. Councillor Brennan stated that it is a farcical situation where the pipe-work contracts have been completed and there is now a question over funding for the provision of the treatment plants. Councillor Ferguson outlined that there are serious concerns in relation to a number of the treatment facilities and asked that a more detailed report be brought to the next Council meeting.

Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that the issue is in relation to how the scheme will be funded and whether the Council can borrow the necessary money. He gave an overview of the Water Pricing Policy and the difficulties associated with the Department's interpretation of the circulars in this regard. He outlined that the Department are taking 'existing stock' as the housing stock at 2002 – this existing stock is funded at 100% with all new houses since then only funded at 40%. This situation does not recognise the unique situation in Leitrim where most development in the County took place since 2002. Development charges were also set at a level below what was required, in order to encourage development. He outlined that until this unique position is recognised, and approval given by the Department to borrow the necessary money, it will not be possible to enter into a contract for the Leitrim Towns and Villages scheme or the Carrick on Shannon sewerage scheme.

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined that the Council's total exposure over all Schemes would be in the region of €19m which presents huge affordability issues. She outlined that it is fully accepted that we have to contribute towards the cost of these schemes but stated that a contribution of possibly 20% would be at the outer reach of what we would be in a position to do, if approved to borrow. She advised that a number of meetings have been held with officials from the Department in relation to this matter. She also advised that she has personally written to the Department outlining the situation and our interpretation of the requirements and asking for their approval. She advised that this approval is awaited.

The Members argued that a special case had to be made and accepted in relation to Leitrim. They outlined that the works are critical to the future development of the area but there is no way that Leitrim can afford the level of money which the Department is

demanding. They requested that an urgent meeting be sought with the Minister and his officials to discuss and progress the situation.

□ **Roads**

Report dated September 2008 from Director of Services, Infrastructure as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of the Meeting in the Minute book. The report as circulated was noted by the Members.

Councillor McElgunn queried the position in relation to the appointment of the Consultants for the Carrick-on-Shannon By-Pass. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that the Consultants have been shortlisted with the final round of interviews scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> October 2008. He advised that the Consultants would be appointed thereafter. He outlined that 2010-2015 was indicated as the likely construction period and advised that this should still be achievable

Councillor Guckian queried if any progress had been made on the promised engagement with local businesses in relation to the development of consolidated signage for Carrick on Shannon. She also suggested that now is an opportune time to identify and name the new street between properties on Bridge Street and the Landmark Hotel. This was supported by Councillor McElgunn who suggested a competition in relation to the name for this street, similar to what was organised in relation to The Dock. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager confirmed that the design of this area would be looked at.

Councillor McDermott noted that works have commenced at Kilmakerill on the N16 and queried whether there was enough funding available to complete the works. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services confirmed that there is adequate funding to complete this particular section. He advised that the availability of funding for further works along the road is in question. Councillor McDermott referred to an area that was previously designated as a bus stop and asked that this be looked at. Mr. McGuinness confirmed that this would be looked at.

□ **Other Capital Projects**

Report dated 26<sup>th</sup> August 2008 from Director of Services, Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 6** to the Minutes of the Meeting in the Minute book. The report as circulated was noted by the Members.

**08/415**  
**1/9/08**

**Section 138(1) of the Local Government Act**

- **Local Improvement Scheme No. 2826**

***Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor Frank Dolan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED***

“That Leitrim County Council approve of Local Improvement Scheme No 2826 in the name of David Yeo, Ardmoneen, Glanfarne at the estimated value of €75,831”.

- **Draft Leitrim County Development Plan 2009-2015**

Mr. M. Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services outlined that the Managers Report on the Submissions Received on the Draft County Development Plan 2009-2015 had been circulated to Members. He advised that the matter would be listed for consideration at the October Council meeting. He advised that it is proposed to hold a Workshop to consider the report in advance of the next Council meeting and it was agreed that Mr. Dolan would revert to the members with a date for this Workshop.

**08/416**

**1/9/2008**

**Corporate Policy Group Report**

Ms. A. McGovern, Meetings Administrator gave an overview of the issues considered by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting:

▪ **Financial Management Report**

The Members had considered the second quarterly report on income and expenditure for Leitrim County Council for the period ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008. The Members had expressed serious concern in relation to the lack of funding for the Disabled Persons & Essential Repairs Grant Schemes. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed in more detail at the full Council meeting.

▪ **Appointment of Chairperson to Leitrim County Development Board**

The Corporate Policy Group had appointed Councillor Caillian Ellis as Chairperson of the Leitrim County Development Board.

▪ **Items for Council Meeting**

The Corporate Policy Group had also considered an overview of items for the Council Meeting.

This update was noted by the Members.

**08/417**

**1/9/2008**

**Correspondence**

*The following correspondence was circulated to the members;*

1. Letter from the Office of the Minister for Education & Science dated 11<sup>th</sup> July 2008 in relation to Ballinamore School.

Councillor Hughes requested that the Department again be contacted to clarify the situation in relation to the transfer of the site in this instance. He outlined that he understood that this matter had been completed. This was supported by Councillor Ellis who outlined that he was also of that understanding.

2. Letter from Department of Social & Family Affairs dated 11<sup>th</sup> July 2008 in relation to pensioners in receipt of UK and US pensions

Councillor Kenny expressed disappointment with the response which he suggested had missed the whole point of the Motion. He outlined that the point relates to the value of the pension and the fact that fluctuations in currency are not being taken into account by the Department. He outlined that there is a need for a system which can look at all of these pensions on a pro-rata basis and readjust them as necessary. He requested that this matter be taken up again with the Department. This was supported by Councillor McGowan.

3. Letter from Border Regional Authority dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008 in relation to the appointment of Cathaoirleach & Leas Cathaoirleach of the Border Regional Authority
4. Letter from Office of the Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources dated 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008 in relation to deregulation of postal deliveries
5. Letter from Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food dated 25<sup>th</sup> July 2008 in relation to Farm Waste Management Grants

Councillor McDermott stated that the response from the Minister was inadequate and that time was running out in relation to this matter which had originally been raised in May.

6. Letter from Bus Éireann dated 30<sup>th</sup> July 2008 in relation to withdrawal of services at Drumsna, Co. Leitrim
7. Letter from Office of the Minister for Transport dated 29<sup>th</sup> July 2008 in relation to Bus Éireann services at Drumsna, Co. Leitrim

Councillor Guckian outlined her serious disappointment with the response from both the Minister for Transport and Bus Éireann. She stated that the issue is in relation to the provision of public transport which is a matter for the Department. She stated that the removal of the public transport service from Drumsna sets a precedent for by-passed towns and villages and must be acted upon. She requested that a further letter issue to the Minister for Transport in this regard in relation to this public transport issue expressing our disappointment that Bus Éireann are allowed to take this service out of the village, leaving the village with no public transport service. Furthermore she pointed out that users were not informed, contrary to the assertion by Bus Éireann. This was strongly supported by Councillor Stenson, Councillor McElgunn and Councillor McGowan.

8. Letter from Eircom dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008 in relation to Broadband Roll-out

Councillor O'Rourke requested that a further letter issue to Eircom to establish the exact up-to-date position on their broadband roll-out.

9. Letter from Office of the Minister for Housing, Urban Renewal and Developing Areas dated 29<sup>th</sup> July 2008 in relation to ongoing difficulties re Remedial Works Schemes and Housing Grant Schemes
10. Letter from Office of the Minister for Finance dated 6<sup>th</sup> August 2008 in relation to cuts in finances

Councillor Kenny cited the correspondence from the Department in relation to the blanket 3% cut in Payroll costs as a typical example of the type of 'blanket-approach' that is inappropriate in the Leitrim context and that he was warning against.

11. Letter from Office of the Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs dated 13<sup>th</sup> August 2008 in relation to Public Berthing Facilities at Leitrim Village, County Leitrim

Councillor McGloin welcomed the correspondence in this regard. He requested that a letter issue to Waterways Ireland seeking clarification in relation to the up to date position in relation to this matter and requesting that ongoing active negotiations take place to ensure that these facilities are operational for next years season. This was strongly supported by Councillor Gilmartin who also welcomed the development of a database and procedures to ensure follow-up in relation to meetings correspondence.

12. Letter from Office of the Minister for Housing, Urban Renewal and Developing Areas dated 21<sup>st</sup> August 2008 in relation to Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme
13. Letter from Office of the Taoiseach dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2008 in relation to MABS funding
14. Letter from Department of Social & Family Affairs dated 25<sup>th</sup> August 2008 in relation to MABS funding
15. Letter from HSE dated 20<sup>th</sup> August 2008 in relation to nomination of Sligo General Hospital as a Centre of Excellence for Cancer Care
16. Letter from Office of the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources dated 25<sup>th</sup> August 2008 in relation to Postal Deregulation
17. Letter from Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government dated 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008 in relation to Revision of Electoral Area Boundaries
18. Letter from Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government dated 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008 in relation to Payroll & Administrative Costs 2009

Councillor Kenny sought clarification in relation to the 3% payroll cutback proposed. He stated that the Government should be looking at where there is real waste rather than an across-the-board requirement. He stated that Leitrim needs more rather than less money. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined that this is a mandatory 3% cut in payroll costs requiring, in Leitrim, payroll savings of €400k-€450k. She advised that she is currently examining how this might be achieved. She outlined that the Department have indicated that the cut should not impact on services and that this will be very difficult to achieve. She advised that measures including non-filling of retirements and vacancies arising, savings within various Departments etc would have to be considered. The members expressed concern at the implications of the requirement for Leitrim.

19. Letter from Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government dated 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2008 in relation to Traveller Accommodation Programmes 2009-2013
20. Letter from Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government dated 28<sup>th</sup> August 2008 in relation to Remedial Works Programme 2009
21. Letter from Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government dated 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008 in relation to Housing Grants Allocation.

*The following issues were also raised under Meeting Correspondence;*

### **Taking in Charge**

Councillor McGloin referred to details of Taking in Charge requests received by the Planning Department as circulated recently to members and queried whether any applications had since been received in respect of any developments in the Drumshanbo area. Mr. M. Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services advised that he was not aware of any such applications.

### **Submission to Oireachtas Committee**

Councillor Colreavy queried the position in relation to the Council's submission in relation to the 'Rejuvenating the West' Report being led by Senator Pearse Doherty, Joint Oireachtas Committee. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager advised that a submission is being prepared and will be circulated to Members prior to being submitted.

**08/418**

**1/9/2008**

### **Conferences**

***Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council approves of the;

- o Attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Paddy O'Rourke at the Councillors' Training Seminar - Alternative Enterprise, the Key to sustaining the Rural Economy on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008 to 12<sup>th</sup> July 2008 in the Mannin Bay Hotel, Ballyconneely, Clifden, Co Galway.
- o Attendance of Councillors Sean McDermott and Martin Kenny at the MacGill Summer School in the Highlands Hotel, Glenties, Co Donegal on the 12<sup>th</sup> July to 19<sup>th</sup> July 2008.
- o Attendance of Cllr Sean McGowan and Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the Connaught Community Games Press Launch of the H.S.E. Connaught Community Games Finals in the Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2008.
- o Attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the Launch of Friends of Sligo General Hospital on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in the Clarion Hotel, Sligo.
- o Attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the Cathaoirleach Award in Cloone Community Centre on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

- Attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the M.S. Celebrations in the Ramanda Hotel, Drumshanbo on the 26th June 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the Western Inter County Railway Committee meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at the Knock House Hotel, Knock.
- Attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the Consultation on the new Leitrim Rural Development Strategy for 2008-2013 in the Bush Hotel on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the official launch of the Walks Strategy Plan and Walks Officer in Lough Key Forest Park on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008 by Walking Wild Ireland.
- Attendance of Councillor Anthony Ferguson at the launch of the Poverty Social Inclusion in Manorhamilton on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Damian Brennan at Scoil Samhraidh Merriman 2008 in Ennis Co Clare from 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2008.
- Attendance of Councillors Damian Brennan, Gerry Dolan, Martin Kenny, Enda McGloin, Gordon Hughes and Mary Bohan at The John Hewitt International Summer School in Armagh from 28<sup>th</sup> July 2008 to 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008.
- Attendance of Councillors John McTernan, Enda Stenson and Damian Brennan at the Sliabh Luachra Summer School, Rockchapel, Co. Cork, from 5<sup>th</sup> August to 10<sup>th</sup> August 2008.

***Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Mary Bohan, Councillor Gerry Dolan, Councillor John McTernan and Councillor Frank Dolan at the Citizens First International Conference on the 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> September 2008 in the Old Ground Hotel, Ennis, Co Clare.”

***Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor John McTernan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor John McTernan, Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Caillian Ellis at the Energy Efficiency Seminar in Clifden, Co Galway on the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2008.”

***Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, seconded by Councillor Liam McElgunn AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Mary Bohan at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual La Touche Legacy Seminar in Greystones, Co Wicklow on the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2008.”

***Proposed by Councillor Martin Kenny, seconded by Councillor Gerry Dolan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Martin Kenny, Councillor Gerry Dolan and Councillor Enda Stenson at the Clare Tourism Conference on the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2008 in the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co Clare.”

***Proposed by Councillor Francis Gilmartin, seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Mary Bohan, Councillor Gerry Dolan, Councillor Enda McGloin, Councillor Sinead Guckian and Councillor Sean McGowan at the Association of Irish Regions 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2008 in the Inchydoney Island Lodge & Spa Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork.”

***Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin, seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Enda McGloin at The Society for Folk Life Studies conference on the 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2008 in the Lake Hotel, Killarney, Co Kerry.”

## **Part 1 - Notices of Motion.**

**08/419**

**1/9/08**

### **Housing Aid for Older People Scheme**

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

"At the September meeting of Leitrim Co.Council I will ask the Co. Manager to include the replacement of Aluminium & Hardwood windows & doors under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme, as the majority do not comply with the current building regulations, and in the case of fire breaking out older people in particular would be in great danger."

### ***Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing***

"The purpose of the Housing Aid for Older People Grant Scheme is to assist older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out. The conditions of the scheme provide that applications for the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme shall be prioritised on the basis of medical need and on the urgency and necessity of the identified works.

Leitrim County Council in the administration of the Housing Aid for the Elderly Scheme completes a technical inspection of each dwelling. In cases where houses have single glazed aluminium or hardwood windows and these are deemed to be in good structural condition, their replacement would not be grant aided in accordance with the terms of the scheme. The issue of compliance with building regulations in the majority of cases does not apply as the building regulations only apply to houses constructed post the implementation of the relevant building regulation. Similarly the Council has not prioritised the replacement of single glazed and hardwood windows in good structural condition in local authority owned dwellings under the Council's Preventative Maintenance Programme."

Councillor McGowan outlined that he appreciated the cost implications but indicated that there would not be a significant number of applications involved. He proposed that the replacement of aluminium and hardwood windows and doors be included under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme. This was seconded by Councillor Liam McElgunn and supported by the members.

**08/420**

**1/9/08**

**Roundabout at High Street, Ballinamore**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;***

"To ask the Director of Services what is the up-to-date position regarding the installation of a new roundabout at High Street, Ballinamore at the entrance to the new Rock commercial development. It is my understanding that the Tesco supermarket is due to open the first week in September in conjunction with the inner relief road & that the new roundabout at High Street was to be completed in conjunction with same. Furthermore can the council advise what is the present position regarding the upgrading & widening of the bridge at Lower Main Street, Ballinamore which is essential in order for any heavy goods vehicles (H.G.V's) to avail of the new inner relief road".

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"The design of the proposed new roundabout at High Street Ballinamore is completed, however it is not proposed to construct the roundabout until after the bridge at Lower main-street is widened, and detailed traffic management plan for the town prepared and adopted. In the meantime a T junction is deigned at the intersection of the new Relief road and the R199 at High Street. Some minor works to the kerb-line of the T junction are currently being undertaken and will be completed for the proposed opening date. Please note that this T-junction is designed in a manner that will facilitate the deflection angles entering the proposed new roundabout. A design was prepared for the refurbishment and widening of the bridge, but concerns were then raised regarding some design aspects, and thus an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment was carried out. This heritage report was considered by the bridge consultant, who has now raised a number of concerns / issues with the report's recommendations. We now propose to convene a meeting with the Architectural Heritage Consultant and the Bridge Consultant in order to reach a compromise on the design details and then we will proceed to prepare the documentation for Part 8 consultation. An application will be made under the Specific Improvement Grant Scheme for funding for this Bridge-widening in 2009."

Councillor Hughes outlined his concern that these works be progressed and queried when the meeting with the Architectural Heritage Consultant and Bridge Consultant is scheduled to take place. He also queried whether funding has been earmarked for these works. He congratulated the Developers of the Rock Water development and welcomed the opening of the Tesco store in the town creating 60 additional jobs.

This was supported by Councillor Ellis who outlined the problem that had arisen in relation to the junction at the Carrigallen Road. He asked if signage could be erected at the junction for Brigid Street and Main Street. This was supported by Councillor Hughes and Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure confirmed that the matter would be looked at.

Mr. McGuinness advised that the meeting with the Architectural Heritage Consultant and

Bridge Consultant is scheduled to take place within the next fortnight. He outlined that funding would be under a Specific Improvement Grant Scheme – the allocation received to date was in respect of the work on the Relief Road. He advised that an application would be submitted for funding under the Scheme in 2009.

Councillor Hughes queried if there would be an official opening of the Relief Road. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager confirmed that this could be arranged.

**08/421**

**1/9/08**

**Waterways Ireland**

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

"I call on Leitrim County Council to request Waterways Ireland management to attend the next meeting of this local authority to make a presentation on their work in the County and on issues of common concern including our current bridge infrastructure. Other issues such as protection barriers should be addressed by Waterways as these were raised before by members."

Councillor McGloin outlined that there has been a problem with a number of bridges, particularly around Kilclare, as raised by members on a number of occasions. He outlined that it appears that Waterways Ireland will not take any responsibility for bridges. He outlined that Waterways Ireland should at a minimum make some contribution towards the maintenance of bridges. He requested that Waterways Ireland be invited to attend the next Council meeting to discuss these issues. This was seconded by Councillor Gilmartin and supported by Councillor Gerry Dolan.

***Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin, seconded by Councillor Gerry Dolan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council requests Waterways Ireland management to attend the next meeting of this local authority to make a presentation on their work in the County and on issues of common concern including our current bridge infrastructure. Other issues such as protection barriers should be addressed by Waterways as these were raised before by members."

**08/422**

**1/9/08**

**Carrick on Shannon By-Pass**

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

"May I ask what progress if any has been made in deciding a route for the Carrick-on-Shannon by-pass. The town of Carrick badly needs the by-pass to progress further development and alleviate traffic congestion. Property holders and in particular farmers along the route are anxious to know the agreed route to further develop their holdings."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"The Carrick-on-Shannon Bypass scheme has been upgraded to a Type 2 Dual Carriageway and the scheme extended to link up with the Dromod-Roosky Bypass. This enhanced scheme is very much to be welcomed but will involve the engagement of new

Consultants in line with Government policy in relation to fixed price contracts. Appointment of Consultants is currently at tendering stage and it is intended that a Consultants will be Appointed by November this year.

The new Consultants will commence work on this enlarged scheme at Constraints Study Phase. The appointed Consultant will have the Scheme to CPO stage in 27 Month from their appointment. The preferred route, which is included in the County Development Plan, will remain in place until the completion of the Constraints study.

The Carrick-on-Shannon By-Pass was originally to be completed during the period 2012-2015 and the hope is that this time frame can still be achieved. This project is of great significance for the County and vital for the future growth of Carrick-on-Shannon and every effort will be made in the coming year to ensure that the scheme is progressed as quickly as possible."

Councillor Stenson outlined that a lot of people are concerned in relation to what is happening on the Carrick on Shannon By-Pass. He sought clarification in relation to the timeframe in relation to the scheme. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure clarified that the Scheme would be ready to go to Compulsory Purchase Order in relation to the relevant lands within 27 months of the appointment of the Consultants. He advised that everything will be done to progress the scheme as quickly as possible.

**08/423**

**1/9/08**

**Parking in Carrick on Shannon**

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

"At the September meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to re-investigate the possibility of acquiring public parking spaces on the site of Post Office grounds, Carrick on Shannon. The number of parking spaces available in this section of the town have been reduced considerably, for various reasons, over the past few years."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"This option was investigated earlier in the year and it transpired that the yard at the Post office is not available for car parking. Neither are we aware of any other area available for lease or rent that would be suitable for car parking. It should be noted that there are always a good number of free car parking space available on Park lane, which is relatively convenient to the centre of the town. Also, as you are aware, parking meters have recently been installed and the parking bye-law revised, and from our initial observation, this change in parking in carrick town centre area, (most notably the quay area), has apparently resulted in more available parking spaces throughout the working day. We are also preparing a slight redesign of the roadway adjacent to the Landmark to investigate if a more suitable parking layout can be implemented. It is also intended to redesign the public carpark at quays near the council offices which will also result in additional free carparking spaces becoming available."

Councillor Guckian acknowledged and welcomed the changes and improvements which had been made in recent months. She outlined that she understood that there may now be an opportunity in relation to the Post Office grounds and asked that this be revisited.

Councillor McElgunn supported the motion. He advised that the Transportation SPC had considered this matter and An Post had been approached in this regard. He advised that it would be worth revisiting if the circumstances had changed. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services undertook to look into the matter further.

**08/424**

**1/9/08**

**Parking at Hyde Street, Mohill**

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

"That we again look at the possibility of securing land for offstreet parking at Hyde Street, Mohill"

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"The problems with parking on Hyde street are concentrated at a hardware shop and the supermarket, and there is little possibility of being able to provide parking close to these premises. The council had hoped that it would have been possible to work with private developers to provide off street parking but no progress has been made on this front."

Councillor Mulligan outlined that the reply received relates to the area beside the hardware shop and supermarket and that the area he is concerned with is much closer to the junction than this. He outlined that some provision must be made to get cars off the street and into off-street parking at this location. This was supported by Councillor Stenson and Councillor McGowan. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services suggested that lining of this area might alleviate the problem. Councillor Mulligan insisted that this would not represent a solution. He outlined that this is a growing problem and provision has to be made for off-street parking in this area.

**08/425**

**1/9/08**

**Sewerage Treatment Plants Dromahaire & Killargue**

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

"At the next meeting of Leitrim County Council I propose to ask the County Manager as to when the start up date is for the sewerage treatment plants in Dromahair and Killargue as it was my belief that the commencement date was July 2008"

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"Dromahair and Killargue are part of the Leitrim Town and Village Sewerage scheme and contracts are ready to be signed for the construction of these eleven sewerage treatment plants. As previously conveyed to the council the funding of these schemes will be very problematic for this council and will prove to be a serious burden on the council over the twenty year time scale of the Design Build Contract. The application of the Water Pricing Policy as interpreted by the Department in relation to the capital funding is unacceptable to Leitrim Council. The Department are presently insisting on 2002 as the base year for existing population which they will fund at 100%, and all new houses since that date will only be funded at 40%. This situation does not recognise the unique situation in Leitrim resulting from the Tax Incentive for the Upper Shannon. Until this unique position is recognised and approval given by the Department to borrow the necessary money it will not be possible to enter into a contract for the Leitrim Town and Village scheme or the Carrick on Shannon sewerage scheme."

Councillor McTernan sought further clarification in relation to the Water Pricing Policy and its implications. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services again outlined the position and advised that negotiations are ongoing with the Department in relation to the Water Pricing Policy Report for the Towns & Villages Scheme.

**08/426**

**1/9/08**

**Sewerage Treatment Plant Jamestown**

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

"To ask the Director of Services for Infrastructure when will construction commence on the Sewage Treatment Plant in Jamestown."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"Jamestown is part of the Leitrim Town and Village Sewerage scheme and contracts are ready to be signed for the construction of these eleven sewerage treatment plants. As previously conveyed to the council the funding of these schemes will be very problematic for this council and will prove to be a serious burden on the council over the twenty year time scale of the Design Build Contract. The application of the Water Pricing Policy as interpreted by the Department in relation to the capital funding is unacceptable to Leitrim Council. The Department are presently insisting on 2002 as the base year for existing population which they will fund at 100%, and all new houses since that date will only be funded at 40%. This situation does not recognise the unique situation in Leitrim resulting from the Tax Incentive for the Upper Shannon. Until this unique position is recognised and approval given by the department to borrow the necessary money it will not be possible to enter into a contract for the Leitrim Town and Village scheme or the Carrick on Shannon sewerage scheme."

**08/427**

**1/9/08**

**Roundabout on N16 at Enniskillen Road, Manorhamilton**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;***

"I will request the Director of Services (Infrastructure) and the District Engineer to redesign the small roundabout on the N 16 at the entrance to Aras Breffni and near the Council offices on the Enniskillen Road, Manorhamilton. This area is causing concern for motorists coming from the McDermott Terrace side of the town. It is dangerous and needs major improvement works"

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"The Council's Traffic calming proposals for the N16 Eastern approach to Manorhamilton incorporates a plan for the enlargement of the mini-roundabout at the Boley Hill/N16 junction. The first phase i.e., the gateway installation in the vicinity of the outer 60km/hr speed limit, is due to be constructed in 2009, subject to funding from the NRA. It is intended that the remainder of the project will be undertaken in stages in the following years."

Councillor Ferguson urged, due to the danger involved, that the works be brought forward. This was strongly supported by Councillor Flynn.

08/428

1/9/08

**Disability Federation Pre-Budget Submission**

**To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Michael Colreavy;**

"That Leitrim County Council support the Disability Federation of Ireland's Pre-budget submission 2009, and in particular the following four areas where the budget must allocate resources if we are to ensure the full delivery of the National Disability Strategy:

1. To commit €50 million in addition to multi-annual funding to develop disability services  
2. To allocate €20 million to address core funding deficits within voluntary disability organisations

3. To commit €5 million to fund capacity building among voluntary disability organisations

4. To introduce a cost of disability payment of €40 per week to people with disabilities

That a copy of the agreed motion be sent to the Taoiseach, the Minister for Health & Children, the Minister for Finance, the Minister for Social & Family Affairs and to the Disability Federation of Ireland"

**Proposed by Councillor Michael Colreavy, seconded by Councillor Tony Ferguson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

"That Leitrim County Council support the Disability Federation of Ireland's Pre-budget submission 2009, and in particular the following four areas where the budget must allocate resources if we are to ensure the full delivery of the National Disability Strategy:

1. To commit €50 million in addition to multi-annual funding to develop disability services  
2. To allocate €20 million to address core funding deficits within voluntary disability organisations

3. To commit €5 million to fund capacity building among voluntary disability organisations

4. To introduce a cost of disability payment of €40 per week to people with disabilities

That a copy of the agreed motion be sent to the Taoiseach, the Minister for Health & Children, the Minister for Finance, the Minister for Social & Family Affairs and to the Disability Federation of Ireland"

08/429

1/9/08

**OPW & second Abbey in Fenagh**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council contact the Office of Public Works and request a full explanation as to why they have made no response to the Council's request in March concerning the making of a road to the second Abbey in Fenagh"

**Report by Senior Executive Officer, Change Management Unit**

"A reminder issued to the OPW in relation to this matter on foot of discussion at the July Council meeting. Mr. John Kerrisk, HEO, OPW National Monuments subsequently contacted this office asking that we identify on an attached map the space allotted and advise as to who owns the lands in question. We have recently responded to the OPW showing the area in question and advising that we understand that the land is in the ownership of the Diocese. We are currently awaiting a further response from the OPW in relation to this matter."

Councillor Ellis welcomed the reply and the indication that the OPW were starting to do

something in relation to this tourist attraction.

**08/430**

**1/9/08**

**Roadside Drainage - Aughawillin**

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

"I call upon Leitrim County Council to repair the roadside drainage along the Longford road South of Carrigallen Catholic Church in the townland of Aughawillin where flooding is occurring frequently which is damaging the road and contributing to a traffic hazard."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"The problem at this location relates to surface water coming off sites along this road. As part of the original planning permission the site owner were required to take measures to prevent run off from their site from gaining access to the public road, the district engineer will meet the site owners to discuss a solution to the problem."

Councillor O'Rourke welcomed the proposal to meet the site owners in this regard.

**08/431**

**1/9/08**

**Problems with Bridges**

**To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;**

"Over the past number of years I have discussed the problems with a lot of bridges in my area being, the bridge at McDermott's house, Kilclare, Roscarbon bridge, Kilclare bridge beside North West Tool Hire and the bridge in Leitrim Village, to mention but few. I would like to raise the issue of the incapability of the bridge at McDermotts to cater for the abundant amount of vehicles which cross it daily. I have brought this to the attention of the Council on several occasions. I would like to highlight(not for the first time) the dangerous position of a number of the stones on Roscarbon bridge. Responsibility must be taken for these bridges. I was promised that the provision of additional road markings, delineators and signs would be considered at the bridge beside North West Tool Hire (correspondence dated December 2000 refers). I also received a reply to a Notice of Motion I put forward in Jan 2007 that it again would be considered. I am still waiting for the above work to be carried out as it is quite possible it may save a life."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"The bridge located over the Ballinamore/Ballyconnel Canal at Scrabbagh on the LS 7404-2 has a road width of 2.4m. The parapet walls are continuously being damaged by wide vehicles and significant repairs are required to be carried out. It is necessary to widen this bridge in order to prevent reoccurrence of damage. No provision has been made in the 2008 road works programme for this work. This work could be considered for funding under a Community Involvement Scheme in 2009. In the short term as a Safety measure and a preventative measure to further damage to the walls, it is proposed to erect a barrier to restrict access across this bridge of any vehicles wider than 2.2m. The parapet walls on the bridge at Roscarbon has also been damaged as a result of impacts by road traffic. A suitable source of funding will need to be identified in the 2009 programme to repair these walls. The bridge at Kilclare beside North West Tool Hire on the R 209-6 has been included for improvement works in the 2008 Area programme under a Discretionary

Improvement Grant. The work will commence in early Sept and include the erection of warning signage and the installation of rumble strips and some crash barrier on the approach roads."

Councillor Gilmartin outlined that these issues have previously been raised and have been ongoing for some time. He stated that 'No Overtaking' signs are required approaching the Bridge at North West Tool Hire. In relation to the Bridge at Scrabbagh he stated that if the residents on the road don't want a barrier on the bridge then he will not support such a solution and some other way will have to be identified to deal with the problem. The motion was supported by Councillor McGloin.

Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure outlined that significant funding would be required for the bridge at Scrabbagh and this funding is not currently available. He advised that every effort would be made to source funding under the 2009 Roads Programme. He outlined however that something has to be done to ensure that vehicles which are too wide are restricted from crossing the bridge. Councillor Gilmartin reiterated that the residents will not accept a barrier at this location.

**08/432**

**1/9/08**

**Emergency Plan**

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

"At the September Council Meeting I will ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure, if the Emergency Plan for the County in the case of flooding might be reviewed in light of the severe flooding that has taken place in the County on a regular basis."

***Report by Director of Service, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services***

"The Council will be implementing a new Major Emergency Framework Plan in conjunction with the other principal response agencies - the Garda Síochána and the HSE with effect from 30th September 2008. This is part of a new National system which has been under preparation at county, regional and national levels for some time. Heretofore the Council had its own Major Emergency Plan which could be activated in the event of a major emergency which is defined as an incident or event which was outside of the normal capabilities of the emergency services to deal with and which might happen with little or no warning and would threaten death or injury, serious disruption of essential services or damage to property. Under that system the Council would utilise its emergency services- fire service, civil defence etc to deal with a flooding emergency as well as utilisation of outdoor staff and plant and machinery and hired machinery to deal with issues associated with the emergency. The Council would also assist in provision of emergency accommodation. The new structure will deal with all of the aforementioned functions and others as well as working in co-ordination with the other emergency agencies. The new Framework Plan includes a detailed Protocol for Multi-Agency response to Flood Emergencies and it provides for greater identification and monitoring of flood risk locations and for a more streamlined response from a wider range of services. This protocol which has been prepared at national level is currently being customised to meet Co Leitrim's requirements and the requirements of the North Western Regional Emergency Framework Plan. This customisation will take account of experiences gained from the recent flooding in the county."

Councillor McDermott stated that an Emergency Plan for flooding is vitally important as flash flooding is now occurring on a regular basis. He stated that Glenfarne was a disaster

area for a number of days during the most recent flooding, with a number of households still not able to return to their homes. He complimented the Council staff for their fantastic work throughout this period in alleviating the situation.

Councillor McDermott stated that main river arteries have not been cleaned in over 60 years and that he had written to the OPW in this regard. He proposed that representatives from the Arterial Drainage Section of the OPW be invited to attend a meeting of Leitrim County Council to discuss this matter. This was seconded by Councillor Ferguson who stated that this was an issue that must be addressed. Councillor Bohan also supported the proposal to meet with the OPW and expressed disappointment at suggestions by certain quarters that planning activity was to blame for the flooding.

Councillor McTernan also complimented the Council workers who had worked through the night to alleviate flooding. He asked that the invitation to the OPW to attend a Council meeting in relation to Creevelea Abbey be re-issued. He further requested that a copy of the request to attend a Council meeting be forwarded to the Minister's office.

**08/433**

**1/9/08**

**Tourism Promotion**

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

"I will propose at the September meeting of Leitrim County Council that the Council should play a more pro-active role in promoting tourism in the County. Leitrim has a wealth of scenic areas that can compare with anywhere in the country but we still are failing to profit from this."

***Report by Director of Service, Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development***

"Leitrim County Council being well aware of the crucial importance of the Tourism Sector to the economy of the county has in the last number of years developed a significant programme in the remit of promotion and development of tourism in the county.

Under the Leitrim County Council Peace II Task Force programme an investment of in excess of €500,000 was made in the marketing of the county and it's key attributes as a visitor destination. This grant funded the employment of a full time Tourism Officer and the delivery of Marketing Initiatives Programme which included attendance at trade shows, destination and specialised advertising campaigns, journalist's visits, development and maintenance of Leitrim Tourism website, web marketing, festival assistance, and production of promotional guide and top attractions guide for Leitrim.

Leitrim County Council has supported numerous tourism initiatives in particular a joint partnership marketing campaign with Failte Ireland to the value of €120,000 in 2007 and a further €120,000 will be spent in 2008 principally press and radio campaigns. Many festivals and events have been assisted by Leitrim County Council throughout the county in particular the Leitrim Roots Festival which was attended by over 100 overseas visitors. 4 Touch screen units providing 24/7 tourist information have been provided in Drumsna, Glenfarne, Drumkeerin and Carrick on Shannon which were jointly funded by Arigna Leader. A new website [www.enjoyleitrim.com](http://www.enjoyleitrim.com) and county tourism brochure are soon to be launched.

Leitrim County Council was the lead partner in the recent Cross Border Angling Tourism project funded to the value of €544,000 and supported by Interreg for Biological Research,

Infrastructure works and Marketing and promotion of the angling product to overseas and domestic markets.

In regard to the development of the Tourism Product a number of projects have been assisted by Leitrim County Council and in particular working in 2007 with Failte Ireland over €750,000 was invested in improving key attractions such as Glencar Waterfall, upgrading amenities areas install angling infrastructure, develop tourism trails, provide tourist information boards welcome signs at all access roads to Leitrim. Under the 2008 NDP Failte Ireland Soft Infrastructure programme, Leitrim submitted over 20 projects and to date Glencar Waterfall has been approved for a grant of €262,500 which will be matched by Leitrim County Council to the value of €87,500, with a further announcement to be made shortly.

The latest available statistics for Co Leitrim are for 2007 and these show that 36,000 overseas visitors were recorded generating a total of 19 million in revenue.

The recent Tourism strategy document produced by Leitrim County Council which focuses on the promotion and development of tourism for Leitrim has been influential in the Failte Ireland Regional Tourism Strategy and the National Rural Development Programme resulting in good representation of Leitrim requirements under tourism."

Councillor Frank Dolan outlined that he did not underestimate the amount of initiatives that have been undertaken by the Council but stated that there was a need to invest in tourism in a greater way. He outlined various areas that would benefit hugely from investment and greater promotion. Councillor Brennan supported the motion and suggested that the Council should co-ordinate an effort to bring together a plan to develop tourism generally in north Leitrim. He suggested that a report could be brought to the October meeting in relation to how this might be progressed. Councillor Ferguson outlined that a new brochure for Leitrim is due to be published shortly and he called on the members to be supportive in terms of ensuring its widest possible circulation. Councillor McTernan supported the motion and outlined his disappointment in relation to the continued failure of the OPW in relation to Creevelea Abbey. Councillor Ellis thanked the Council for the works carried out at Poll an Eas, Aughnasheelin and stated that this and other facilities needs to be promoted.

Mr. J. Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community, Culture & Enterprise Development outlined that the tourism priorities are charted and are set out in the Tourism Development Strategy 2007-2010. The Strategy document, produced by Leitrim County Council, has influenced the Fáilte Ireland Regional Tourism Strategy, the National Rural Development Programme etc. He outlined that application has been made to Fáilte Ireland for match funds of up to €1.25m for circa 20 projects. He also advised that a letter of offer has just been received in relation to €350k for Glencar. He outlined that a lot of work has been started and that time is needed to further develop this area. He also advised that the Rural Development Programme would be significant in assisting the development of the tourism product in the county.

**08/434**

**1/9/08**

**Road Resurfacing - Slievenakilla**

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

"To ask this Council as to when it is intended to have the Slievenakilla road, Ballinaglera,

resurfaced."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Reinstatement of this section of road will be completed when the all works associated with the upgrading of the Ballinaglera group water scheme is completed in this area. In the short term routine maintenance works will be carried out in the coming weeks."

Councillor Dolan advised that he had been speaking with the Area Engineer since submitting the motion. He stated that it was a disgrace how the works in relation to the Group Water Scheme had been left. He also thanked the General Services Supervisor in the Ballinaglera Area for the action taken in response to the recent flooding.

**08/435**

**1/9/08**

**Rates Waiver**

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

"That this Council calls on the Minister for Environment, Heritage & Local Government to grant a waiver from rates to owners of buildings which provide services in populations of 500 or less. Where the premises in question are not in excess of 125 sq meters. This waiver to be restricted to services for the community such as shops, pubs or post offices."

Councillor Flynn outlined that the current valuation system results in rates demands which may be the equivalent of up to 1/3 of the gross income of such businesses, which represents an enormous cost in proportion to their overall income.

***Proposed by Councillor Aodh Flynn, seconded by Councillor Michael Colreavy AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That this Council calls on the Minister for Environment, Heritage & Local Government to grant a waiver from rates to owners of buildings which provide services in populations of 500 or less. Where the premises in question are not in excess of 125 sq meters. This waiver to be restricted to services for the community such as shops, pubs or post offices."

**08/436**

**1/9/08**

**Compensation Package for Farmers & Funding for Road Repairs**

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Government to put a package of compensation measures in place for farmers who have suffered loss/damage during the recent heavy rainfall and flooding. Also call on the Minister and the Department of the Environment to provide extra funding for the repair of roads damaged as a result of the recent flooding. This work should be quantified and costed a matter of urgency."

Councillor Bohan outlined that a special package of compensation measures needs to be put in place. She outlined that the IFA have survey forms available for completion.

***Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Francie Gilmartin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Government to put a package of compensation measures in place for farmers who have suffered loss/damage during the recent heavy rainfall and flooding. That Leitrim County Council also call on the Minister and the Department of the Environment to provide extra funding for the repair of roads damaged as a result of the recent flooding. This work should be quantified and costed a matter of urgency."

**08/437**

**1/9/08**

**Farm Waste Management Grants**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture Mr. Brendan Smith TD, seeking to have the deadline for the completion of farm buildings, being erected under the Farm Waste Management programme, extended by one year, in order to have the work continue and allow farmers to complete the buildings for which they have been approved."

***Report by Senior Executive Officer, Change Management Unit***

"A request issued to the Minister for Agriculture in this regard on foot of Resolution passed at the May Council meeting. The matter was again raised at the July Council meeting and a further letter issued to Minister Smith. A response was received on 29th July last advising that enquiries are being made into the matter and a further reply will issue shortly (a copy of this response is included under Correspondence circulated for the September Council meeting)."

Councillor Kenny outlined that he was conscious of the looming deadline and the lack of capacity within the construction industry to get the works completed in advance of the deadline. He stated that it was essential that the deadline be extended and suggested that a delegation should meet with the Minister in this regard.

Councillor Stenson supported the motion and stated that it is vitally important that the deadline is extended. Councillor McGowan also supported the motion. Councillor McDermott outlined that he had originally raised this issue in May. Councillor Dolan supported the motion and outlined that some people had only been given the go-ahead under the scheme 3-4 weeks ago.

Councillor McGloin also supported the motion and suggested that it be amended to include a request that the Minister press his EU colleagues not to proceed with publishing details of farm payments. This was agreed by the members.

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

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture Mr. Brendan Smith TD, seeking to have the deadline for the completion of farm buildings, being erected under the Farm Waste Management programme, extended by one year, in order to have the work continue and allow farmers to complete the buildings for which they have been approved. That the Minister also be requested to urge his EU Colleagues not to proceed with the proposed publishing of details of farm payments"

08/438

1/9/08

**Footpath at Aghameeney, Carrick on Shannon**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Liam McElgunn;***

"That this Council or the developer concerned complete the public footpath leading from Drummagh to Aghameeney, Carrick on Shannon, as the lack of this footpath compels pedestrians to walk on the public road on a steep hill and exposes them to great danger. This matter has been brought to the attention of the Council by me over several years, but still nothing has been done to remedy this dangerous situation."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"In order to improve this section of road it is necessary to purchase a section of land. Negotiations with the landowner have been unsuccessful and the Council are currently examining other options including CPO."

Councillor McElgunn outlined that this matter has been ongoing for a number of years. He advised that the owner is willing to meet the Council to discuss the matter further and if these discussions are not successful then the CPO route should be pursued. The motion was supported by Councillor Guckian.

08/439

1/9/2008

**Votes of Congratulations**

***Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and unanimously resolved;***

"That Leitrim County Council extend a vote of congratulations to Laura Dowd, Michelle Beirne and the Mohill U12 Basketball Team on their recent achievements in Mosney."

***Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, seconded by Councillor Gordon and unanimously resolved;***

"That Leitrim County Council extend a vote of congratulations to Colin Griffin on his huge achievement in representing Ireland at the Beijing Olympic Games and that we wish him well in his preparations for the 2012 Games."

**Part II - Questions.**

08/440

1/9/08

**Flashing Lights Drumshanbo National School**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;***

"Can I ask Leitrim County Council to inspect the 'flashing lights' at Drumshanbo National School as it seems they are not operational. In light of the very welcome current work providing a new pedestrian crossing there it would be prudent at this juncture to ensure that the 'flashing lights' are operational prior to September 1st."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"The flashing lights on the approach roads to the Drumshanbo National School will be

inspected in the coming week with a view to having them operational as soon as possible"

**08/441**

**1/9/08**

**Fearglass Cross, Gortletteragh**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;***

"To ask Mr Paul Mc Mahon District Engineer Mohill, to replace the two yield signs at Fearglass cross, Gortletteragh with stop signs and paint white lines across the road, as a number of minor accidents have taken place there in the recent past, where motorists have driven through the cross, ignoring the yield signs that are there and the local community are concerned that it is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs there."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"Stoplines have been placed on the Local Tertiary road to indicate that the Local Primary road has priority. This should improve safety at this junction."

**08/442**

**1/9/08**

**Road Widening at Drumrane, Ballinamore**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;***

"To ask the area engineers office, if the council will widen & improve visibility on the roadway leading to the townland of Drumrane, Ballinamore. There was recently a serious accident at this location which was caused as a result of poor visibility along this stretch of road. Can the council therefore widen the roadway or install an appropriate number of laybys to ensure greater safety for both pedestrians & vehicular traffic alike".

***Report by Senior Executive Officer, Infrastructure***

"This section of local secondary roadway is 3 metres wide with a low ambient speed. We will examine the possibility of increasing the visibility along this section of roadway."

**08/443**

**1/9/08**

**Aughavas-Corroneary Group Water Scheme**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;***

"To ask the Director of Services what is the up-to-date position regarding the completion of the Aughavas-Corroneary Group Water Scheme. It is my understanding that there is a number of issues still outstanding in relation to same which need to be addressed".

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"The Final Account and subsequent Managers Order was completed on this Group Water Scheme in July 2006. Leitrim County Council's Rural Water Department spoke with the GWS in August 2008. Leitrim County Council agreed with the GWS that they are to speak with their Consulting Engineer who in turn is to make a submission to LCC for assessment."

08/444

1/9/08

**Road Signage at Drumleague, Leitrim Village**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;***

"Can I receive clarification in relation to where two roads meet namely LS7379-0 and LS-7380(coming up from the canal) at Drumleague Leitrim. There is currently no stop sign on either road and there is confusion as to who has the right of way at this junction. Can this be decided as soon as possible and a STOP sign erected. Also could the hedges be trimmed back and perhaps a warning sign indicating a junction ahead on the other road. There have been a few near misses and the proposed work would perhaps help the situation."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"The junction in question will be assessed and the appropriate signage erected."

08/445

1/9/08

**Ramps at Shannagh, Mohill**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;***

"May I ask that the present ramps between Shannagh and Upper Main St, Mohill be removed and replaced with a lesser number and less severe ramp as the present ones, while needed to reduce speeding, are difficult to drive over and car owners have complained of damage being done to their cars."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"The current ramps are functioning as designed and reducing speed in the area of the school. The traffic calming requirements for the Shannagh area will be re-examined before work starts on the Shannagh Development Charge Scheme."

08/446

1/9/08

**Summerhill Grove, Carrick on Shannon**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;***

"May I ask what is the Council's position regarding the Amenity/Green Area at Summerhill Grove, Carrick-on-Shannon. A number of years ago when the roadway was taken in charge residents were promised a seat and trees for this area, but nothing has been done and this area has become unsightly and is of no use as an amenity area. I am requesting that we re-visit this area with a view to enhancing it."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"When a development is taken in charge the upkeep of the green areas remains the responsibility of the residents."

08/447

1/9/08

**Drumsna Community Website**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;***

"At the September Meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Director of Services, Corporate Services, to redirect internet traffic from Leitrim County Councils registered domain name 'www.Drumsna.ie' to the actual site of Drumsna Community which is www.Drumsna.com. Leitrim County Council are the current registered holders of the domain name www.Drumsna.ie and when this address is logged onto it brings the user to the Leitrim web site www.Leitrim.ie which has no reference to the actual site which is maintained and updated by the community of Drumsna."

***Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing***

"Leitrim County Council are the registered owner of the domain name, drumsna.ie. The Council will agree to the use of drumsna.ie by Drumsna Community Council (the registrants of drumsna.com) subject to a number of standard conditions. A meeting with representatives from Drumsna Community Council can be arranged to progress the matter."

**08/448**

**1/9/08**

**Pride of Place Sign**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;***

"At the September meeting of Leitrim County Council, I would ask that the agreed "Pride of Place Winner 2007" sign for Drumsna would be erected prior to the Presidential visit, towards the end of this month. At the April meeting of Leitrim County Council I asked the County Manager to make provision for the purchase and installation of appropriate signage for Drumsna, indicating that the village was the 2007 winner of the all island competition. It was agreed that this would be pursued as an appropriate action in acknowledgement of the achievement."

***Report by Senior Executive Officer, Infrastructure***

"The appropriate signage will be erected before the Presidential visit"

**08/449**

**1/9/08**

**Pedestrian Crossings Mohill**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Thomas Mulligan;***

"When is work expected to commence on the provision of pedestrian crossings in Mohill"

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"We intend to hold a meeting with interested parties in early September. Once agreement is reached construction will start"

**08/450**

**1/9/08**

**ESB Funding for Road Repairs**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McTernan;***

"Regarding condition of roads in the Ballinagar area, has agreement been reached with the E.S.B. on funding for repairing these roads"

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"A meeting has been set for the 8th September with ESB officials to finalise funding"

arrangements for the repairs to roads damaged as a result of the construction of powerlines in the Ballinagar area."

**08/451**

**1/9/08**

**Traffic Hazard at Drumlease, Dromahaire**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McTernan;***

"When will the footpaths be put in place to alleviate the hazard for traffic at Drumlease National School, Dromahair."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"A controlled pedestrian crossing is currently under construction adjacent to the Drumlease national school in Dromahair. Also included as part of this works is the construction of an uncontrolled crossing on the Drumlease road junction, improvements to the sight-distance at this location and the installation of rumble strips on the approach to the pedestrian crossing. All of the above works should be completed by early September"

**08/452**

**1/9/08**

**Contracts for Consultants**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;***

"Will the County Manager bring to the Council the awarding of Contracts for Consultants in all areas of Council work stating the purpose of the work and the cost to the Council?"

***Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing***

"A list of contracts awarded to Consultants as requested will be forwarded to the Members."

**08/453**

**1/9/08**

**ESB Poles at Laughta, Kinlough**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;***

"I will ask the Planning Department of the Council when the telephone/E.S.B. poles in front of the new estate at Laughta on the Manorhamilton Road, Kinlough are to be removed? They present a danger now."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"The removal of the poles now isolated and exposed along the R280 on the Southern approach to Kinlough is the responsibility of the developer of the 40-house estate in question. I understand that he has been in contact with Eircom recently to make arrangements for their removal."

**08/454**

**1/9/08**

**HSE Continuing Care Facility in Manorhamilton**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Michael Colreavy;***

"Will Leitrim County Council establish from the Health Services Executive what progress if

any has been made in terms of developing a Primary and Continuing Care facility in Manorhamilton, and if the Health Services Executive will outline when the facility will be operational and the range and extent of services which it is proposed will be made available at the facility?"

**Report by Senior Executive Officer, Change Management Unit**

"A letter will issue to the Health Services Executive in this regard."

**08/455**

**1/9/08**

**Funding for Flooding Clean-Up**

**To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Michael Colreavy;**

"Can Leitrim County Council draw down emergency funding from Department of the Environment to help the clean-up / roads restoration etc following recent flooding / landslides, and can the Council seek funding to implement a programme of preventive work to minimise as far as possible the impact of any similar events in the future?"

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"When the cost of the emergency works arising from the flooding has been finally established, the Council will make an application to the relevant government Department for any funding that may be available. The OPW are charged with responsibility for flood relief and this council will be identifying to the OPW location where flooding occurred in the recent poor weather. Consultations will also take place with the OPW to establish what local factors may have contributed to the flooding and the OPW will be asked to identify what measures it might be possible to take to avoid or mitigate such impacts in the future."

**08/456**

**1/9/08**

**Lights at Kiltymoodan. Ballinamore**

**To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Caillian Ellis;**

"I will ask Leitrim County Council what is the up to date position in relation to lights at Kiltymoodan, Ballinamore."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The public lamp standards have been erected and we await the ESB connecting them up, who have assured us that it is programmed to be done shortly."

**08/457**

**1/9/08**

**Signage at Shrewhane. Fenagh**

**To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Caillian Ellis;**

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to erect signage on the R202 for dip in the road in the Townland of Shrewhane, Fenagh."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The necessary sign will be ordered and erected as soon as it comes to hand."

08/458

1/9/08

**Urban Framework Plan for Carrigallen**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke;***

"When will the work preparing an Urban Framework Plan for Carrigallen commence"

***Report by Director of Service, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services***

"Carrigallen is one of the locations for which a village framework plan is to be prepared. It had been anticipated that funding would be sourced for these projects as in the case of all previously prepared framework plans. Funds did not materialise. In the meantime work has been ongoing on the preparation in-house of the Draft County Development Plan which will come before the Council for consideration at the October meeting. It is intended that work will commence on the promised plans for Dromod/Roosky, Kinlough/Tullaghan and Carrigallen in the coming weeks and prior to the commencement of works on the Draft Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan which is a statutory plan. The framework plans will be done in-house and will have to be funded from the Council's own resources."

08/459

1/9/08

**Eircom Roadside Poles at Carrigallen**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke;***

"Would Leitrim County Council contact Eircom with a view to moving roadside poles which are over hanging the Longford road South of Carrigallen Catholic Church causing a traffic hazard with vehicles having to move out onto the centre of the road in order to avoid striking them"

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"An inspection has been carried out on this area and Eircom have been contacted regarding this issue."

08/460

1/9/08

**Replies to Correspondence**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;***

"Did the Council receive a reply to the motions I put forward in (a) December 2007 requesting that the Council write to Minister O'Keefe to supply grant aid for water and electricity to slatted houses, and (b) in April 2008 regarding the Garda Station in Keshcarrigan"

***Report by Senior Executive Officer, Change Management Unit***

"The matter in relation to the provision of grant aid for the supply of electricity and water to slatted houses was referred to Minister O'Cuiv in January 2008 on foot of motion to the January 2008 Council meeting. No response has been received to date and a further letter has issued to the Minister in this regard seeking an urgent response."

In relation to the Garda Station in Keshcarrigan, a letter issued to the OPW, Garda HQ and the local Superintendent in this regard in April 2008. On 8th May 2008 a response was received from Garda HQ advising that the correspondence had been referred to the Chief

Administrative Officer, Garda HQ for his attention (circulated to Members at June Council meeting). A further letter issued to the OPW following the July Council meeting querying why we had not received a response from them in relation to this matter. No further correspondence has been received in this regard and reminder letters have been issued.

We have recently developed a simple database system to track and monitor responses to correspondence arising from Council meetings which will facilitate regular follow-up on outstanding correspondences. A system of monthly review and reminders as necessary is being put in place in this regard."

**08/461**

**1/9/08**

**Water Supply at Carrick Road, Drumshanbo**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;***

"Approximately six months ago I had reason to contact this Council regarding the poor supply of water to a house on the Carrick Road, Drumshanbo. For some weeks after this, the water pressure of the supply was acceptable, however, this did not last. It is common knowledge that if the stopcock is opened enough there will be enough pressure to supply water to this house. The residents of the above mentioned house have already lost a dish washer due to the poor conditions under which they have been receiving their water supply. I ask this Council could they rectify this problem on a permanent basis."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"The council have carried out work at this location and the problem has been rectified."

**08/462**

**1/9/08**

**Sewerage Schemes for Glenfarne & Rossinver**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;***

"I will ask Leitrim County Council for a time scale on the Sewerage Schemes for Glenfarne and Rossinver. There is great fear that these Schemes will be left on hold for many years."

***Report by Senior Executive Officer, Infrastructure***

"Consultants are currently preparing a feasibility / preliminary report on the Town and Villages Sewerage Scheme Phase 11. This will be completed in the coming weeks and will be submitted for approval to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government."

**08/463**

**1/9/08**

**Hedges on Kiltyclogher to Rossinver Road**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;***

"Can I ask the Council to cut the hedges on the Kiltyclogher to Rossinver Regional Road No. R 281 from the T junction on the Manorhamilton to Rossinver road to Edmund Connolly's house back towards Kiltyclogher. It is impossible for cars to pass when they meet the school bus."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The permitted hedge-cutting season resumes on September 1st. Notices will be issued to owners of overgrown hedges on the road in question, and the Council will carry out some verge-trimming work when a similar operation now in progress on Regional Route R280 has been completed."

**08/464**

**1/9/08**

**Repairs to Carricanurro Road**

**To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;**

"I will ask the Director of Services in Infrastructure to carry out repairs on the Carricanurro road immediately as part of this road is in a dangerous condition."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Work on a new watermain is due to commence in September on the road in question, which links the Lough Gill Road near Parkes' Castle with Fivemilebourne. Full surface restoration will be carried out on completion, and in the meantime appropriate maintenance work will be undertaken to leave the road passable."

**08/465**

**1/9/08**

**Coolegrane Road, Dowra**

**To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;**

"When is it intended to have the Coolegrane road, Dowra, resurfaced."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"This road is included for funding under the Restoration Improvement Programme for 2008. Work will commence on this grant on Monday 1st of September."

**08/466**

**1/9/08**

**Road at Killarkin, Leitrim Village**

**To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;**

"To have the road heading into Killarkin, Leitrim (past football field) repaired."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Routine maintenance work will be carried out on this road in the coming weeks."

**08/467**

**1/9/08**

**Grant Assistance for Public Lighting**

**To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Aodh Flynn;**

"I will ask the Co. Manager if any grant assistance is available to the community to improve the public lighting at Mullies Church, Manorhamilton."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"There is one public light already in existence at Mullies Church which, together with flood-lighting on the Church building itself, provides adequate illumination for the seldom times there are services held there in the hours of darkness. Rising electricity costs place an ever increasing burden on the Council's finances due to the huge expansion in the public lighting network in recent years. Further non-essential additions to the system are unsustainable."

**08/468**

**1/9/08**

**Grants for Graveyard Maintenance**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Aodh Flynn;***

"What grant is available to communities to maintain graveyards not currently maintained by Leitrim Co.Co."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"There is no grant available for the maintenance of non-public graveyards."

**08/469**

**1/9/08**

**Playground in Drumkeerin**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;***

"What is the current position regarding the provision of the childrens playground in Drumkeerin, and why is there such a long delay in providing same."

***Report by Director of Service, Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development***

"The playground has been signed off and will commence in construction in the current month. The delay was caused initially by difficulties with the first site chosen and more recently with a drainage issue with the site finally selected."

**08/470**

**1/9/08**

**Drainage on Newline Road beside Kilavoggy Church**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;***

"That this Council improves the drainage on the Newline Road beside Kilavoggy Church. At present the water flows off the public road and on to private property."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"The location in question will be inspected shortly and the necessary remedial works carried out as soon as possible."

**08/471**

**1/9/08**

**Footpaths and Road Widening at Aghameeney, Carrick**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Reynolds;***

"To ask the Director of Services for Infrastructure when the Council will provide footpaths and road widening from Summerhill to Aghameeney, as this work was supposed to take

place in conjunction with the provision of the extra houses in Aughameeney. Also, would the Council consider the provision of speed ramps from Summerhill to Aughameeney in the year?"

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"Every effort has been made to acquire the necessary land by agreement but to date no progress has been made. We have no alternative but to now begin compulsory purchase proceedings."

**08/472**

**1/9/08**

**Public Lighting Ballinamore**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Martin Kenny;***

"I am asking the Director of Services, to have the public lighting along the Aughnasheelin road from the bridge in Ballinamore out to the junction of the Golf Links road up graded, as it has very poor lighting, as was evident when the funfair was attracting a lot of people to the area recently, on un-seasonally dark evenings."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"We shall contact the ESB Public Lighting section to review lighting in the area. Any improvement works recommended will be subject to funding being available."

**08/473**

**1/9/08**

**Footpath and Lighting at Carrigallen**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Martin Kenny;***

"I am asking the Director of Services when will a proper footpath and better lighting be provided on the road from the junction at Modern Designs, leading to the Barley Field housing estate in Carrigallen, as it is in a very bad state. This work has been requested several times, and assurances given that it would be improved. Can this relatively small piece of work be carried out before the winter comes in?"

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"The District engineer will assess the situation and see if the road width will permits the construction of a footpath along this section of road in Carrigallen. The work will be costed and included for consideration in the 2009 works programme."

**08/474**

**1/9/08**

**Public Lighting at Breffni Crescent, Carrick**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Liam McElgunn;***

"To ask if the Council has received from ESB the promised report on the public lighting at Breffni Crescent and St Patrick's Park, Carrick on Shannon. The present situation, where lights are out of order for months at a time, is causing difficulty to local residents, especially older people and would need to be rectified with the coming of darker evenings."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"The area staff have completed ducting work for the provision of new lighting columns. An

order has been placed with the ESB and we are waiting on the delivery and commissioning of the new lights."

**08/475**

**1/9/08**

**Public Lighting at Gowel Church**

**To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Liam McElgunn;**

"To ask when extra public lights that were promised some time ago will be erected at Gowel Church."

***Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure***

"Ducting, Drainage and Footpath work is due to commence at Gowel Church over the next month. Once this is completed the lights can be erected."

Councillor Frank Dolan thanked the Executive and Members for facilitating the holding of the meeting in Dromahaire and outlined that he hoped that everyone had enjoyed the scenery. In closing the meeting the Cathaoirleach thanked the members, the executive and the press for their co-operation in relation to having the meeting in Dromahaire and George & Tina McGoldrick for providing the facilities.

**This concluded the business of the meeting at 8.20 p.m.**

**Francis Gilmartin**  
**Cathaoirleach**

**Aideen McGovern**  
**Meetings Administrator**

**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008**