

**Minutes of Council Meeting held by Leitrim County Council
In the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on
Monday 4th February 2008**

Members Present:

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|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <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>Dolan, Gerry</i> | <i>McGowan, Sean</i> |
| <i>Ellis, Caillian</i> | <i>McTernan, John</i> |
| <i>Flynn, Aodh</i> | <i>Mulligan, Thomas</i> |
| <i>Ferguson, Anthony</i> | <i>O'Rourke, Paddy</i> |
| <i>Gilmartin, Francis</i> | <i>Reynolds, Gerry</i> |
| <i>Guckian, Sinead</i> | <i>Stenson, Enda</i> |
| <i>Hughes, Gordon</i> | |
| <i>Kenny, Martin</i> | |

And Councillor Damian Brennan, Cathaoirleach presiding

Apologies: *Shortt, Jim Joe*

Officials Present:

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager
Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services Infrastructure
*Mr. M. Dolan, Director of Services, Planning Environment and
Emergency Services*
Mr. B. Lowe, Senior Engineer
Mr. C. Tracey, Senior Planner
Mr. S. O'Connor, Senior Engineer
Mr. F. Gaffney, A/Senior Engineer
Ms. A. Mulcahy, Executive Planner
Mr. P. Keenaghan, Assistant Planner
Mr. G. Miney, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. P. MacShera, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. S. Rynn, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. A. McGovern, Meetings Administrator
Mr. V. Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. T. Gilligan, Financial Management Accountant
Ms. C. Caslin, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. C. Corrigan, Arts Officer

08/67

4/2/2008 **Presentation**

Pride of Place & LAMA Awards

At the outset of the Meeting the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Damian Brennan acknowledged Leitrim's achievements at the recent Pride of Place Awards and the LAMA Local Government Awards. He welcomed representatives from Drumsna Development Association who had won the 500-1,000 population category in the All Island Pride of Place Awards 2007, Breffni Community Development who had won the LAMA Best Estate Management Award & Walter P. Toolan & Sons Solicitors who had won the LAMA Best Eco-Friendly

Building Award. He congratulated all of the groups on their Awards and on their ongoing activities. He then made a presentation to each of the groups in recognition of their achievement.

08/68

4/2/2008 Deimhniu Miontuairisci

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Francis Gilmartin 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 14th January 2008, be adopted.”

Part I – Statutory Business

08/69

4/2/2008 Suspension of Standing Orders

Proposed by Councillor Gerry Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Martin Kenny and unanimously resolved;

“To suspend standing orders in order to consider Notices of Motions numbers 13, 15, 16, 17, 12 and 21, first on the Agenda.”

08/70

4/2/2008 Local Authority Development

Report from Senior Planner 07/C/10 enclosing proposal in accordance with the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That proposal to construct a 287 cubic metre water storage reservoir including new site access road and chlorination building/booster pump at Corry Td., Drumkeerin be approved.”

Report from Senior Planner 07/C/14 enclosing proposal in accordance with the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That proposal for installation of traffic calming works on the R280 and R284, road works and parking on the L3390 (Church) Road be approved. These works will include the construction of traffic calming gateways on the approaches to the village, construction of additional footpaths and the installation of pedestrian crossings. The road junctions, road markings and parking will be redesigned and regularised at Leitrim Village.”

Councillor McGloin sought a commencement date for these works at Leitrim Village. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services Infrastructure outlined that the commencement date will be dependent on the 2008 funding allocations being announced.

08/71

4/2/2008

Rate Collection Report 2007

The Rate Collection Report 2007, as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The report as circulated was noted by the members.

08/72

4/2/2008

Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the raising of a loan not exceeding €60,000 to provide supplementary funding in respect of loan charges to finance Respond Voluntary Housing at Carrick on Shannon (Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme) under Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, be approved.”

08/73

4/2/2008

Water Pricing Policy

Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services Infrastructure delivered a presentation to the members on Water Services Pricing. The presentation appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor McGloin outlined that this is a very serious issue facing all non-domestic users in the county. He highlighted that the Council have no option but to implement this Government Directive which he stated is effectively a stealth-tax on people running a business. He outlined that the increase in charges would be 55% and 135% respectively for water and waste water over the period to 2010. He queried what this would mean on an average bill of €250 by 2010. He further outlined that these significant increases would have

to be taken into account in the context of rate increases in forthcoming budgets and asked that the issue be followed up with the Department and Government in relation to any possible arguments that can be made. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services outlined that the domestic allowance which many non-domestic customers can avail of is very generous. He advised that water charges and waste water charges are likely to be in excess of €1.30 and €2.00 respectively by 2010.

Councillor Kenny highlighted the serious impact of water pricing on non domestic users, many of whom are farmers. He outlined that the Council are trying to encourage commercial development in the county while at the same time the commercial sector is being hit from all angles. He outlined that every effort must be made to resist these charges.

Councillor Colreavy outlined that this is another form of multiple taxation and suggested that there should be a commensurate reduction in tax for those affected. He stated that people and local authorities are effectively being penalised if they seek to improve the quality of water and facilities. He queried how we can expect and hope to encourage development when these charges have to be imposed. He also suggested that the water pricing policy will reduce the Council's discretion in relation to the investment of Development Contributions and queried whether there was a possibility that this policy would result in the introduction of domestic water charges in the future. Councillor Colreavy also outlined his concern that water services in the country are being fattened up for privatisation. He queried if the Council have any discretion in relation to this matter.

Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services outlined that it is Government Policy to have full cost recovery by 2010. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager advised that the Development Contribution Scheme will continue to be implemented as adopted and Water Pricing will not impinge on Development Contribution spend in other areas. She advised that the proportion allocated under the Scheme to Water and Sewerage may have to be reviewed in the context of the review of the Development Contribution Scheme.

Councillor Bohan agreed with many of the points made but outlined that she could not agree with the comment in relation to privatisation. She highlighted that the Council has a great record in relation to working with Group Water Schemes and has been very progressive in this regard. She outlined that she saw no prospect of privatisation. She outlined that we need to be making a very strong case to the Department highlighting our very low rate base, the fact that much of our development has been very recent and that there are still a lot of areas that need huge development and incentives. Councillor Bohan also sought clarification on current charges in adjoining counties and queried the amount the average customer in Leitrim is currently paying. She outlined that this policy is based on an EU Directive and that there is a concern that it may go further in that Ireland is one of very few countries that does not have domestic water charges.

Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services outlined the current charges in adjoining counties and highlighted that the proposed charges for 2008 in Leitrim are, on average, below adjoining counties. Mr. V. Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer outlined that the average metered water charge is €200. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined that every non-domestic property is metered and the experience has been that many are paying less on metered charge than on the former fixed charge. She also outlined that the cost of providing, treating and delivering water is increasing and that there is a requirement to be innovative in how we use treated water.

Councillor Stenson outlined that this is the most serious issue that has come before the Council. He outlined that other counties have had a head-start in relation to development and that Leitrim has only recently started to develop. He outlined that we have to try and get the message to the Minister that we need assistance on this.

Councillor Flynn queried if the charges on Group Water Schemes will change. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services outlined that Group Water Schemes will pay the same rate as non-domestic customers but will get an allowance for all the domestic customers on the scheme. Councillor Flynn referred to the cost of capital works on group water schemes. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services outlined that capital works costs will not be affected. Councillor Flynn also asked if there is an annual charge for water meters. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services outlined that there is a fixed charge of €60 per meter and a maximum charge of €10 for multiple meters.

Councillor Mulligan queried what the domestic allowance equates to in gallons. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Service advised that the allowance, which is recommended by the Department, is 50,000 gallons which is considered very generous.

Councillor McGloin outlined concern that the water pricing policy will particularly affect farmers living off-farm, schools, community centres, football fields etc which will not have a domestic allowance.

Councillor Kenny queried whether the projections will meet the bill. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager advised that the figures have been presented based on the figures currently available.

Councillor Hughes outlined his concerns in relation to high-end users and asked that figures be provided in relation to the implications of the proposed increases on the water charges for an average 300-pupil secondary school, a hairdressers and an average bar/restaurant.

Councillor Bohan queried if discussions are ongoing with the Department in relation to this issue. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined that a number of meetings have taken place with the Department, particularly in relation to the capital costs, cut-off dates in relation to future domestic etc as this is where it is felt the strongest argument can be made. She outlined that some level of progress had been achieved and that efforts would continue in this regard.

Councillor Guckian supported the proposal to seek a meeting with the Minister in relation to this issue and proposed that a decision in relation to any increase in charges be deferred to a future meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Bohan.

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager confirmed that the matter could be deferred to the next Council meeting but advised that the matter needs to be addressed at the earliest possible date in order that customers can be issued with their bills without undue delay. She advised that we have to reach full-cost recovery by 2010 and the best approach is to work up to this point.

Councillor Colreavy referred to the recent EPA report on water quality. Councillor Flynn outlined that no Group Water Scheme can be allowed to supply water which does not reach the required quality. Councillor Bohan outlined that great credit is due to people involved in Group Water Schemes and these Schemes must be supported in every way.

Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services outlined that Leitrim County Council have worked very closely with group water schemes and very significant work has been achieved. He outlined that the situation has changed due to the Water Services Act 2007 which introduces a regulatory role for local authorities in relation to Group Water Schemes.

Councillor McGowan acknowledged the significant water services funding received in recent years and the works implemented. He outlined that the Council needs to meet the Minister and put our best case forward. This was supported by Councillor.

Councillor McDermott expressed his concern at the impact of the increased charges on small businesses. This was supported by Councillor McElgunn who stated that the Council must do whatever it can in relation to this matter.

Councillor Damian Brennan outlined that the Council did not have the opportunity or resources to put in place infrastructure when other counties did and when full funding was available. He outlined that if the Water Pricing Policy is to be applied the Council may not be able to do further necessary works. He outlined that Leitrim could not seek to recover this level of charges and that the Council needed to seek a derogation from Government in relation to this matter. This was supported by the members.

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager advised that a letter would issue to the Minister outlining the members concerns and the particular circumstances applying and requesting confirmation that any shortfall in funding would be subsidised by the Department.

Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin, seconded by Councillor Gordon Hughes and unanimously resolved;

"That a delegation from Leitrim County Council seek a meeting with the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to discuss the issue of Water Pricing and its implications for Leitrim."

08/74

4/2/2008

Draft Leitrim County Development Plan 2009-2015

Report dated 4th February 2008, on the Draft County Development Plan – Pre-Draft Resolutions and Recommendations, as circulated to the members appears *as Appendix 5* to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined the need to progress to the next stage of the preparation of the new County Development Plan. She outlined that the next stage is to put the Draft County Development Plan 2009-2015 on public display, having incorporated the members' recommendations. She outlined that there would be further substantial opportunities for detailed consideration and input in relation to the new Development Plan, including detailed review and consideration of any public submissions and observations made during the public consultation period.

Councillor McGloin highlighted the issue of tree-felling where the felling impacts on the visual amenity of an area and queried whether a policy could be incorporated into the Plan

which would ensure some form of long-term protection for such areas. Mr. C. Tracey, Senior Planner outlined that there is a section in the Draft County Development Plan in relation to the protection of amenity areas. He outlined that the County Development Plan can include provision for the protection of trees of amenity value if there are specific stands of trees identified. He outlined that such issues would normally be addressed through a Local Area Plan.

Councillor Bohan queried whether the Draft Plan is the Members Plan or the Managers Plan. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager confirmed that the Draft Plan is still the Managers Plan and there are still numerous opportunities for input by the members.

Councillor Bohan also outlined that there were various issues of concern which required further consideration. She highlighted that this Development Plan would be in place until 2015. She outlined that there are some very positive things in the plan but suggested that an independent assessment of the Draft Plan would be required.

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager suggested that as many meetings and workshops as were considered necessary could be held during and following the public consultation period. The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Brennan suggested that the members could consider the Draft Plan in further detail in tandem with the public display process.

Councillor Colreavy stated that he was supporting the publication of the Draft Plan. He outlined that the Executive and Members have spent significant time in preparing and reviewing the Draft Plan and it should now be placed on public display. He reserved the right to make observations, comments and suggestions in relation to the Draft Plan. He requested that the Council organise workshops in each of the Electoral Areas during the public consultation phase to inform the public.

Councillor Guckian referred to Resolution 12 of the report and outlined that she felt that the policy is not strong enough in relation to the distinction between towns and villages. Councillor Guckian also referred to Resolution 13 and outlined that she still felt that the table does not adequately address the sight distance issues.

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined that such issues could be considered and developed further as we progress.

Proposed by Councillor Michael Colreavy, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and unanimously resolved;

“That the Draft County Development Plan 2009-2015 (Pre-Draft Draft) be amended in accordance with Resolutions No’s 1 – 15 as outlined in the Draft County Development Plan 2009-2015 – Pre-Draft Resolutions and Recommendations document”

08/75

4/2/2008

Planning Application Referral

Report dated 28th January 2008, from Senior Planner regarding referral of planning application by An Bord Pleanala Pleanala, in accordance with the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006, from Hibernian Wind Power Ltd. for an overhead

electricity line of 110kv from Corderry to Garvagh Glebe Windfarm, as circulated, appears as **Appendix 6** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. M. Dolan, Director of Services Planning, Environment and Emergency Services advised that the file had been available for inspection for a period of two weeks. He advised that the proposed submission to An Bord Pleanala in relation to this proposed development is outlined in the report as circulated. He outlined that the members could, by resolution, express their opinion and have same added to the submission to An Bord Pleanala. He outlined the detail of the proposed submission and advised that there was no objection in principal to the proposed development.

The submission as proposed was Noted by the Members.

Councillor John McTernan referred to Planning Permission which had been granted for a 110kV line and which was now impacting on proposed developments. He asked that Planners look sympathetically on any applications for planning permission in the vicinity of this development. This was supported by Councillor Bohan.

08/76

4/2/2008

Section 138(1) of the Local Government Act 2001

Leitrim County Council Audit Committee

Report dated 4th February 2008 regarding Leitrim County Council Audit Committee, as circulated, appears as **Appendix 7** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor John McTernan and unanimously resolved;

“That the appointment of Ms. Fiona Egan, Mr. Joseph McManus and Mr. Gus O’Shea, as external members to the Leitrim County Council Audit Committee, be approved.”

08/77

4/2/2008

Corporate Policy Group Report

Ms. A. McGovern, Meetings Administrator outlined the issues considered by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting:

- Update in relation to the preparation of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2009-2015
- Update in relation to Water Pricing
- Overview of items for the Council Meeting

This update was noted by the Members.

08/78

4/2/2008

Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated to the members;

- ***Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government***
Letter dated 17th January 2008 from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding resolution passed by Leitrim County Council concerning the recommendations of the independent Constituency Commission which reported on Dáil and European Parliament constituencies in October.
- ***Department of Health and Children***
Letter dated 15th January 2008 from the Department of Health and Children regarding oncology services in Sligo General Hospital.

Councillor Colreavy outlined that the response received from the Department was insulting to Members in suggesting that this issue is an operational matter for the HSE. He highlighted that this is a policy issue which is the responsibility of the Department of Health and Children and requested that a further letter issue to the Department on this basis.

- ***Tax Clearance Requirements***
Memo to Elected Members dated 4th February 2008 from A/Director of Services, Housing and Corporate Services regarding clarification on tax clearance requirements on Housing Aid for Older People Scheme and Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- ***Health Service Executive***
Letter dated 30th January 2008 from Health Service Executive regarding resolution passed by members of Leitrim County Council in November regarding the cancellation of surgical procedures..
- ***Border Regional Authority***
Letter dated 1st February 2008 from the Border Regional Authority outlining the Border Regional Authority nominee to the Mid West Regional Authority Conference i.e. Cllr. Caillian Ellis.
- ***An Post***
Letter dated 1st February 2008 from An Post regarding the postal service in Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim.
- ***Waterways Ireland***
Letter dated 23rd January 2008 from Waterways Ireland regarding the provision of a walkway along the Shannon-erne Waterway between Ballinamore and Aghoo Bridge, Co. Leitrim.

08/79

4/2/2008

Conferences

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan seconded by Councillor Aodh Flynn AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“Attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin and Councillor Enda Stenson at Cross Border Tourism Conference on 10th January 2008 in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal;

Attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin at ‘Right on the Site’ Seminar, on 23rd January 2008 in Sligo;

Attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin at Combat Poverty Agency Seminar in Dublin 22nd January 2008.”

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

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson at the Information on Interreg Seminar, on 5th February 2008 in Armagh.”

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 at Community Based Economic and Social Regeneration Conference in Armagh on 19th February 2008.”

Proposed by Councillor Tony Ferguson seconded by Councillor Liam McElgunn AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Paschal Mooney at the AGM of the Library Association of Ireland on 6th March 2008 in Dublin.”

Proposed by Councillor Tony Ferguson seconded by Councillor John McTernan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of the following members at the Sustaining Rural Development Conference on 6th March 2008 in Cavan; John McTernan, Sean McDermott, Enda Stenson, Gerry Dolan and Thomas Mulligan.”

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

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of following members at the Rural Men and Social Exclusion Seminar on 14th February 2008 in Cavan; John McTernan, Sean McDermott, Enda Stenson, Gerry Dolan, Michael Colreavy, Tony Ferguson, Thomas Mulligan, Frank Dolan.”

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O’Rourke seconded by Councillor Aodh Flynn AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Paddy O’Rourke at the Planning for Renewable Energy Conference from 7th – 8th February 2008 in Limerick.”

Proposed by Councillor Tony Ferguson seconded by Councillor Liam McElgunn AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Paschal Mooney at the Annual Library Association of Ireland Conference from 15th – 17th April 2008 in Athlone.

08/80

4/2/2008

Votes of Sympathy

The members extended a vote of sympathy to the following;

- *Conboy Family, Bornacoola on the death of David Conboy*
- *Ita Fox, Calgagh, Calry, Sligo on the death of Carmelita Fox*
- *Ray MacSharry, Alcantara, Pearse Road, Sligo on the death of Elaine MacSharry*
- *Tommy Gillen and Family, Derrinloughan, Tullaghan on the death of Mary B. Gillen*
- *Margaret Sweeney, Deerpark, Manorhamilton on the death of Eamon Gatley*
- *Eileen Curneen and Family, Aghamore, Glenade on the death of Declan Curneen*

08/81

4/2/2008

Vote of Congratulations

The members extended a vote of congratulations to the North Leitrim Womens Centre on winning the Aontas Connaught Local Star Award recently.

Part I - Notices of Motion.

08/82

4/2/2008

Sewerage Scheme - Dromod

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

"To call on Mr. John Mc Guinness, Director of Services Infrastructure, to immediately put in place a programme of works to rectify the ongoing problems with the sewerage scheme in the village of Dromod. There is a serious problem with sewerage backing up and seeping out of manholes on the road down to the marina and the road from Bofin Avenue housing estate. There were occasions over the Christmas period when a number of houses were unable to use their toilet facilities because of the problem."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"We are currently doing a sizeable amount of investigative work on the sewer network in Dromod to determine the nature of the problem here. At this early stage, a no. of issues of concern have been noted :

1. Serious infiltration of surface water into the foul sewer network, particularly in new private estates.
2. The distinct possibility that surface water sewers may have been incorrectly

connected to the foul network in some of the private estates.

When we are able to establish the extent of the problems we will be instructing the developers to rectify them immediately."

Councillor McGowan highlighted the extent of this problem and queried how long it would take to rectify. Councillor Mulligan and Councillor Stenson supported the motion.

Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services outlined that the Council are carrying out investigative work on the sewer network in Dromod and if there are problems in relation to developments these will be pursued. He confirmed that inspections are carried out when connections to the sewer are made and when a development is being taken in charge. He outlined that he expected the matter would be resolved in the coming weeks.

08/83

4/2/2008

Glencar Waterfall

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

"Glencar Waterfall has been earmarked by Failte Ireland as an area with great tourist potential and worthy of future investment. I will propose that Leitrim County Council draw up a plan of action for the area in order to help and encourage such investment."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"Leitrim County Council are working closely with Failte Ireland to further develop Glencar Waterfall, and have recently purchased significantly extra land to enable the expansion of services at this location. A detailed plan will be prepared in consultation with Failte Ireland."

Councillor Frank Dolan welcomed the reply. He also referred to the felling of trees at this location by Coillte which has created an eyesore and outlined that pressure should be brought on Coillte to do something about this.

08/84

4/2/2008

Car Parking Carrick on Shannon

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

"That this Council purchase, lease or rent space for public parking in Carrick on Shannon, near to the town centre, in view of the negative impact that the lack of such parking facilities is having on business, especially in the town centre. The possible availability of the yard at the Post Office should also be considered in this matter."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"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. Parking meters will be installed in the next two months."

Councillor McElgunn highlighted the concerns of traders in Carrick-on-Shannon in relation to the lack of car parking spaces in the town. He requested that the Council explore all options to provide car parking spaces and suggested that the lands to the rear of the Landmark Hotel be considered. He also suggested that a meeting take place with the Chamber of Commerce and the Traders Association to discuss the best way forward. The motion was supported by Councillor Reynolds who agreed that parking is an issue in the town centre. He requested that consideration be given to approaching the owner of the 'Central Park' lands in relation to possible temporary or permanent car parking. He highlighted that there are significant numbers coming to the town which must be recognized and welcomed. He also outlined that part of the problem has been that some of the businesses are using the available parking spaces and this needs to be considered by the traders.

Councillor Stenson outlined that he had a similar Motion on the Agenda. He queried when it is expected that parking meters will be in place. He outlined that he did not know if there were options available, even through CPO, to provide car parking in the town centre. He outlined that the provision of the Carrick By-Pass is also central to this issue. He also suggested that it would be preferable if a single grouping was representing the local business interests in relation to this matter.

Councillor Guckian supported the proposal in relation to having a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and the Traders Association. She outlined that it is important to reflect that Carrick is a great, thriving shopping town and this needs to be highlighted. Councillor McGowan also supported the motion.

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined that there is no problem in relation to meeting the business representative groups. She outlined that it is hoped to have parking meters installed in the next 8-10 weeks and that the most suitable locations are currently being identified. She also advised that there are currently 219 paid parking spaces and 425 unpaid parking spaces in the town. She advised that the possibility of acquiring additional lands has been investigated. She confirmed that the Council could talk to the owners of the 'Central Park' lands but outlined that the Council couldn't consider incurring significant expenditure on a temporary solution. She also advised that the free public car-park adjacent to the Fire Station generally has a 60% vacancy rate and that it will have to be accepted that we will not find a new town-centre car park.

08/85

4/2/2008

Kinlough Sewerage Plant

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

"I will ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure, to provide me with a full timetable and the current position with regard to the improvement works, extension and extra treatment facility at Kinlough public sewerage plant. This is an urgent matter regarding the increase of population and environmental impact. What is the cost of the proposed works?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The provision of a new WWTP in Kinlough is part of the Leitrim Towns & Villages , phase

1 bundle of 11 such Towns and Villages which are being supplied with new networks and treatment facilities. All of the networks are substantially completed at this stage. The Treatment Plants have been tendered and a recommendation has been made to the DOEHLG to appoint the preferred tenderer. It is hoped that Dept approval will issue shortly and work can thus commence early in the current year. It is hoped that the appointed Contractor will agree to commence work on the Kinlough Plant early in his programme."

08/86

4/2/2008

Public Lighting Drumkeeran

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

"To ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure, to have lights erected on the back lane in Drumkeeran from the phone box to the Dowra Road."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"There is a housing development currently under construction that fronts onto the back line in Drumkeeran. Public lighting will be provided as part of this development which will provide adequate lighting along this street."

Councillor Gerry Dolan welcomed the reply.

08/87

4/2/2008

Aughamore Road L5595, Carrigallen

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

"I propose that the necessary works to make safe the Aughamore Road L5595 leading to Sonnagh, be carried out immediately as it is in a dangerous state posing a risk to all when used. A commitment was given that these works would be carried out in 2007."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"Work shall be carried out within the next two weeks on reinstating the road side drainage."

Councillor O'Rourke complimented the Council on the works which have started. He also raised the issue of the capacity of the County's roads to accommodate heavy goods vehicles. He outlined that he understood there were proposals by Lakelands Dairies to operate huge tankers for milk collection – he outlined that this presents issues for individual farmers but also for the Council in relation to the capacity of our roads to accommodate such vehicles. He proposed that a letter issue to Lakeland Dairies seeking an update on their proposals in this regard. This was seconded by Councillor Ellis.

08/88

4/2/2008

LP1345 – Road Widening

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council widen the road from the R202 at Kiltyhugh to Corraleehan Church, and where it is possible to widen this road to put laybys in place and also to improve the sight distance at some of the corners on this busy road."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"LP1345 is not included in the current Road Programme. It can be discussed for inclusion at the road meeting. In the meantime, any possible repairs will be carried out should funding be available"

Councillor Ellis expressed disappointment that LP1345 is not included in the current roads programme and requested that the Council examine the situation further in advance of the Roads meetings.

08/89

4/2/2008

N4 Roundabout, Carrick on Shannon

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

"At the February meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to address the dangerous situation regarding traffic entering the main roundabout at the entrance to Carrick on Shannon on the N4. Drivers travelling from the Bridge on the N4, past the new government offices are creating two lanes of traffic and sometimes three, when entering this roundabout. However, the road markings indicate one lane only to enter the roundabout. In rush hour traffic, drivers are driving up the left side to enter Carrick on Shannon and to cross over to Circular Road. Drivers continuing on, on the N4 are pushed to the right, there is limited space for these drivers when competing for space with drivers continuing straight onto the circular road."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"Road markings will be provided on this roundabout to lineate the traffic lanes and allowable turning movements."

Councillor Guckian queried the capacity of this roundabout to accommodate two lanes and sought clarification on the type of road markings to be provided. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services outlined that lines will be provided indicating the traffic lanes to allow turning movements. Mr. Billy Lowe, Senior Engineer advised that the Roundabout is designed as 2 Lanes to the Next Exit only.

Councillor McElgunn supported the motion.

08/90

4/2/2008

Taxi Stand Byelaws, Carrick on Shannon

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

"I received an email from concerned carrick traders regarding the fall off in people shopping

in the town centre. Traders blame lack of parking spaces, too many taxi spaces, poor signage showing free parking places plus numerous other issues which at the present time are keeping shoppers off Main St. Carrick. May I ask our County Manager what plans if any are in place to help alleviate the present problems."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The provision of Taxi ranks went through a full public consultation process and were adopted by the council, however in light of experience it may be possible to modify the number of spaces in line with the recommendation of the Chamber of Commerce. This can not begin within six months of the adoption of the by law."

Councillor Stenson sought clarification in relation to the taxi-rank Bye-Laws. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services confirmed that the taxi-ranks cannot be reviewed within six months of the adoption of the by-law. Councillor Reynolds supported the motion and outlined that he considered that there were too many designated taxi spaces in the town.

08/91

4/2/2008

Berths at Leitrim Village

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

"Can this Council urgently clarify with Waterways Ireland why the new berths at Leitrim Village recently developed have not been connected up with the canal bank. Furthermore can Leitrim County Council further clarify if a number of public berths conditioned under the planning permission for the New Hotel will ever 'see the light of day'?"

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

"The Council will contact Waterways Ireland to clarify why the berths, which have been provided at the waterfront development, have not been connected. In relation to the public berths at the hotel development this development requires that six public berths be provided, but development has not yet been completed on this site. It should be noted that this condition does not require that the facility be provided free of charge to the public."

Councillor McGloin welcomed the proposal to contact Waterways Ireland to clarify why the berths have not been connected. He requested that the Planning Section write to the developer in relation to the provision of the public berths.

08/92

4/2/2008

Pedestrian Bridge, Leitrim Village

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

"Could the Director of Services, Infrastructure advise as to when the pedestrian bridge in Leitrim Village will be completed and when the lighting, as requested by me on a number of previous occasions, will be provided."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"It is anticipated that the new pedestrian bridge in Leitrim Village will be completed in March 2008. Provision is made for the erection of 7No. lights at various locations along the bridge."

Councillor Gilmartin requested that the lights be provided prior to completion of the bridge.

Councillor McGloin queried the accessibility of the bridge. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services outlined that steps or a ramped option will be available to address accessibility issues.

08/93

4/2/2008

Upgrading of Road No. 22081-2

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

"At the February Meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Senior Executive Engineer if there are any plans in 2008 to continue the good work that took place in 2006 of upgrading road no. 22081-2 across the mountain in Glenfarne and on to Newbridge Road No. 227. This road was used a lot in years gone by, by farmers. It has great potential for tourism and also links two communities of Glenfarne and Newbridge together."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"Works carried out in 2006 on the road crossing Boleybrack Mountain are the subject of legal proceedings being brought by the Environmental Action Group "C.L.E.A.N." against Leitrim County Council. Until these proceedings have been determined, no further work can be carried out on this road."

Councillor McDermott outlined that he was very disappointed with the reply. He outlined that this is a public road, similar to the link between Aughnasheelin and Ballinaglera, and has simply not been maintained. He outlined that people in this area are having to take very significant detours to access work etc. He expressed his annoyance, at a time when rural areas are looking at how they can improve access, that attempts are being made to remove a link road which people want to see in operation.

Councillor Bohan supported the motion which she outlined has been raised at Council meetings over a long number of years. She stated that it is outrageous for anyone to suggest that this is not a public road. She outlined that this is and was always a public road and the reason it was not usable is that money had not been invested in its maintenance and upkeep. She outlined that funding needs to be found for this road. She stressed that the message needs to go out that this is a public road.

Councillor McGloin also supported the motion and sought a commitment that work would be carried out on the Dromahaire end of this road once the legal situation was resolved.

Councillor Colreavy and Councillor McTernan also strongly supported the motion.

Mr. M. Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services outlined

the position in relation to the legal proceedings. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services undertook to get an estimate of the works involved.

Part II - Questions.

08/94

4/2/2008

Road LP1053 (Mohill/Tooman/Drumlish Road)

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"To ask Mr. Sean Rynn, A/Senior Executive Engineer to carry out immediate repairs to the Mohill – Tooman - Drumlish road, from Mohill as far as the turn off for Lough Rynn Castle Hotel as there are a number of depressions to the surface of the road, which are quite dangerous and are causing serious concern to the many motorists who use the road on a daily basis, and to include the road for resurfacing in the current years road works programme."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The LP 1053 will require extensive works. Funding under a Specific Improvement Grant for 2008 has been applied for in order to carry out part of this work. Another section of this road is also included in the Restoration Maintenance programme for 2008."

08/95

4/2/2008

Provision of Signage at Fearglass and Clooncumber Cross

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"To ask Mr. Sean Rynn, A/Senior Executive Engineer what is the delay in the provision of directional signs at Fearglass Cross and Clooncumber Cross indicating the following towns, Mohill, Dromod, Rooskey, Drumlish and Newtownforbes. A commitment was given over the past number of years that the signs would be provided."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"Required signage has been ordered. It is planned to erect the signs in conjunction with the Road Signage Programme."

08/96

4/2/2008

Hartley Cross, Carrick on Shannon

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Liam McElgunn;

"To ask that the crash barrier recently erected at Hartley Cross, Carrick on Shannon, be extended in the Hartley direction to provide protection from a deep drain where a number of vehicles have gone in previously."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"It is intended to erect this crash barrier in conjunction with the additional crash barrier at the Grange Housing Development, Drumsna. It is expected that this work will be carried out during late February / early March 2008."

08/97

4/2/2008

The Quays, Carrick on Shannon

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Liam McElgunn;

"To ask what progress has been made in providing a protective barrier and improving public lighting at the Quay, Carrick on Shannon, as previously raised by me by way of notice of motion, and supported by other members. This was also recommended by the Coroner at a recent inquest into a tragic drowning at this location."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"A detailed plan has been drawn up for this area addressing all of the above concerns, and funding has been sought from Failte Ireland. It is hoped to carry out work at this location this year."

08/98

4/2/2008

Disability Access Audit

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"I will ask the County Manager has a full audit of disability access (front door) to all public buildings, HSE, Council and state bodies, taken place in County Leitrim and what are the actions proposed for these necessary works to be carried out."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Change Management Unit;

"As part of the preparation of the Council's Draft Disability Implementation Plan access audits were carried out on all Council buildings, amenities, and playgrounds and on streets and footpaths in six towns - Manorhamilton; Ballinamore; Carrick-On-Shannon; Dromahaire; Mohill and Drumshanbo. Actions to address issues arising from the audits are included in the appendices to the Draft Plan which has been circulated to the Elected Members and which is available on the Council's website. The public consultation period for the Draft Plan has now expired and a full report will be prepared for the meeting of the Housing and Corporate Services SPC to be held on 18.2.08 taking into account responses to submissions received during the public consultation period with a view to it being presented for adoption to the full Council at its March monthly meeting. The Council does not have a remit to audit buildings not in its ownership but footpaths in Council ownership leading to private buildings in the six towns referred to above have been audited. There is a commitment included in the Draft Plan to have public streets and footpaths in other towns and villages in the county audited within the next two years."

08/99

4/2/2008

Regional Route R281

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"To the Director of Services, Infrastructure - has a specific grant been applied for the Rossinver Road near Stephen Foley's Kinlough, to be included in this year's roads programme."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"Funding has been sought from the Department of Transport for a Low Cost Accident prevention scheme on a short, narrow section of Regional Route R281 at the location in question. However, approval for this project has not as yet been notified to the Council."

08/100

4/2/2008

R280 – Cornaroy, Drumshanbo

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;

"To ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure, to have more warning signs erected on the Cornaroy R280 Road, coming onto the main road (N4) at Drumgorman as this is a very dangerous T-junction."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"Two advanced warning signs were erected at this junction in November 2007. These signs were damaged in early January and have since been replaced. The council have ordered two additional warning signs and these will be erected anon."

08/101

4/2/2008

Carrick Road, Drumshanbo

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;

"To have the Carrick Road out of Drumshanbo to Acres resurfaced."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The Water Services Department are currently preparing a contract for the installation of a watermain along the Carrick Road, Drumshanbo later this year. Resurfacing works will be carried out upon completion of this contract."

08/102

4/2/2008

Flooding – Longford Road, Carrigallen

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

"When will the repairs necessary to alleviate the flooding problem along the Longford road

out of Carrigallen in the townland of Aughawillan, be carried out."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"This matter will be investigated and appropriate action taken to carry out any improvements necessary to the roadside drainage."

08/103

4/2/2008

Repairs to Road in townland of Beaghmore, Carrigallen

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

"When will the repairs necessary to sort out the large bump/indent in the road in the townland of Beaghmore, convenient to Ms. McCabe's property, be carried out."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"This matter will be investigated and the necessary repairs carried out when weather conditions improve."

08/104

4/2/2008

Road Repairs - Fenagh to Keshcarrigan

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Caillian Ellis;

"I will ask Leitrim County Council when do they intend to carry out roadworks on the road from Fenagh to Keshcarrigan at Castlefore and Lemonish."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The Council have acquired a piece of ground at Castlefore for the purpose of realigning this section of the R209. It is proposed to seek funding under a Specific Improvement Grant in 2009 in order to carry out this work. In the meantime, the R209-16 Foxfield/Fenagh Beg is included in the Restoration Improvement programme for 2008. Drainage works have commenced at this location with roadworks to follow at a later stage. Also the LT34551 at Leamanish is included in the 2008 Restoration Maintenance programme."

08/105

4/2/2008

Provision of Sewerage Scheme at Corrowallen

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Caillian Ellis;

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to look at the possibility of putting in place a sewerage scheme at Corrowallen to cater for the local authority houses and all the other houses around Corrowallen Post Office."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"A feasibility report into providing a sewerage treatment plant for this location will be prepared, how ever it is likely to be prohibitively expensive."

08/106

4/2/2008

Grange Housing Estate, Drumna – Footpath and Lighting

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;

"At the February meeting I will ask the County Manager to allocate funds from the development contribution scheme, to provide a footpath for pedestrians from the Grange Housing Estate, to allow safe access to the village of Drumsna. As per my question in April 2006, residents have been living in this estate for some time now."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The provision of a foot path at this area can be discussed at the regional roads meeting"

08/107

4/2/2008

Grange Housing Estate, Drumsna – Crash Barrier

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;

"At the February Meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask the Carrick Area Engineer what is the up to date status of the crash barrier for the Grange Housing Estate Drumsna, as per my motion in November 2006. A number of vehicles have skidded in this area and this barrier is urgently required to protect residents in the estate."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The Carrick Area Office have received two quotations for this work. These quotations are currently under review and it is expected that this work will be carried out during late February / early March 2008."

08/108

4/2/2008

N4 – Dromo /Rooskey Bypass at Fearnaght

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"When will the old N4 be re-classified from Dromod to the By-pass at Fearnaght and do we know what will it be classified as."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The Section from the round about on the Longford side, to the Bridge at Roosky is now classified as a regional road and the remainder from Roosky through Dromod and on to its intersection with the new N4 is now Local Primary Road"

08/109

4/2/2008

Road LP 3449 – Drumcollagan - Drumrahill

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"Can the road from Drumcolligan to Drumrahill be included in the 2008 road improvement scheme."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The LP 3449 Drumraghool to Drumcollagan road is included in the Restomation Maintenance programme for 2008."

08/110

4/2/2008

Graveyard - Ballinaglera

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"Can I ask the Director of Services for Environment, Planning and Emergency Services if there is any progress to report in relation to the provision of a new graveyard for Ballinaglera?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"It is the Councils understanding that the local community were to revert to us with a suggested site which we would examine."

08/111

4/2/2008

Water Charges

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"Can I ask the Head of Finance regarding water charges for non domestic users based on current charges, what percentage rise is envisaged for the year 2008? Furthermore if at this stage clarification can be given as to the overall forecast on the financial implications for water rate payers based on current EU and Government directives?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"A presentation will be made at this meeting on the whole water pricing issue"

08/112

4/2/2008

Provision of Car Park – Drumcong National School

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"Would the Council give a piece of property from their landholding at Drumcong, to Drumcong National School for a car park, to make it safer for staff and pupils."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Change Management Unit;

"The Council is currently in the process of completing the 3-yearly statutory Assessment of Housing Need. Any decision in relation to the disposal of elements of our housing land-bank would be premature pending consideration of the outcome of that Assessment. Consideration would also have to be given to the long term proposals in respect of the lands in question. It is suggested however that the School Authorities should submit details of their proposals in this regard in order that the matter can be considered further."

08/113

4/2/2008

Development of Lough Mac Nean

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to make contact with Cavan and Fermanagh Councils regarding development of Lough Mac Nean. There is great potential for tourism as this is a cross border lake."

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

"The Council will make contact with Cavan and Fermanagh Councils regarding development at Lough Mac Nean."

08/114

4/2/2008

R282 – Manorhamilton to Rossinver

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I will ask the Director of Services Infrastructure, if any money could be sourced for the Manorhamilton to Rossinver Road in the townland of Brackery Beg. There are very bad turns on this road and also high banks that come very close to the side of the road. Several cars have got tyres ripped by stones that are sticking out from these banks. This needs immediate attention."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;

"The works of realignment and widening required over this poorly aligned section of Regional Route R282 will incur substantial expenditure which can only be funded by an EU Co-Financed Specific Improvement Grant or similar special funding. However - as previously indicated - this project cannot be prioritised until the improvements currently in progress on the R280 in Glenade Valley, and those planned at McGourty's Turn on R283, have been completed. In the meantime, the problem of protruding stones will be investigated and remedied as appropriate. Warning signage on the approaches to the bends will also be examined and augmented if considered necessary."

This concluded the business of the meeting at 9pm

Signed: *Damian Brennan*
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: *Aideen McGovern*
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

Date: 3rd March 2008