

***Minutes of Council Meeting held by Leitrim County Council
In the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on
Monday 3rd March 2008***

Members Present:

<i>Bohan, Mary</i>	<i>McDermott, Sean</i>
<i>Colreavy, Michael</i>	<i>McElgunn, Liam</i>
<i>Dolan, Frank</i>	<i>McGloin, Enda</i>
<i>Ellis, Caillian</i>	<i>McGowan, Sean</i>
<i>Flynn, Aodh</i>	<i>McTernan, John</i>
<i>Ferguson, Anthony</i>	<i>Mulligan, Thomas</i>
<i>Gilmartin, Francis</i>	<i>O'Rourke, Paddy</i>
<i>Guckian, Sinead</i>	<i>Reynolds, Gerry</i>
<i>Hughes, Gordon</i>	<i>Stenson, Enda</i>
<i>Kenny, Martin</i>	

And Councillor Damian Brennan, Cathaoirleach presiding

Apologies:

Shortt, Jim Joe
Dolan, Gerry

Officials Present:

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager
Ms. K. Murphy, Head of Finance
*Mr. M. Dolan, Director of Services, Planning Environment and
Emergency Services*
*Mr. J. Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community and Enterprise
Development*
Mr. B. Lowe, Senior Engineer
Mr. B. Kenny, Senior Engineer
Mr. C. Tracey, Senior Planner
Mr. M. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. P. McMahon, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. V. Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. G. Doyle, A/Meetings Administrator
Ms. S. Flynn, Administrative Officer

At the outset of the meeting the Cathaoirleach Councillor Damian Brennan, outlined to the Members that the Corporate Policy Group had discussed proposals for the more efficient running of Council Meetings. It was agreed by the Elected Members that all items on the Agenda would be taken in the order as they appear on the Agenda; that Votes of Sympathy would be considered after the adoption of minutes and that all other votes of congratulations etc, are to be dealt with under any other business at the end of the Meeting. It was also agreed that only correspondence circulated to all Councillors prior to the Council Meeting will be dealt with under Meeting Correspondence and that any other correspondence which had been received by individual Councillors would be dealt with under any other business.

Part I – Statutory Business

08/115

3/3/2008 **Deimhniu Miontuairisci**

Proposed by Councillor Gerry Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan and unanimously resolved;

“That the Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon on Monday 4th February 2008, be adopted.”

“That the Minutes of South Leitrim Regional Roads Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon on Monday 25th February 2008, be adopted.”

“That the Minutes of North Leitrim Regional Roads Meeting held in the Teagasc Centre, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim on Tuesday 26th February 2008, be adopted.”

08/116

3/3/2008 **Votes of Sympathy**

The members extended a vote of sympathy to the following;

- *Boylan family, Cornalaughta, Leckaun P.O., on the death of Eddie Boylan*
- *Mrs. Thomas Gallagher, Glenkeel, Kiltyclogher, on the death of Patrick Kelly*
- *Oliver and Phyllis McGowan, Loughmarron, Glenade, Kinlough on the death of Bernie Meehan*
- *Thomas and Derrica Feely, Ballymore, Kinlough on the death of Ann Feely*
- *Doorigan family, Tooman, Bornacoola, on the death of Stephen Doorigan*
- *Michael Moran, Breffni Heights, Carrick on Shannon on the death of John Francis Moran*
- *Family and relatives of the late Andrew Jordan*

08/117

3/3/2008 **Roadworks Scheme 2008**

The Roadworks Scheme 2008 as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of the Meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Ellis stated that it was regrettable that the proposed restructuring of the Council’s engineering areas in line with engineering areas had led to industrial relations difficulties for the Council and that he was proposing that the proposed changes should be deferred at least until after the 2009 Local Elections. Councillor Ellis also proposed that the adoption of the Road Works Scheme be deferred until such time as the outcome of negotiations between Management and staff were known. Councillor O’Rourke stated that there was a large amount of work to be done under the Road Works Scheme in 2008 and that there was a great deal of uncertainty as to whether it would be carried out or not until these matters were resolved. Councillor Stenson stated that it was unfortunate that after the Council having won Local Authority of the Year last year there appeared to be ill will between Council

Management and some of the outdoor staff. Councillor Stenson stated that the general public were in contact with him on a regular basis looking for road works to be completed and that it was important that this issue be resolved. He added that if this dispute continued for an extended period it would then turn into a no win situation for everyone concerned. Councillor Colreavy outlined that the members have a responsibility for adopting the Road Works Scheme and sought clarification on what would happen if the scheme was not adopted.

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined that the Council Executive were currently in talks with Union representatives regarding the proposed changes at the Labour Relations Commission. She stated that the changes proposed directly affected 13 out of the 88 Council outdoor staff and that the Council executive would continue to be willing to engage with them in order to work out a satisfactory resolution for all concerned. She stated that as part of the Towards 2016 agreement, changed processes and increased efficiency to be implemented at a local level were agreed. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager also stated that there was no change to the way the Road Works Scheme for 2008 was prepared compared to other years only that it was being done on an electoral area basis in 2008 rather than on an engineering area basis and that funding was being allocated to individual projects on the basis of priority as was previously done. She outlined that the €20million roadworks scheme must be spent before the end of 2008 and that deferring the Road Works Scheme would not assist in resolving issues some staff may have with the changes and that the appropriate industrial relations mechanisms were being availed of to try and resolve these matters.

Councillor Reynolds outlined that the matter of the realignment of the engineering areas is an executive function and that the mechanisms were in place to deal with the outstanding issues between Management and staff regarding the proposed realignment. Councillor Reynolds added that work needs to get started on the Road Works Scheme and that the Scheme needs to be adopted as soon as possible in order to allow this to happen. This was supported by Councillor Bohan who stated that she did not think that the Council by adopting the Road Works Programme would in any way affect the 13 workers currently in negotiations with the Council and she added that she hoped there would be a satisfactory outcome to the negotiations. Councillor McGowan agreed that there were two separate issues involved and that it was vital that the Road Works Scheme was not held up any longer. Councillor Guckian stated that she agreed that there was a process now in place to deal with the workers concerns and that the adoption of the Road Works Scheme was a separate matter.

Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Gerry Reynolds AND RESOLVED;

“That the Roadworks Scheme 2008 for Leitrim County Council be adopted”.

08/118

3/3/2008

Disability Implementation Plan

Report dated 26th February 2008 from A/Director of Services, Housing and Corporate Services, as circulated to the members, appears as ***Appendix 2*** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Tony Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott and unanimously resolved;

“That the Leitrim County Council Disability Implementation Plan 2007-2015 be adopted, in accordance with the provisions of the Disability Act 2005.”

08/119

3/3/2008

Audit Committee

Report dated 26th February 2008 from County Manager, as circulated to the members, appears as ***Appendix 3*** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Michael Colreavy, seconded by Councillor Tony Ferguson and unanimously resolved;

“That Leitrim County Council Audit Committee Charter, be approved.”

08/120

3/3/2008

Quarterly Report on Capital Works

□ **Housing**

Report dated 21st February 2008 from A/Director of Services, Housing and Corporate Services 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 McGloin sought an update in relation to delays in getting electricity connected at Naomh Padraig Housing Estate in Drumshanbo. Mr. M. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer outlined that the Council is seeking a meeting with senior representatives from the ESB in relation to delays with a number of electricity connections to Council houses. Councillor McElgunn outlined that the public have a perception that the Council are at fault for delays in electricity connections when in fact it is the ESB that are to blame. The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Brennan proposed that the Council request the ESB to attend a meeting of Leitrim County Council to discuss this matter. Councillor McGloin proposed that the Council also raise the matter with the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources. Councillor Bohan stated that this was a problem throughout the county and requested that the Council seek a list of contact numbers from the ESB as it was proving difficult to get a response from the ESB. Councillor Reynolds proposed that a meeting be arranged between the ESB and Council executives so that a more efficient delivery of electricity services could be put in place.

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined that delays in ESB Connections were the source of much frustration to the Council and that the Council executive would propose to meet with senior representatives of the ESB as soon as possible with a view to ensuring no further delays occurred.

- **Water Services**
Report dated March 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.

- **Roads**
Report dated March 2008 from Director of Services, Infrastructure 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.

Councillor Colreavy sought clarification in relation to the Council's direct contribution to roads funding from its own resources. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined that it has been part of Government policy to ensure that local authorities contribute from their own resources to roads funding. She outlined that 30% of the rates money which the Council receives, is spent on roads and that this was very significant particularly given that the Council had one of the lowest rate bases of all Council's in the country.

- **Other Capital Projects**
Report dated 25th February 2008 from the Director of Services, Community and Enterprise as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 7** to the Minutes of the Meeting in the Minute Book. The report as circulated was noted by the Members.

08/121

3/3/2008

Corporate Policy Group Report

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined the issues considered by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting:

- *Conduct of business of Council Meetings*
- *Housing SPC Work Programme*
Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined that as part of the Housing and Corporate Services Strategic Policy Committees Work Programme for 2008 an Irish Committee is being formed focussing on the overall promotion of Irish within the County. Ms. J. Maguire County Manager stated that any Councillor interested was welcome to sit on the Committee. Councillor Colreavy indicated his willingness to sit on the Committee.
- *Disability Implementation Plan*
- *Members ICT*
Ms. J. Maguire County Manager outlined that the facility for Councillors to track their individual representations was now available on the Council's Extranet.
- *Mid-Shannon Tourism Infrastructure Investment Scheme*

Mr. J. Gilhooly, Director of Services Community and Enterprise, referred to the Council's submission seeking an extension to the Mid-Shannon Tourism Infrastructure

Investment Scheme and reply received from Mr. Seamus Brennan Minister for Arts, Sports and Tourism. Mr. J. Gilhooly Director of Services Community and Enterprise outlined that the letter indicated that the Scheme would not be extended so as to include Leitrim even though he considered that there was an excellent case to be made for the inclusion of Leitrim in the Scheme.

Councillor Bohan expressed disappointment at the scheme not being extended to include Leitrim and proposed that Leitrim County Council seek a meeting with Mr. Brian Cowen T.D., Tanaiste and Minister for Finance, under whose remit the Scheme was operated. She also requested that the Oireachtas members in the North Leitrim/Sligo and South Leitrim/Roscommon Constituencies be invited to this meeting. This was supported by Councillor Colreavy. Councillor Stenson outlined that the letter gives no justifiable reason for not extending the scheme. Councillor Hughes stated that this was an opportunity for the members to seek a scheme for the development of Leitrim.

This update was noted by the Members.

08/122

3/3/2008

Council Meetings

It was agreed by the members to hold the April Council Meeting on Monday 14th April 2008.

It was agreed by the members to hold the May Council Meeting on Tuesday 6th May 2008.

08/123

3/3/2008

Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated to the members;

1. Letter dated 14th February 2008 from Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, to acknowledge receipt of letter from Leitrim regarding Water Pricing.
2. Letter dated 13th February 2008 from Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, acknowledging receipt of letter from Leitrim County Council in connection with non-domestic water charges.
3. Letter dated 13th February 2008 from Senator John Ellis, attaching correspondence received from Minister Seamus Brennan T.D., outlining the position with regard to the Mid-Shannon Tourism Infrastructure Scheme.
4. Letter dated 4th February 2008 from Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism regarding the Mid-Shannon Tourism Infrastructure Scheme.
5. Letter dated 29th February 2008 from Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding the issues of water pricing and its implications for Leitrim.

Councillor Kenny stated that he was very disappointed with the reply and that water pricing policy had major adverse implications for Leitrim and that the Council should send another letter to the Minister urging him to meet with a deputation from the Council. He added that the Minister should be encouraged to approach the EU Commissioner with responsibility for water pricing so that a case could be made to allow for a derogation for counties like Leitrim. Councillor Colreavy stated that he felt that a proper case had yet to be put to the EU regarding the implications of water pricing policy and that the Council should write to the EU Commissioner to indicate the difficulties which the policy was likely to cause the county.

Councillor Brennan Cathaoirleach outlined the major difficulties for Leitrim of full cost recovery in respect of water services and that the Council could not sustain the major cost involved in implementing water pricing policy as currently formulated.

6. Letter dated February 2008 from Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in reference to letter from Leitrim County Council concerning water services cost recovery from the non-domestic sector.
7. Letter dated 19th February 2008 from Department of Health and Children referring to correspondence received from Leitrim County Council regarding the Community Childcare Subvention Scheme.
8. Circular letter SIU 3/2008 regarding Transfer of the Special Housing Aid for the Elderly Scheme from the Health Service Executive to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
9. Circular letter PD 1/2008, dated 26th February 2008 from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding Taking in Charge of Residential Developments/Management Arrangements.

Councillor Stenson asked if the new framework for a comprehensive taking in charge policy will help to address the major issue of unfinished estates in the county. Councillor Reynolds stated that this was a problem in every town in the county particularly in Carrick-On-Shannon and that the whole process of the taking in charge of estates was taking much too long. Councillor Liam McElgunn enquired as to whether the new policy would make any difference in addressing the ongoing problem of unfinished estates in the county. Councillor McGloin proposed that the Council work more closely with developers and that the Council hold seminars for developers so that the Council's requirements could be clearly outlined to the m.

Mr. M. Dolan, Director of Services Planning and Environment outlined that this Circular Letter updates the earlier policy guidance by the Department and replaces Circular Letter PD 1/06 and 5/06. He outlined that all planning authorities are now required to develop or update their policy on taking in charge by the end of June 2008. Mr. M. Dolan Director of Services Planning and Environment also stated that the introduction of this policy will assist in addressing the problem of unfinished housing estates in the future and will set out requirements form the pre planning stage right to final completion of the estate. He added that the Council had since 2006 a formal

procedure in place for taking in charge of estates and some amendments would be made to this procedure in light of the new Circular. Mr. M. Dolan, Director of Services Planning and Environment added that there are currently 17 formal applications for taking in charge, at various stages of processing.

Councillor Colreavy stated that the new policy if implemented could be very successful in dealing with the problem of unfinished estates into the future. Councillor Colreavy stated however that he felt that the Council would need more staffing resources so as to implement the Policy properly and that bonds sought from developers needed to be set at a more realistic level. Councillor Colreavy added that something needed urgently to be done for estates, which were currently unfinished.

Councillor Hughes sought clarification on whether management companies had to be put in place as a condition of planning permission for housing estates. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined that the Council will only require that a management company be put in place as a condition of planning permission for housing estates in very exceptional circumstances.

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined that the next step is for the Planning SPC to develop a policy. She outlined that all members will be circulated with statistics on the number of applications and the stages at which they are at.

Councillor Bohan proposed that the Council hold a meeting to discuss the matter prior to a meeting of the Planning SPC being held, and then report to the Planning SPC.

It was agreed to hold a meeting of the Council prior to the next Planning SPC meeting.

Councillor Ferguson enquired as to whether the Council could recover the cost of finishing estates even though the period for taking action under the Planning Acts has elapsed. Mr. C. Tracey, Senior Planning outlined that once enforcement proceedings have been served on a developer within the statutory period then proceedings can continue after this.

10. Tourism Capital Investment Programme Operation Guidelines from Failte Ireland
11. Letter dated 27th February 2008 from Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding Consultation on Draft of Bathing Water Quality Regulations.

08/124
3/3/2008

Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas

Report from Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services, in relation to Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas, as circulated appears as **Appendix 8** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Gilmartin referred to correspondence from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding sustainable residential development in urban areas and proposed that Leitrim County Council write to the Minister to state that one off housing

in the countryside was also sustainable and that Government policy on residential developments should not focus exclusively on developments in urban areas.

08/125

3/3/2008

Conferences

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the following;

- Attendance of Councillor Caillian Ellis at Cross Border Tourism Conference - Destination North West - Marketing the North West on a Cross Border Basis from 9th – 10th January 2008 in Donegal
- Attendance of Councillor Caillian Ellis at Combat Poverty Seminar on 22nd January 2008 in Dublin
- Attendance of Councillor Caillian Ellis at ICBAN Meeting held in Armagh on 30th January 2008
- Attendance of Councillor Enda McGloin at the Mid-West Regional Authority Conference on 7th & 8th February 2008 in Limerick.”

Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian seconded by Councillor Liam McElgunn AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of the following members at the LAMA Spring Seminar to be held on 27th and 28th March 2008 in Trim, Co. Meath; Sinead Guckian, Liam McElgunn, Sean McGowan, Mary Bohan, Tony Ferguson, Enda McGloin, Aodh Flynn, Martin Kenny, Sean McDermott, Caillian Ellis.”

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan seconded by Councillor Francis Gilmartin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of the following members at the Kerry Environmental Recognition Conference from 2nd – 6th April 2008 in Ballybunion, Co. Kerry; Francis Gilmartin.”

Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan seconded by Councillor John McTernan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of the following members at the Kerry Environmental Recognition Conference from 2nd – 6th April 2008 in Ballybunion, Co. Kerry; Frank Dolan, John McTernan, Sean McDermott.”

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

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of the following members at the Planning for Renewable Energy Conference in Adare, Co. Limerick from 7th – 8th February 2008; Enda McGloin, Mary Bohan.”

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

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of the following members at the Cross Border Negotiating Change Forum on 6th March 2008 in Derry; Caillian Ellis, Paddy O'Rourke.”

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of the following members at the Suicide Prevention – A Call for Action Conference in Dublin from 22nd – 23rd February 2008; Tony Ferguson.”

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of the following members at the North/South Ministerial Council Networking Event on 20th February 2008 in Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh; Tony Ferguson.”

Part II - Notices of Motion

08/126

3/3/2008

Trading Hours

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

"This Council supports proposals to restrict hours of trading to Monday to Saturday."

Councillor Flynn stated that whilst the issue of Sunday opening for businesses was a complex one he felt that it was important to have a discussion on the issue. He stated that most of Europe did not have Sunday opening and smaller businesses were being forced to work longer hours in order to compete with larger businesses. Councillor Colreavy stated that twenty four hours shopping was equally if not more of an issue than Sunday trading and that it needed to be addressed although he accepted it would be extremely difficult to apply rules across the board to regulate hours of business. Councillor McGloin stated that he would be extremely cautious about anything being done to restrict Sunday trading particularly if workers were adequately compensated for working on Sundays. Councillor Guckian stated she agreed with Councillor McGloin's comments and also stated that she recognised that this was a very complex issue requiring very careful consideration. Councillor McElgunn stated that people nowadays lived very busy lives and often had family and work commitments, which necessitated them doing their shopping on a Sunday. Councillor Stenson stated that he also would be reluctant to pass a Motion seeking Sunday trading to be banned and that he needed to be convinced that there were valid reasons for doing so. Councillor O'Rourke stated that students attending third level colleges were being rostered for Sunday working and that this needed to be examined also. Councillor Colreavy stated that he would propose that

the Motion proposed be re-examined in light of the overall discussion at the Meeting and that he felt it would not be correct to have all businesses closed on a Sunday. Councillor Flynn agreed to re-examine the Motion with a view to coming back to the Council with further proposals to address the various issues raised at the Meeting.

08/127

3/3/2008

Agency Employment

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

"Leitrim County Council notes the increasing use of agency employment throughout the economy. We are aware that many workers from home and abroad are offered agency work when they are seeking direct and permanent employment. A number of recent cases have demonstrated that many of these workers are retained on minimum conditions and in some instances are not receiving all their entitlements. These concerns have been widely expressed by trade unions. Agency employment should not be used as an expedient substitute for direct employment or as a mechanism for avoidance of or undermining of fair play and conditions. Noting that legislation on the issue of Agency Employment is to come before the Oireachtas, Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister to ensure the principle of equal treatment for agency workers, which should be included in this legislation. We also recommend that the legislation incorporate significant sanction for any unscrupulous employers found in breach."

Councillor Colreavy requested the support of Members for this Motion as he considered that many agency workers were being exploited and were being given less advantageous working conditions than other workers. Councillor Flynn stated that he would wholeheartedly support Councillor Colreavy's Motion but that he wished to propose an amendment to have contract as well as agency workers included in the letter to be sent to the Minister for Employment, as he considered that they were equally if not more disadvantaged than agency workers. He added that contract workers were often being paid very poorly and were being given low levels of entitlement to holidays; sick leave and social insurance. Councillor Colreavy stated that he would like to accept the amendment and it was unanimously agreed to send the letter proposed to the Minister in the amended Notice of Motion.

Proposed by Councillor Michael Colreavy, seconded by Councillor Aodh Flynn and unanimously resolved;

"Leitrim County Council notes the increasing use of agency and contract employment throughout the economy. We are aware that many workers from home and abroad are offered agency and contract work when they are seeking direct and permanent employment. A number of recent cases have demonstrated that many of these workers are retained on minimum conditions and in some instances are not receiving all their entitlements. These concerns have been widely expressed by trade unions. Agency and contract employment should not be used as an expedient substitute for direct employment or as a mechanism for avoidance of or undermining of fair play and conditions. Noting that legislation on the issue of Agency Employment is to come before the Oireachtas, Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister to ensure the principle of equal treatment for agency workers and contract workers which should be included in this legislation. We also recommend that the legislation incorporate significant sanction for any unscrupulous employers found in breach."

08/128

3/3/2008

Manorhamilton Town

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

"I will ask the County Manager and Director of Services, Community and Enterprise, what progress has been made on the marketing of Manorhamilton as a centre for information technology units and living space. A very high investment in broadband and accommodation has taken place in the town and it is ripe for a push for extra work opportunities."

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

"The Council in conjunction with the County Development Board has been leading a special initiative for the promotion of Leitrim as a place to live work or invest over the last year. This project has involved the publication of literature on the county's main towns including Manorhamilton, which highlights all the attributes of the town in regard to available infrastructure. In addition a film based promotional material is currently being produced while, meetings and discussions are ongoing with key employers in the county and the main regional development agencies focusing on developing further initiatives for the promotion of the county in 2008 following the successful EXPO 2007. Within all of these initiatives the available work space and high level broadband connectivity available in Manorhamilton are central to the promotion of it as a location for investment as part of the county promotion."

Councillor Ferguson stated that he welcomed the reply to the Motion and stated that it was vital that facilities, which towns like Manorhamilton had, for the development of industry and tourism be properly marketed so as to attract inward investment to the County. He proposed that the Council follow the example of Milltown Malbay in County Clare who have successfully marketed the town in the national and local media and who have attracted new development into the town as a result. Councillor Ferguson stated that such an approach should be replicated for each of this county's towns and that these towns had a lot to offer potential industry in terms of facilities such as broadband and accommodation from which to operate new businesses.

08/129

3/3/2008

Fenagh Abbey

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council write to the Office of Public Works, requesting that they put a proper roadway down to the second abbey in Fenagh, as the required space for such a roadway has been allotted along the National School boundary. A lot of tourists visit this abbey and at present they have to go through the fields in order to do so. The two abbeys are a major tourist attraction and the OPW should erect a notice board at each abbey outlining the history attached to them."

Councillor Ellis stated that the matter of the OPW putting a roadway down to the second abbey in Fenagh had been outstanding for some time even though space was available for the

road. Councillor Ellis added that a lot of tourists visit the two abbeys and that the OPW should erect an information board at each abbey outlining the history attached to them. Councillor Ellis also urged the Council to do more for the promotion of tourism in the county as attractions such as Fenagh Abbey; Pol an Eas; Swan Island; Garadice Lake etc bore favourable comparison to any of the tourist attractions open throughout the country. Councillor Hughes stated that he agreed with the Motion and that the cost of developing a new roadway should not be excessive. Councillor McTernan stated that the OPW's spend on county Leitrim was not nearly as much as in other counties and that attractions such as the Abbey in Dromahaire had suffered as a result. Councillor McDermott supported the motion stating that the county had enormous tourism potential and that the county needed investment to develop and improve its overall tourism product.

Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott and unanimously resolved;

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Office of Public Works, requesting that they put a proper roadway down to the second abbey in Fenagh, as the required space for such a roadway has been allotted along the National School boundary. A lot of tourists visit this abbey and at present they have to go through the fields in order to do so. The two abbeys are a major tourist attraction and the OPW should erect a notice board at each abbey outlining the history attached to them."

08/130

3/3/2008

Health Service Executive

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

"To ask the County Manager to seek a deputation from the Health Service Executive to address the members of Leitrim County Council at a council meeting in order to discuss the up to date position regarding the proposed community hospital in Ballinamore and also other health related issues affecting the county."

Councillor Hughes stated that he was proposing that a deputation from the Health Services Executive be invited to a Council Meeting as he was concerned with the lack of progress which had been made regarding health related issues throughout the county and in particular the proposed community hospital in Ballinamore. Councillor Hughes added that since he had submitted the Motion that he noted that the Minister for Health had announced that the Ballinamore Community Hospital was going to design stage, which he welcomed. Councillor Hughes stated however that the Minister had announced on several occasions that the proposals for Ballinamore Community Hospital had gone to design stage but no design team had yet been put in place. Councillor Caillian Ellis stated he had got confirmation from the Minister of State Pat the Cope Gallagher that the design team for Ballinamore Hospital would be in place by the end of April. Councillor Hughes stated that previously he was informed that a design team would be in place by last October. Councillor Kenny stated that he also was concerned at the lack of progress on Ballinamore Community Hospital and that it had been announced several times without any real progress being made on bringing forward the project. Councillor McGowan also confirmed that the matter of progress on Ballinamore and Carrick –On-Shannon Community Hospitals had been raised in a recent meeting he had with senior management in the Health Service Executive and that he had been given a similar

commitment to that received by Councillor Ellis in relation to the design team for Ballinamore Community Hospital. Councillor Bohan stated that €20m was in place for the project and that she was in no doubt that real progress would be made on the project in the short term.

Proposed by Councillor Gordon Hughes, seconded by Councillor Martin Kenny, and unanimously resolved;

"That Leitrim County Council seek a deputation from the Health Service Executive to address the members of Leitrim County Council at a Council meeting in order to discuss the up to date position regarding the proposed community hospital in Ballinamore and also other health related issues affecting the county."

08/131

3/3/2008

South Leitrim Remedial Works Scheme

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council apply to the Department of the Environment and Local Government for funding to paint the exterior of the OP dwelling houses (only) at Dristernan, Drumshanbo. Furthermore I move that the pathways along side these houses be re-tarred to provide a good surface for the elderly residents. Finally can I compliment the Council for putting in place new cables for street lighting there but when will these lights be erected and lit."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Change Management Unit;

"Leitrim County Council prepared a detailed submission to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for a South Leitrim Remedial Works Scheme. The proposal included provision for works to the OPD dwellings at the Dristernan Estate. The submission was examined by the Technical Inspectorate of the Department and the Council were informed that these particular works were not considered eligible for inclusion under a remedial works programme. The Council will however prepare a revised submission which will be subject to Departmental approval."

Councillor McGloin stated that he was disappointed with the reply he had received and that he found it hard to understand why there was such difficulty with this matter. He stated that he wished to know whether painting of the OPD's in Dristernan had been included in the South Leitrim Remedial Works Scheme submission to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Mr. M. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer Housing stated that it had been included but that the Department had stated that these works were not eligible under the Scheme but that a revised submission was now been prepared and funding would again be requested for the painting of these OPDs. Councillor Gilmartin stated that he was informed that the residents of the OPDs had been refused tins of paint from the Council even though they were willing to do the painting themselves. Councillor McGloin stated that there was an excellent residents committee in place in Dristernan and requested that a representative from the Housing Section meet with the Committee prior to the submission of the revised application to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. In reply, Ms. Jackie Maguire County Manager confirmed that a meeting would be arranged

with the Dristernan Residents Committee at which staff from the Housing Section would attend.

08/132

3/3/2008

Irish Rail Freight Service

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

"That we the members of Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Transport, Irish Rail and the Haulage Industry to enter into discussions with a view to providing a viable and workable Freight Service on all mainline rail lines."

Councillor McGowan stated that the decision of Irish Rail and the Department of Transport to cease commercial freight services on mainline rail services was a retrograde one. Councillor McGowan stated that this was particularly the case given the increased emphasis currently being placed on environmental and road safety issues and the ability of rail freight to take substantial numbers of lorries off our roads. Councillor McGowan called for a system of tax breaks for rail freight, which would give local businesses the incentive to use our railways to transport their products. Councillor McGowan stated however that EU competition rules may make the introduction of such a tax break difficult. Councillor McElgunn stated that local businesses would use rail freight if it was available at reasonable cost and added that rail freight was the preferred mode of transport for heavy goods in a lot of European countries. Councillor Colreavy stated that he was in full agreement with the Notice of Motion and that it made no sense for the EU on the one hand to be requiring local authorities and other public bodies to improve the local environment and then on the other hand stopping them from implementing provisions to facilitate this improvement. Councillor Colreavy acknowledged recent improvements in passenger rail services on the Sligo to Dublin rail line but stated that there was a more comprehensive service throughout the county in the 1950's when there was a greater variety of routes passengers could choose to go on. The Elected Members agreed to the proposal to have a letter sent to Irish Rail; the Irish Haulage Industry and the Department of Transport and requested that a letter be also sent to each local authority in the country seeking their support for the Motion as agreed.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Michael Colreavy and unanimously resolved;

"That the members of Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Transport, Irish Rail and the Haulage Industry to enter into discussions with a view to providing a viable and workable Freight Service on all mainline rail lines and that this motion be circulated to each local authority seeking their support for the motion."

08/133

3/3/2008

Playground at Drumkeeran

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

"I Councillor Mary Bohan, propose that Leitrim County Council commence work on the new children's playground in Drumkeeran as a matter of urgency. I further propose that work would commence on the new footpath along the R280 leading to the proposed playground

immediately."

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

"The site selected for the playground in Drumkeeran is proving difficult in regard to finding appropriate designs solutions and is currently under review. It is hoped to soon have a draft plan that can be made available for local public inspection and comment. Work will commence as soon as a final plan has been adopted."

Councillor Bohan stated that she was very concerned at the long delay in the design process, as a playground was urgently needed in Drumkeerin. Councillor Bohan requested that a meeting take place with the local community in Drumkeerin where the Council could outline difficulties being experienced in getting the project off the ground. She was supported by Councillor McTernan. Mr. J. Gilhooly, Director of Services Community and Enterprise stated that there were a number of issues regarding the design, which had to be sorted out before work could commence. Mr J. Gilhooly Director of Services Community and Enterprise also stated that other playgrounds had to be completed in order to meet deadlines and all of these factors have had a cumulative effect in delaying the project. Mr. Gilhooly Director of Services Community and Enterprise confirmed that there was funding in place for the project and that the Council was extremely anxious to get the work done.

08/134

3/3/2008

Development of Mohill

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

"With €12m being invested in new schools in Mohill, I am asking that this Council take a hands on approach to works being done in this area, and ensure that roads, footpaths, and public lighting are up to standard, and if necessary, monies taken in on development charges, should be spent here to enhance the area."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The area engineer has already been in contact with the architects for this project, and the Council will work with the developers to ensure the all outstanding issue in relation to the paths, public lighting, and roadway are resolved."

Councillor Stenson stated that he welcomed the reply, as it is vital that all the public infrastructure servicing the new schools in Mohill be completed in conjunction with the completion of the schools. Councillor McGowan stated that he supported the Motion and that urgent work will be required in the Station Road area of Mohill to facilitate pupils attending the new schools.

08/135

3/3/2008

Rural Lift Programme

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

"At the March Council Meeting, I will request Leitrim County Council to support Rural Lift

in its efforts to maintain its services in rural Leitrim. This has been a wonderful service for County Leitrim. At the moment these services are being threatened by cutbacks. I will also request that a letter be sent to the Minister for Transport, Noel Dempsey T.D., to put a stop to the cut-backs that have already started."

Councillor McDermott stated that it was vital that the Council impress on the Minister for Transport the essential work being done by Rural Lift throughout the county and that the service should not be cut back. He stated that originally the Scheme catered only for old people but now had expanded its services to include other people like single parents and younger adults living alone who require the service. Councillor Bohan stated that there are still areas, which Rural Lift does not serve properly, and extra funding was required to give a service to these areas. Councillor Flynn stated that there was a lack of accountability in the operation of the Rural Lift Programme nationally. Councillor Gilmartin stated that since its inception the Rural Lift Programme had been made more flexible to meet the needs of customers and that it was vital that the service be retained and built upon.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan and unanimously resolved;

"That Leitrim County Council support the Rural Lift programme in its efforts to maintain its services in rural Leitrim and that a letter be sent to the Minister for Transport, Noel Dempsey T.D., to put a stop to the cut-backs that have already started."

08/136

3/3/2008

Ross Lane, Manorhamilton

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

"At the March Meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask the Director of Services Infrastructure, if any more money has been made available for the Ross Lane in Manorhamilton especially for the first corner. Many of the residents have complained about the danger of that corner now with the increased traffic on that road."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"An amount of €75,000 has been made available from the Development Contributions Scheme for the provision of public lighting and a new footpath on Ross Lane in the current year. It is unlikely that this level of funding will be sufficient to undertake any realignment work at the bend in question, which is outside the Speed Limits of the Town. Some work was, in fact, carried out last year on the lowering of a rock outcrop on that bend which has resulted in a significant improvement in visibility across it and has thereby enhanced road safety. It is envisaged that this poorly aligned, narrow section of the road will form part of the works to be included in the Manorhamilton By-Pass Project in due course."

Councillor Dolan stated that he was disappointed with the reply he had received to this Motion. He stated that there was a danger of an accident happening on the road in question and that the works should not have to wait until the Manorhamilton By Pass project was finalised. Councillor Dolan added that a major housing development along this stretch of

road had received planning permission recently and that there was a substantial amount of traffic on the road. Councillor McDermott agreed that the turn in question was very dangerous and needed to be re-aligned as a matter of urgency. He stated that the works required could not wait for the housing development to be completed. Councillor Colreavy also agreed with the Motion and said that it was unfair that the works would have to wait for the bypass when planning permission could be granted for a substantial housing development beside it. He added that the Council had sold sites under the affordable housing sites scheme in the Ross near this bend and that he would urge the Council to re-examine its reply. Councillor Flynn also stated that he supported the motion and that urgent works were required at this bend. Mr. B. Lowe Senior Engineer Infrastructure stated that the cost of the works involved would be in the region of €200,000. Ms. Jackie Maguire County Manager stated that the Council did have budgetary constraints but that the matter would be re-examined in light of the concerns expressed by the Elected Members.

08/137

3/3/2008

Old Dispensary, Hilly Road, Drumshanbo

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

"Would this Council please clean up, paint and repair around the old dispensary on the Hilly Road, Drumshanbo as it is becoming an eye-sore."

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

"There is a proposal currently being developed in conjunction with Leitrim County Council for the use of this property for community use which would contribute to the Council's Play and Recreational Policy subject to funding becoming available. The proposal includes the renovation of the building."

Councillor Gilmartin stated that he was extremely disappointed with the reply as he considered the area around the old dispensary to be in urgent need of a clean up. Councillor Gilmartin also stated that the building was currently in use by the Council for revenue collection purposes and a general clean up of the area and painting of the building would not take up a huge amount of resources to complete. Councillor McGloin while welcoming the proposal for a Youth Centre in the building stated that he agreed that works were required in order to reinstate the area into a proper condition. Ms. J. Maguire County Manager stated that the Council proposes to renovate the building and to have it used by the local community as a Youth Centre. Ms. J. Maguire County Manager also stated that the area around the building would be inspected and a clean up completed if required.

08/138

3/3/2008

Carrick on Shannon Bypass

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

"That this Council meet urgently with the National Roads Authority to secure a commitment and a definite date for commencing the proposed Carrick on Shannon Bypass. The people living along the proposed route are left in a very difficult position as regards the impact of the delay on possible sale of lands, planning permissions and other matters. Traffic jams in

Carrick on Shannon are becoming more frequent, especially at weekends and only the immediate construction of the bypass will provide a solution."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The Council are in contact with the NRA on a monthly basis in relation to the advancement of the Carrick on Shannon Bypass. This project has been upgraded to a class two dual carriageway and extended to join up with the Dromod Roosky Bypass. A considerable amount of pre-design work is complete or under way at present. New consultants are being sought at present for the extended scheme."

Councillor McElgunn stated that there were a number of families in the Hartley area of Carrick-on-Shannon who are on the proposed route of the bypass that were in a state of limbo awaiting proposals for the bypass. He stated that they were not being kept informed of developments in relation to this process, which has already taken some time to unfold. Ms. J. Maguire County Manager said that the bypass was now being upgraded to a dual carriageway and while this was a positive move going forward it did mean some previously unforeseen preparatory work had to be done by the National Roads Authority (NRA) to allow for this upgrade. Ms. J. Maguire County Manager added that the Council had got an undertaking from the NRA that when they are ready to proceed that the Carrick-On-Shannon end of the bypass would be done first. Councillor McElgunn requested to know whether the Compulsory Purchase Order stage could be fast tracked at this point. Ms. J. Maguire County Manager stated that permission to proceed to the Compulsory Order Stage had been received previously but as the road was now being upgraded to dual carriageway status the whole route had to be re-examined. Councillor McElgunn stated that there was a perception that the Council was holding up the process but it was the National Roads Authority and not the Council who were at fault. Councillor Guckian stated that that she welcomed the link up to the Dromod – Rooskey bypass but said she well understood the frustration which landowners along the bypass route were experiencing. Councillor Guckian added that the proposal to commence the Compulsory Purchase Order at the Carrick on Shannon end would certainly be a positive move. Councillor Stenson agreed, stating that this was a huge issue for the people involved and that pressure should be brought to bear on the National Roads Authority to speed up this process. He also stated that while it was good that the road was being upgraded to dual carriageway status this should not be allowed to delay the project for an inordinate period.

08/139

3/3/2008

Pumping Station Calloughs, Carrigallen

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

"I propose that the pumping station at Calloughs, Carrigallen be commissioned immediately and the houses along the sewerage scheme be allowed connect to it."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The pump station here has been commissioned approximately one month ago and we are writing to the relevant householders to inform them of the situation and requesting that they now make arrangements to bring their services to the front boundary of their property and make the final connections."

Councillor O'Rourke welcomed the reply to this Motion

08/140

3/3/2008

Any Other Business

☐ **Connaught Community Games**

Councillor McElgunn stated that the Connacht Community Games were being hosted in Leitrim in April and requested that a donation in the region of €2500 be given to the local Community Games to assist them in running this event, which will attract many visitors to the town.

☐ **Constituency Commission Report**

The Members unanimously supported a proposal calling on each of the Oireachtas Representatives for the Sligo/North-Leitrim Constituency and the Roscommon/South-Leitrim Constituency to partake in the forthcoming debate on the Constituency Commission Report and to reject the recommendations in the report in relation to the continued splitting of County Leitrim. The Members further requested that each of the Oireachtas Representatives urge their Party Leaders to ensure that a strong message is delivered to the Constituency Commission in relation to the injustice that is being done to County Leitrim when the matter is debated in the Oireachtas. The Members agreed that the reinstatement of County Leitrim as a single electoral unit within a constituency is essential to ensure that the electorate in County Leitrim have an opportunity to elect a representative to Dáil Eireann.

☐ **Vote of Congratulations**

Proposed by Councillor Michael Colreavy, seconded by Councillor Tony Ferguson and unanimously resolved;

“That Leitrim County Council extend a vote of congratulations to Manorhamilton Rangers FC Team, Manager and Club Officials on their achievement in reaching the FAI Junior Cup semi final and also to congratulate the team and travelling supporters on their proud display against Corbally FC in Clonsilla, recently.”

☐ **Peace 3 Sub Committee of County Development Board**

It was agreed that Councillor Flynn, Councillor McDermott and Councillor Stenson be nominated to the Peace 3 Sub Committee of the County Development Board.

☐ **Planning Application Form**

Councillor Bohan stated that she was concerned that Part B of the Planning Application Form relating to rural house applications contained requests for personal information, which many applicants find quite intrusive. Councillor Gilmartin stated that he thought that the request for the PPS No. was to be taken off this form. Councillor Colreavy stated that there were strict requirements relating to data protection to be adhered to when requesting PPS No.'s from individuals. Ms. J. Maguire County Manager agreed that the request for the PPS No would be dropped from the form and that it was not a requirement that this form be completed by applicants. Ms. J. Maguire County Manager

also stated that the purpose of the application form was to just give some background information which was of assistance when assessing the application. The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Brennan proposed that this matter be addressed at the next meeting of the Planning Strategic Policy Committee.

❑ **Road Safety**

Councillor Gilmartin proposed that a message go out from the meeting that everyone should try to stay safe on our roads over the forthcoming bank holiday weekends so that the carnage that has regularly occurred over previous bank holiday weekends does not happen again.

Part II - Questions.

08/141

3/3/2008

One-hour Parking System, Manorhamilton

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Aodh Flynn;

"I will ask again that the current one-hour parking system be suspended pending the provision of additional car parking spaces."

Report by Director of Services, Infrastructure;

"The suspension of the one hour parking system would be counter productive as it would inevitable lead to all day parking, something that would not be in the interests of the business community in Manorhamilton. In relation to car parking spaces there are a considerable number of spaces available every day within a five minutes walk of the centre of the town, and the council are actively seeking additional parking areas."

08/142

3/3/2008

Book Titles

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Reynolds;

"To ask the Director of Services to provide a list of the titles of books by John McGahern and Paul Williams that are available in the libraries in County Leitrim."

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

"All titles published by John McGahern and Paul Williams are in stock in Leitrim Co Library in multiple editions and multiple copies. The following are the different titles:

John McGahern

Title/Edition Pub date

Amongst Women (11 Copies); The Power of Darkness (8 Copies); Getting through(7 Copies); The Collected Stories(9 Copies); The Pornographer(6 Copies); The Dark(7 Copies); Nightlines(4 Copies); That They May Face the Rising Sun (5 Copies); The Leavetaking(4

Copies); High Ground(4 Copies);Entre Toutes les Femmes(1 Copy); Memoir(12 Copies); The Barracks(7 Copies)

Paul Williams

Title/Edition Pub date Author

Secret love : my life with Father Michael Cleary /Hamilton , Phyllis , 1950-(4 Copies); Evil empire : John Gilligan, his gang and the(8 copies); The General : godfather of crime (6 Copies); Gangland (3 Copies); Crime lords(11 Copies); Crime World : Stories From the Underworld: Vol 1 (6 copies); Crime World : Stories From the Underworld: Vol 2(6 Copies); Untouchables, The : The Dramatic Inside Story of Williams , Paul(7 Copies)

The library catalog is also available on-line for all library users to examine the up to date list of titles available throughout the library service."

08/143

3/3/2008

Housing in Manorhamilton Area

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"What proposals has the Housing Officer for the purchase of lands or completed houses in the Manorhamilton Engineering Area."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Change Management Unit;

"Presently there are no proposals by the Council to purchase lands or completed houses in Manorhamilton. The Statutory Assessment of Housing Need is currently in progress and will be completed by the 31st of March 2008. The outcome of the assessment will give an accurate reflection of the net need on the Council's Housing Waiting List. The data compiled from the assessment will govern the decision making process in relation to the 2008-2010 Housing Programme. The Council will then determine the most appropriate solution to meet the need from the suite of housing supports available. Manorhamilton has a relatively high density of existing social housing with an additional 14 units in progress at Aras Breffni, Manorhamilton. Proposals are also at an advanced stage to develop 9 units of standard local authority housing with 5 affordable sites at Taobh Tire, Manorhamilton."

08/144

3/3/2008

Signage at Aughavohil Bridge, Rossinver Road, Kinlough

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure and the District Engineer to erect a 'concealed entrance' sign at Aughavohil bridge on the Rossinver Road coming from the Kinlough direction."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"It has long been council policy not to provide warning signage in relation to individual house entrances on poorly aligned sections on our public roads. However, we can provide

advice to the householder in relation to the appropriate sign to be purchased and facilitate erection, if necessary. We are also carrying out some work at this location on R281 to improve visibility across the bend and are exploring minor traffic calming measures that we believe may be effective."

08/145

3/3/2008

Sight Distance at Greagh Cross

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Caillian Ellis;

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to take immediate action to improve sight distance at Greagh Cross, as there have been a number of minor accidents at this junction. The Council should take immediate action before a serious accident occurs there."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"There is no doubt but that it would be desirable to improve the sight distance at this junction. Numerous attempts, over the years, have been made to acquire land to achieve this. Attempts were again made last year to improve this junction, but unfortunately the land could not be obtained. A further meeting has been set up with a representative for one of the landowner at the junction to try and agree improvement works. Signage will also be improved."

08/146

3/3/2008

Cornagee Community Centre

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 putting extra lights at Cornagee Community Centre. Has the Council spoken to the ESB since I last raised the matter."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"There would not be a policy of putting up public lighting at community centres. This would be suitable scheme for funding under community lighting. The Mohill Area Office would however offer to facilitate in anyway that we could."

08/147

3/3/2008

R204 – Aughoo - Drumcoura

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;

"To ask the area engineers office when will the final section of roadway along the R204 between Aughoo and Drumcoura lake be widened and resurfaced to compliment the excellent work done to date on the remainder of the roadway between Ballinamore and Drumcoura crossroads."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"This section has been included in the Roads Programme for this year."

08/148

3/3/2008

Road at Killaphort, Garadice

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;

"To ask the area engineers office if the Council will resurface the roadway at Killaphort, Garadice adjacent to the main Ballinamore/Killeshandra road as it is in a poor state of repair."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"This road can be listed for a possible pilot scheme."

08/149

3/3/2008

Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Michael Colreavy;

"Do local authorities have any discretion in taking into account tax and social payments, rent or mortgage payments etc in assessing household means under the recently announced Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Change Management Unit;

"With effect from the 1st of November 2007, all applicants for grant aid under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for People with a Disability shall be assessed on the basis of household means. The maximum grant of €30,000, which will cover 95% of the cost of the works, will be available to applicants whose gross household income is less than €30,000 per annum, tapering to 30% for applicants with gross household incomes of between €4,001 and €65,000 per annum applies. In determining gross household income certain income disregards apply i.e. Child Benefit, Early Childcare Supplement, Family Income Supplement, Domiciliary Care Allowance, Respite Care Allowance and Carer's Benefit and Allowance. The local authority do not have discretion in relation to the means test as it is prescribed by the legislation governing the scheme - the same means test applies in all local authority areas. Income bands for the purpose of means testing will be amended annually, in line with wage inflation as notified to the local authorities by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government."

08/150

3/3/2008

Naomh Padraig Housing, Drumshanbo

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"Can I ask the Director of Housing when the ESB are expected to connect up to the new development of housing at Naomh Phadraig, Drumshanbo. It is disappointing that it is taking

so long to hand these new houses over to tenants. When is it expected that the said houses will be allocated?"

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Change Management Unit;

"The Council are currently awaiting an ESB connection to the 8 new dwellings at Naomh Padraig, Drumshanbo. Every effort will be made to expedite the process and to proceed with the allocation of tenancies in the shortest possible timeframe."

08/151

3/3/2008

Acres Lake, Drumshanbo

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"Can I ask the Director Services, Environment to contact Waterways Ireland to see if they have any plans to put in place a 'pumping out' station for boats at Acres lake. There are serious concerns about pollution on the lake at this point as throughout the Summer there are large gatherings of cruiser boats for long periods with no pumping out facilities there. Furthermore on this issue I have raised in the past the possible co-operation with this Council on the provision of toilets here and I had undertakings that this council would explore this possibility. Can any correspondence on this general issue with Waterways Ireland be supplied for review under correspondence at this meeting?"

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

"Waterways Ireland will again be contacted re the provision of a pump out facility at Acres Lake. The need for such a facility has previously been identified and brought to their attention. It is envisaged that a building containing toilet and drying facilities similar to those at other locations on the Waterway would be provided."

08/152

3/3/2008

Road Signage Programme

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"To ask Mr. John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure when is it planned to carry out the Road Signage Programme, on the R202, indicating the road number of the local roads which join up to the R202, similar to the one which was carried out on the R280 and the R201 over the past couple of years."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The required signs have delivered and funding has been made available to carry out the erection of this signage as part of the current roads programme."

08/153

3/3/2008

Cruiser Traffic on Rynn River

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"To again ask Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services Community and Enterprise has he had any success in discussions with Longford County Council and the relevant agencies with regard to preparing a plan for the opening up of the Rynn River to cruiser traffic from Lough Rynn to the River Shannon at Clonart. Has he held any discussions with the officer board of the recently formed committee who are determined to see this exciting piece of tourism infrastructure come to fruition. The opening of the river to cruiser traffic has enormous tourism potential and would be a tremendous boost to the town of Mohill and the parishes of Bornacoola and Gortletteragh."

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

"Discussions have been held with Longford County Council and Waterways Ireland. A meeting was also held with the local committee and numerous follow up discussions have been held since. An updated feasibility study was produced by the local group and Leitrim County Council through it's Community and Voluntary Grant Scheme has supported significantly the preparation of this report"

08/154

3/3/2008

Library Development Plan

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"I propose that Leitrim County Council's Library Service provide a branch library in Drumkeerin village."

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

"In the current year a Library Development Plan for the Library service for next five years will be prepared supported by professional consultants which will include looking at the feasibility of operating a mobile library service in the county or provision of permanent branches at other locations not currently serviced as well as other library matters. When this Plan is completed we will be in a position to make a decision as to the best way of offering a library service to the Drumkeerin area"

08/155

3/3/2008

Roadworks in Sracamore, Dromahaire

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"I propose that this Council carry out the necessary roadside improvements/re-alignment works on a dangerous section of road in the townland of Sracamore, Dromahaire (beside the O'Hara residence)."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"Planned improvement works will commence along this section of road in Sracummer (Dromahaire By) shortly."

08/156

3/3/2008

Works at Attyrory and Marymount, Carrick on Shannon

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"May I ask why are the following works being delayed yet again,

- (a) The completion of works to the ring road at Attyrory, due to be finished in 2007 and
- (b) The roadway and footpaths in the Marymount complex. Can we have completion dates for both of the above."

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

"(a) The Carrick Area Office is currently in final negotiations with Landowners in the Attyrory Area. Works will be ongoing in this location for the foreseeable future.

(b) It is expected that the roadway, footpath and other facilities that are required to be provided at Marymount before taking in charge will be completed within the next few months. I received a firm undertaking re this matter last week in a letter in which the developer expressed his own frustration that he had not honoured his agreement to have the works completed because he experienced delays in securing technical reports following examination of underground services."

08/157

3/3/2008

Summerhill Grove, Carrick on Shannon

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"May I ask is Summerhill Grove due to be taken in charge by the Council this year."

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

"An application to take in charge does not appear to have been received in respect of this estate. Arrangements will be made to commence the inspection process as soon as an application is received."

08/158

3/3/2008

Road Signage

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I will ask the Council if it is possible to erect signs for dangerous bends on the busier roads, especially with traffic traveling at 80km."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"There is already extensive signage in place on Regional Roads, and some of the busier local Primaries, warning of poor alignment ahead. Each site is considered on its merits. The council will access any particular areas identified."

08/159

3/3/2008

Creamery Road, Manorhamilton

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"Can I ask when the road surface on Creamery Road, Manorhamilton will be upgraded, as it is very uneven."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"An amount of €200,000 has been made available from the Development Contributions Scheme for the general reconstruction and resurfacing of the Creamery Road, on which work is expected to commence in the near future."

08/160

3/3/2008

Lake Road, Glencar

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;

"I will ask the Infrastructure staff of Leitrim County Council to check out a drainage problem on the road-side outside Mark Rooney's house, Lake Road, Glencar. It would appear that some of the piping has broken down."

Report by Director of Services, Infrastructure;

"The road past the new dwelling-house in question was awash with surface water, on recent inspection. The cause of this occurrence will be fully investigated as soon as possible."

08/161

3/3/2008

R278 – Sligo/Leitrim Border

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;

"I will ask the Director of Services Infrastructure to have a decent boundary sign erected on the R278 at the Sligo/Leitrim border. The present sign is ancient and hardly visible."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The council are about to erect new county boundary signs funded by Failte Ireland and this location can be looked at. It must be said that the location in question is very restricted and it may be necessary to relocate the sign to a more suitable location."

08/162

3/3/2008

Road at Letterfine, Keshcarrigan

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"When is this Council going to replace the white line from Letterfine to near Mohill where it was impossible to drive with fog last weekend."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"An inspection will be carried out of the section of road in question to examine the condition of the road surface and to determine the extent of the appropriate lining required."

08/163

3/3/2008

Ballinamore Road, Keshcarrigan

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"Could this Council erect a crash barrier on the Ballinamore side of Keshcarrigan where it is very hard to see the edge of the road at night."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"An inspection will be carried out on the section of road in question and a report will be prepared as to the necessity for a crash barrier in this location. Other means of the demarcation of the road edge will also be considered, and the appropriate action will be taken."

08/164

3/3/2008

Riverside Park, Carrick on Shannon

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Liam McElgunn;

"To ask that the Council staff carry out a clean-up along the water's edge of the River Shannon at the Riverside Park, Carrick on Shannon, as a lot of litter and rubbish has been left after the recent high levels of the river. This is spoiling this great amenity which was provided by this Council and is much appreciated by local people and visitors."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The Carrick Area office is aware that litter and rubbish has accumulated along the water's edge of the River Shannon as a result of water levels dropping. When the river has fully receded in this area and it safe to do so, the rubbish and litter will be collected"

08/165

3/3/2008

Pedestrian Crossing, Summerhill, Carrick on Shannon

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Liam McElgunn;

"To ask that this Council provide a zebra crossing at the junction of Summerhill and Dublin Road, Carrick on Shannon, in view of the heavy traffic and the large numbers of pedestrians, especially school children crossing the road at this point."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"While a pedestrian crossing at this location is desirable, the matter will have to be investigated further by the Carrick Area Office to determine type and exact location and ensure that it is in compliance with the disability access audit."

08/166

3/3/2008

Gulladoo Bridge

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

"When will the proposed works at Gulladoo Bridge, be commenced, as I understand the funds have been in place for some time in a joint scheme with Longford County Council."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"Funding has been made available and work is planned to start in the next month"

08/167

3/3/2008

Errew Graveyard

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

"When will the necessary repairs be carried out to the road at Errew Graveyard. This road has four households along with the cemetery and carries a substantial amount of traffic, with the graveyard being of historical significance."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"Routine maintenance will be carried out shortly to the LT55841-0. Any significant works will require extra funding. This road can be listed for a possibility pilot scheme."

This concluded the business of the meeting at 9.30pm

Signed: Damian Brennan
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: Aideen McGovern
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

Date: 14th April 2008