

**Minutes of Council Meeting held by Leitrim County Council  
In the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

**Members Present:**

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

*And Councillor Damian Brennan, Cathaoirleach presiding*

**Apologies:**

*Kenny, Martin*  
*McElgunn, Liam*  
*McGloin, Enda*

**Officials Present:**

*Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager*  
*Mr. M. Dolan, Director of Services, Planning Environment and  
Emergency Services*  
*Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services Infrastructure*  
*Ms. M. Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Corporate  
Services*  
*Mr. C. Tracey, Senior Planner*  
*Mr. S. O'Connor, Senior Engineer*  
*Mr. M. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer*  
*Mr. S. Rynn, A/Senior Executive Engineer*  
*Mr. P. McMahon, A/Senior Executive Engineer*  
*Mr. P. MacShera, A/Senior Executive Engineer*  
*Mr. V. Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer*  
*Ms. C. Caslin, Senior Executive Officer*  
*Ms. A. McGovern, Meetings Administrator*  
*Ms. S. Flynn, Administrative Officer*  
*Mr. P. Kirkpatrick, Administrative Officer*

**Part I – Statutory Business**

**08/223**

**6/5/08      Deimhniu Miontuairisci**

***Proposed by Councillor Michael Colreavy, 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 14<sup>th</sup> April 2008, be adopted.”***

08/224

6/5/2008

**Votes of Sympathy**

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

- *The McGuaran Family, Amorset, Manorhamilton on the death of Sean McGauran*
- *The Clancy Family, Laghty, Glenfarne, on the death of Thomas Clancy*
- *Margaret Keaney, Corraleskin, Kiltyclogher on the death of Teresa Gilbride*
- *Elizabeth Mee, Broomstreet, Mohill, on the death of John Mee*
- *The Lee Family, Church Lane, Manorhamilton on the death of Willie Lee*
- *Margaret Kiernan, Cloonsarne, Ballinamore on the death of John Kiernan*

08/225

6/5/2008

**Local Authority Development**

It was agreed to defer the following item until the June Council Meeting.

*“To approve the following proposals in compliance with the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to carry out the following works: Proposal for modifications to traffic flow and parking in Dromahair including the installation of a safe zone for pedestrians on the Back Line.”*

Councillor McTernan suggested that the proposals for this location required modification.

08/226

6/5/2008

**Section 183 of Local Government Act 2001**

*Report from Senior Executive Officer, Infrastructure, dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2008 as circulated to each member appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.*

***Proposed by Councillor Jim Joe Shortt, seconded by Councillor Damian Brennan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

*“That disposal of lands at Corrabeeher Td, Aughnasheelin of Curraghtawny, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim, containing 0.036Ha or 0.089Acres, to Noel O’Rourke, Corraleeahan, Ballinamore in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Notice of Intention to Dispose of Land dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2008 circulated to each Member, be approved.”*

08/227

6/5/2008

**Overdraft Accommodation**

***Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Tony Ferguson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That overdraft accommodation in the sum of €1.5 million for the half year ending 31st December 2008, subject to the sanction of the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government, be approved.”

08/228

6/5/2008

**Draft Lough Allen Catchment Plan**

It was agreed to defer this item until the June Meeting of Leitrim County Council.

08/229

6/5/2008

**Financial Management Report**

Report dated 29<sup>th</sup> April 2008 from Head of Finance, enclosing the first quarterly report on expenditure for Leitrim County Council for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008, as circulated to the members, appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined that this report has been prepared and circulated to members in accordance with the recommendations of Value for Money Unit Report No. 24 - Financial Management Reporting in Local Authorities. She highlighted that the major expenditure is incurred in the second half of the year but advised that it is not anticipated at this stage that that an overspend will arise at the end of the year.

***Proposed by Councillor Michael Colreavy, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Financial Management Report for Quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008, be approved.”

08/230

6/5/2008

**Annual Meeting**

***Proposed by Councillor Tony Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That the Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council be held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at 5pm.”

08/231

6/5/2008

**Section 138(1) of Local Government Act 2001**

▪ **Amateur Drama Endeavour Awards 2008**

Report from Arts Officer, regarding the Amateur Drama Endeavour Awards 2008, as circulated to the members, appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

***Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Gordon Hughes AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Amateur Drama Endeavour Awards for 2008 be made to Crooked Wheel Productions (€1000), Drumkeerin Drama Group (€500) and Sliabh an Iarainn Players (€500).”

08/232

6/5/2008

### **Corporate Policy Group Report**

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

- **Strategic Policy Committees Update Report**

Two Strategic Policy Committee meetings had taken place since the last meeting of the Corporate Policy Group – the Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development SPC and the Housing & Corporate Services SPC.

#### **Community, Cultural and Enterprise Development SPC**

Councillor Sean McDermott, Chairperson of the Community, Cultural and Enterprise Development SPC outlined that the SPC had met on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008 and had considered a priority work programme for the forthcoming year. The items to be considered by the SPC include Casual Trading, Lough Allen Catchment Plan, Library Development Plan, Arts Centre Strategy, Play & Recreation Policy, Review of Community & Voluntary Grant Scheme, Audit of Community & Sporting Facilities and Development of a Youth Council.

He also outlined that the SPC had discussed the Draft Lough Allen Catchment Plan. He advised that the outcome of the public consultation and other issues arising were discussed in detail and it was considered that, in order to have the opportunity to deal with these effectively, it was necessary to extend the timescale. He advised that the final draft is not available for the May Council meeting and is being deferred to the June meeting.

This was noted by the members.

#### **Housing & Corporate Services SPC**

Councillor Aodh Flynn, Chairperson of the Housing and Corporate Services SPC outlined that the SPC last met on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2008 and report as circulated at the Corporate Policy Group Meeting and to the full Council appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

He outlined that the SPC had considered the establishment of the Disability Advisory Group under the Disability Implementation Plan. He advised that the proposed membership and the terms of reference are recommended by the SPC and the Corporate Policy Group to the Council for approval.

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

“That the proposed Membership and Terms of Reference of the Disability Advisory Group under the Disability Implementation Plan, as outlined in Appendix 1 to report from Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services dated 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008, be approved.”

In terms of the three Elected Member nominees to the Disability Advisory Group, in addition to the Chair of the Housing & Corporate Services SPC, it was suggested that there should be a representative of both the Planning and the Transportation SPC's. Councillor Bohan expressed an interest in sitting on the Advisory Group. It was agreed that the other nominees to the Advisory Group would be considered further.

Councillor Flynn outlined that the SPC had also considered the establishment of the Irish Committee (Coiste Gaeilge). He advised that the proposed membership and the terms of reference are recommended by the SPC and the Corporate Policy Group to the Council for approval.

***Proposed by Councillor Michael Colreavy, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That the proposed Membership and Terms of Reference of the Irish Committee – An Coiste Gaeilge - as outlined in Appendix 2 to report from Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services dated 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008, be approved.”

Councillor Flynn advised that there is one vacancy for an elected member on the Coiste Gaeilge.

The other matters considered by the Housing & Corporate Services SPC were the Housing Needs Assessment and Housing Action Plan, and an update in relation to the South Leitrim Remedial Works Scheme. A further detailed report in relation to the Housing Needs Assessment and Housing Action Plan is to be presented at the next meeting of the SPC.

- **Annual Meeting**  
The date proposed for the Annual Meeting 2008 is Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008. This matter is listed for separate consideration on the Council Meeting agenda.
- **Library Committee Meeting**  
The date proposed for the Library Committee Meeting is Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008 prior to the Council meeting.

This was noted by the members.

- **Fáilte Ireland**  
The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Brennan advised that there will be a presentation by the Chairperson of Fáilte Ireland West, Mr. Paschal Mooney, at the June Council Meeting.

- **Items for Council Meeting**

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

This update was noted by the Members.

**08/233**

**6/5/2008**

**Correspondence**

*The following correspondence was circulated to the members;*

1. Letter from the European Commissioner on Environment dated 15<sup>th</sup> April 2008 regarding Water Pricing
2. Letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2008 from the Tánaiste and Office of the Minister for Finance regarding request from Leitrim County Council for the extension of the areas designated under the Mid-Shannon Tourism Infrastructure Investment Scheme to areas in County Leitrim.
3. Letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008 from the Department of Transport regarding support for the Rural Lift Community Transport Services being provided in County Leitrim under the Rural Transport Programme.
4. Letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> April 2008 from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment concerning the resolution about employment agency employees unanimously resolved by the members of Leitrim County Council at the March Council Meeting.
5. Letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008 from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding request from Leitrim County Council that Minister John Gormley TD, receive a delegation from Leitrim County Council to discuss the issues of water pricing and its implications for Leitrim.
6. Letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008 from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, enclosing Consultation Paper on Resourcing the Planning System which was published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

Councillor Colreavy queried whether a submission had been made by Leitrim County Council in relation to this consultation process. Mr. M. Dolan, Director of Services advised that a submission is currently being prepared by Leitrim County Council and a copy will be circulated to the Members.

7. Letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2008 from Chief Executive, Iarnrod Éireann regarding the resolution adopted at the March Meeting of Leitrim County Council concerning rail freight services.

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

- Councillor Guckian requested that Leitrim County Council issue a further letter to Bus Éireann requesting that they clarify the position regarding the bus stop service in

Drumsna and ensure that the service is put back in place immediately. This was supported by Councillor Stenson and Councillor Hughes.

- Councillor Hughes queried if a reply had been received from the Health Service Executive regarding the HSE sending a deputation to address a Leitrim County Council meeting in relation to the Community Hospital in Ballinamore and other health-related issues affecting the county. Ms. A. McGovern, Meetings Administrator advised that to date no reply has been received from the HSE in this regard. Councillor Hughes requested that a further letter issue to the HSE regarding this matter.
- Councillor Ellis outlined that no reply had been received from the Office of Public Works regarding the request for a proper roadway down to the second abbey in Fenagh. He requested that the OPW be contacted again regarding this matter.
- Councillor Ferguson outlined that no reply had been received from Sligo General Hospital in response to resolution passed by Members of Leitrim County Council at Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2008. He requested that a further letter issue to Sligo General Hospital regarding the issue of Cancer Care Facilities in Sligo General Hospital.

**08/234**

**6/5/2008**

**Conferences**

***Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Damian Brennan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the;

- Attendance of Councillor Damian Brennan at LAMA Annual Conference in Trim, Co. Meath from 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008
- Attendance of Councillor Damian Brennan at Annual Kerry Environmental Recognition Conference, in Ballybunion from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> April 2008
- Attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson at River Basin District Council Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2008 in Galway
- Attendance of Councillor Damian Brennan at Launch of Green Paper on Local Government by Minister Gormley on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2008 in Dublin
- Attendance of Councillor Paddy O’Rourke at Association of County and City Council’s Conference in Swords, Dublin from 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008
- Attendance of Paschal Mooney at Library Association Annual Conference in Athlone from 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2008
- Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott at ICBAN Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008 in Cavan
- Attendance of Councillor Enda Stenson at the Association of County and City Councils Annual Conference from 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008
- Attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the Colmcille Winter School 29<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2008 in Letterkenny, Association of County and City Councils Annual Conference from 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008, Launch of BMW Skillnet Executive, Ballyconnell on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008, Launch of Sligo/Leitrim Living Links in Sligo on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008
- Attendance of Councillor Caillian Ellis at ICBAN Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008 in Cavan and ICBAN Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2008 in Enniskillen, Association of County and City

Council's Annual Conference 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008 in Dublin, Sustaining Rural Development Conference in Cavan on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008.”

***Proposed by Councillor Michael Colreavy, seconded by Councillor Jim Joe Shortt AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson at the Managing Fisheries in a Changing Environment Seminar held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008 in Athlone, Co. Westmeath.”

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

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Frank Dolan at the Role of Local Government in Community & Rural Development Seminar held on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May 2008 in Listowel, Co. Kerry.”

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

**08/235**

**6/5/2008**

#### **Coolnagraine/Dowra Road**

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

"To ask this Council to have the Coolnagraine/Dowra Road, resurfaced, especially the section from Coolnagraine Post Office to the top end of the road, also to have a scheme put in place to restore the road from Coolnagraine to Tullnamoyle in County Cavan as this is a very much used roadway."

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

"The section of road above Coollegreane PO for 2km is included for funding in this years road programme. It is scheduled to have work completed by the end of July. Routine maintenance will be carried out on the road from Coollegreane to Tullnamoyle, this section of road will be considered for funding in next years programme."

Councillor Gerry Dolan outlined that this section of road is in very poor condition and requested that Leitrim County Council resurface this road as soon as possible. He proposed that Leitrim County Council liaise with Cavan County Council regarding the restoration of the road from Coolnagraine to Tullnamoyle in County Cavan. This was seconded by Councillor Bohan.

**08/236**

**6/5/2008**

#### **Council Housing Action Plan 2004-2008**

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

"To ask the Director of Services for Housing and Corporate Affairs for the following information:

(a) How many new family-type houses commenced construction in 2007, and specifically, how many rural houses, and what remedial works schemes were approved for 2007 and what works commenced.

(b) Similarly for 2008, what are the projected figures."

***Report by Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services;***

"The Council's Housing Action Plan 2004-2008 identified targets for the delivery of the social and affordable housing. The annual housing programme consists of a number of delivery options including the construction of new build units, the provision of extensions on existing Council owned dwellings, improvement works in lieu of re-housing and purchases of new dwellings or second hand dwellings. In 2007 the Department introduced new requirements whereby local authorities were required to prepare a design brief and project appraisal for each individual scheme in advance of Departmental approval issuing to proceed to construction stage. A total of 36 new units were approved to proceed to construction in 2007 - of that total 14 units were family type dwellings in a group scheme at Manorhamilton, Drumkeerin and Drumcong and 4 rural cottages commenced in various locations throughout the County. The figures for the 2008 Housing Programme will be determined in the next number of weeks with regard to the recent Statutory Assessment of Housing Need and the annual Capital Allocation provided by the Department to fund the Housing Programme. A detailed report on the 2008 Housing Programme will be presented to the Housing & Corporate Services SPC and to the Elected Members of the Council. Under the Remedial Works Programme a submission was submitted to the Department for a Remedial Works Programme for 20 Rural Cottages (10) in the North and (10) in the South of the County. Departmental approval was sanctioned and the work on this scheme commenced in January 2008. Departmental approval has been received for the appointment of Consultants for the South Leitrim Remedial Works Programme at Carrigallen and Carrick-on-Shannon."

Councillor Reynolds outlined that a number of people have come to him recently in relation to housing accommodation needs. He expressed surprise at the level of housing starts approved in 2007 which he suggested was significantly lower than in previous years when resources would have been less plentiful. He queried whether the low numbers were down to a reduction in Departmental funding or an internal decision.

Ms. M. Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Corporate Services outlined that the Social & Affordable Housing Action Plan 2004-2008 had made provision for a substantial Housing Programme, including substantial provision of units by Voluntary Housing Bodies. She outlined that significant changes in Public Procurement Procedures nationally, introduced in 2007, had impacted on the Programme and that progress in relation to the provision of voluntary units had also been slower than anticipated. She advised that account must be taken of the whole range of housing options in determining the level of housing starts. She advised that the outcome of the Housing Needs Assessment would be considered in detail over the coming weeks and a detailed report would be presented to the Members. Councillor Reynolds stated that he considered that the level of housing starts needs to be increased to deal with the level of housing need in the County.

08/237

6/5/2008

**Mooring Facilities on River Shannon at Rooskey**

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

"At the May Meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask the County Manager to contact Waterways Ireland requesting them to provide additional mooring facilities on the River Shannon at Rooskey, and to upgrade the existing facilities that are there at present, which have fallen into a state of disrepair."

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

"Discussions have already taken place with Waterways Ireland in relation to the need for additional moorings in Rooskey, and we will contact them in the next week in relation to their plans to extend the mooring facilities and also in relation to the repairs to the existing quay. The necessary repairs may well be carried out in partnership with Waterways Ireland."

Councillor McGowan welcomed the reply and outlined the need for additional mooring facilities in Rooskey. He requested that the Council progress the matter with Waterways Ireland. He also highlighted the poor condition of the existing facilities. This was supported by Councillor Guckian.

08/238

6/5/2008

**Rinn River – River Boat Traffic**

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

"May I ask the County Manager what view this Council has at present to the opening of the Rinn River to River Boat traffic, and are there any steps being pursued to move this issue forward."

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

"The opening of this river to traffic continues to be an aspiration of the Council. 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."

Councillor Stenson outlined that the opening of the Rinn River to river boat traffic would be very beneficial to the entire South Leitrim area. He queried what, if anything, Leitrim County Council can do. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services advised that this would be a massive infrastructural project involving a range of agencies including Longford County Council and Iarnród Éireann, with a range of significant issues to be overcome. He advised that the Council have been in consultation with the NRA regarding the next phase of the By-Pass and have highlighted the need to protect this corridor. Councillor Stenson stated that the Council can only seek to ensure that there are no obstacles in the way of such a development and hope that it would come to fruition. The motion was supported by Councillor Mulligan.

08/239

6/5/2008

**Traffic Calming Measures Ballinamore**

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

"To ask the Director of Services when will appropriate, traffic calming measures be installed adjacent to Sean O'Heslin's G.A.A park in Ballinamore, which is presently undergoing significant redevelopment and will be completed shortly. With the on-set of the G.A.A. season, significant numbers of people will be using these grounds and are both entering/exiting this location with a high volume of speeding traffic passing by. This is posing an unacceptable risk to their safety and in particular to pedestrians walking to this location from the town. Furthermore, additional traffic calming measures are needed in conjunction with such work for pedestrians accessing the sports complex and playground which is located further along this stretch of busy roadway."

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

"The area in question is within the speed limit and the matter of enforcement will be raised with the Gardai. The road design section will prepare a plan for traffic calming at this location and funding will be sought from the department for the works. In the mean time additional road marking will be installed."

Councillor Hughes requested that the Council liaise with the GAA Committee in Ballinamore regarding any proposed pedestrian crossings. The motion was supported by Councillor Ellis who also suggested that a road sign indicating 'Sports Field Ahead', similar to what is at Drumlish, could be very effective.

08/240

6/5/2008

**Playground in Drumsna**

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

"At the May meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Director of Services, Community and Enterprise, what is the up to date status of the installation of the playground in Drumsna. In December last year the community undertook the excavation and clearance of a site in the community field at the top of the village in preparation for same."

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

"Playgrounds are being developed in the county in accordance with the adopted County Play Policy. Plans are well advanced in relation to a number of the locations at this stage. Given the level of effort being made by the local community Drumsna in the identification and preliminary preparatory work for a site for the playground it is very feasible that the development of this playground can proceed in the next tranch of funding for playgrounds. It is hoped that a new funding allocation will be received in the current year."

Councillor Guckian welcomed the reply and thanked the staff involved in the provision of play facilities in the county.

**08/241**

**6/5/2008**

**Carrick Road, Drumshanbo**

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

"I call on Leitrim County Council to outline a time frame for the re-construction of footpaths and the proper permanent black top resurfacing of the Carrick Road Drumshanbo. Following a lot of development, this road and footpaths need priority in 2008, the surface of this approach road from Carrick is extremely poor with huge 'craters' on the road and I would be grateful if the Council would provide a time scale for restoration work and the cost involved."

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

"Funding has been provided this year under our Development Contribution Scheme and our roads grants for improvements to the roads and footpaths in this area. The Water Services Department are in the process of replacing along this road. When these works are complete the road/ improvements will be carried out. In the mean time limited repairs can be carried out."

**08/242**

**6/5/2008**

**Improvement Works to Junction – Greagh Cross**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Jim Joe Short;***

"At the May Meeting of Leitrim County Council I will propose that every effort will be made to have improvement works carried out at the junction of Road Nos LT5113-0 and LP494 known as Greagh Cross under the 2008 Road Works Scheme."

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

"Attempts were made in the last year to improve this junction, but land could not be obtained at that time. A meeting was held recently with a representative for one of the landowner at the junction to try and agree improvement works. A new design is currently being prepared to progress the matter. In the short term signage will also be improved."

Councillor Shortt outlined that this junction is very dangerous and he proposed that every effort be made to have major works carried out in the current year if possible. This was supported by Councillor Brennan. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure outlined that there were difficulties with acquiring the necessary lands at this location. Councillor Ellis outlined that he understood the landowner was willing to sell the necessary lands. This was supported by Councillor Hughes. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services undertook to have the matter pursued further and revert to the June Council Meeting.

**08/243**

**6/5/2008**

**R208 – Edentenny to Mohill**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council seek funding immediately for the R202 from Edentenny to Mohill to bring it up to proper surface and widening at certain points, as this part of the R202 is carrying most of the heavy traffic that uses the R202."

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

"In the current roads programme, improvement works will be carried out in the Glasdrumman/Sruhaun section of the R202. Funding will also be requested in the form of a specific improvement grant for the R202 in the 2009 Road Programme. This is a heavily trafficked Regional road that will require substantial funding over the next few years."

Councillor Ellis outlined his disappointment with the reply and stated that the works proposed are not what is required. Councillor Hughes supported the motion and outlined that this is a very busy regional road and that it is important that the work is done as soon as possible. Councillor Stenson also supported the motion and highlighted that the road is subsiding in places and must be addressed. Councillor Mulligan supported the motion and outlined that very substantial funding is required on this stretch of road. Councillor McGowan also supported the motion. Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure outlined that Specific Improvement Grant Scheme funding would be required over a number of years for this stretch of road and advised that this would be a top priority under the Specific Improvement Grant Scheme in 2009.

***08/244***

***6/5/2008***

***Farm Waste Management***

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

"At the May Council Meeting I will ask Leitrim County Council to make a request to Minister for Agriculture, Mary Coughlan, to extend the time deadline that is in place for the "Farm Waste Management" grants which is December 2008. These grants have been a great success but a lot of work remains to be done. I have spoken to contractors that erect the sheds and do the concrete work and they tell me the work cannot be done by the December deadline."

Councillor McDermott outlined that there is still a huge amount of work to be done under this Scheme and it is not practical to have works completed by the end of December. He outlined that a minimum of an additional twelve months would be required. This was strongly supported by all the members who highlighted the environmental, economic and social benefits of the scheme. It was considered that a decision needed to be made in this regard as a matter of urgency.

***Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor Michael Colreavy AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council request the Minister for Agriculture, to extend the time deadline that is in place for the "Farm Waste Management" grants which is December 2008."

08/245

6/5/2008

**Broadband**

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

"The absence of affordable broadband facilities in rural areas is a critical problem for people and businesses in these areas and is not acceptable in the modern day. Wireless broadband is proving to be extremely expensive and is unaffordable for many people. This problem is particularly acute in the Kilclare area. I propose that Leitrim County Council write to Eircom and the relevant Government Departments to indicate our serious concern at the lack of wired broadband services in many areas throughout the county and to seek a timetable for the installation of these essential facilities in these areas."

It was agreed to defer this item to the June Council meeting.

08/246

6/5/2008

**An Bord Pleanala**

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

"I propose that An Bord Pleanala, as it is currently constituted, be abolished. I further propose that it be replaced by a more fair, competent and transparent agency to deal with planning appeals"

Councillor Bohan outlined in detail her reasons for putting forward the motion which she advised had been tabled following careful consideration over a significant period of time. She outlined her view that many of the decisions made by An Bord Pleanala have not been made in the best interests of the people of County Leitrim and suggested that there is a need for an independent planning review mechanism. She referred to the recent decision by An Bord Pleanala to refuse permission for the proposed Waterways Ireland development at Dowra which would have represented an investment of €1.5m in the area. She outlined that in her opinion this decision was outrageous and very regrettable. She stated that the reasons outlined in the decision to Refuse Permission do not stand up to scrutiny and disregard a whole range of specific policies and provisions within the current Leitrim County Development Plan which support this development. She detailed the extensive public consultation which had gone into the preparation of the County Development Plan and queried how An Bord Pleanala could simply disregard these carefully considered provisions. She outlined that this is only one example and cited various other decisions by An Bord Pleanala, including instances where people have been refused permission to build on their own land, wind farm proposals etc. She also made reference to the issue of 'serial objectors' both within and from outside the county. She referred to the call from An Taisce for an investigation in relation to Leitrim County Council's original decision on the Waterways Ireland application and welcomed the Council's prompt response in this regard. She stated that the members or officials of Leitrim County Council should not have to apologise for promoting our county and outlined that the members of Leitrim County Council had done everything in their power over the years to protect the environment and the heritage of the county. She requested the support of the members in relation to the motion.

Councillor McTernan supported the motion and outlined that the decision in relation to the

Waterways Ireland development at Dowra was a devastating blow to the whole area. He stated that something new must be put in place to ensure that something like this does not happen in the future.

Councillor McDermott also supported the motion and highlighted the critical importance of tourism and tourism-related developments to the county. Councillor Ferguson also supported the motion and stated that the County Development Plan had been meticulously put together to protect and enhance what we have. He stated that the people of this area are being denied facilities and that there was a requirement to identify exactly how this decision was arrived at. He stated that, as a Director of North West Tourism, he was stunned at the refusal of permission in relation to this development proposal which was opening up another stretch of this very important waterway.

Councillor Colreavy supported the motion but outlined his view that it would not make any difference. He suggested that An Bord Pleanala is effectively an outsourcing of responsibility by Government to un-elected unrepresentative people, who are making the decisions in relation to the future development of our county. He stated that An Bord Pleanala is not accountable and referred to the increasing urbanization of planning policy with a clear bias against rural areas.

Councillor Ellis also supported the motion and referred to the huge success and benefits of the Shannon-Erne Waterway and the critical importance of tourism development for the county.

Councillor Flynn also supported the motion and stated that An Bord Pleanala have increasingly made unbelievable decisions throughout the country. He stated that it appears that nobody is accountable. He also made reference to the proposals to increase planning fees. He outlined the very significant investment involved in making a planning application compared to the very small appeal fee.

Councillor O'Rourke supported the motion and stated that the suggestion that the original decision by Leitrim County Council in relation to this development proposal was contrary to our County Development Plan was totally untrue. He stated that there appeared to be no logic to the reasons given by An Bord Pleanala for the decision to refuse permission.

Councillor Stenson also strongly supported the motion. He stated that this most recent decision by them was an absolute disgrace. He stated that it was absolutely untrue to suggest that the Council's decision on this application was contrary to the County Development Plan. He stated that this area is crying out for development and expressed the hope that the application would be resubmitted. He stated that something needed to be done in relation to An Bord Pleanala and suggested that Regional Bodies should be considered.

Councillor McGowan also supported the motion and agreed that the appeal process should be regionalized in some way. Councillor Gerry Dolan and Councillor Shortt also supported the motion. Councillor Hughes supported the motion and referred to the Shannon/Erne Waterway which he suggested was the perfect example of what can be done and the huge benefits to be accrued to the local area.

Councillor Reynolds supported the motion and questioned what you can bring to an area if you cannot progress a tourism development. He suggested that it was amazing for any agency

to have made a decision such as this. He stated that Fine Gael policy in 2001/2002 was to regionalize An Bord Pleanala. He stated that planning in the west of Ireland is different to other parts of the country and while he believed that the concept of An Bord Pleanala is correct it certainly should be regionalized.

Councillor Brennan stated that he very much supported the points made. He stated that Leitrim County Council is the Planning Authority and that we employ professional planners who make decisions following careful consideration in the context of the County Development Plan. He stated that with the privilege of lodging an objection comes an obligation to be fair and objectors need to be responsible in putting forward their objection. He stated that An Bord Pleanala had been appointed by Government and must be responsible to the elected parliament. He referred to the Green Paper on Local Government published by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government and stated that it was a good opportunity to review An Bord Pleanala. He stated that, rightly or wrongly, there was a lack of confidence in An Bord Pleanala and at the very least he considered it should be regionalized. He stated that the appeals system should have a local basis and a feel for development in a local area. He stated that the decision in this instance by An Bord Pleanala gives no specifics in relation to the reasons for the decision in stark contrast to any decision by Leitrim County Council.

Councillor Bohan thanked the members for their support and requested that the motion be sent forward asking for the abolition of An Bord Pleanala as it is currently constituted. She stated that there should be an open debate in relation to what should replace the current arrangements.

Following a request for a show of hands all Members present indicated their support for the motion.

***Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor John McTernan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That An Bord Pleanala, as it is currently constituted, be abolished. We further propose that it be replaced by a more fair, competent and transparent agency to deal with planning appeals. That this motion be circulated to the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the Taoiseach and the Tanaiste."

***08/247***

***6/5/2008***

***Improvements to Roadway and Footpaths at Kilboderry***

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

"I propose that this Council carry out repairs and improvements to roadway and footpaths at Kilboderry, Carrick on Shannon, as planned. The residents have been patiently waiting for this work to be carried out for a long time."

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

"This work is scheduled to be carried out at the end of July"

**08/248**

**6/5/2008**

**Social Welfare - Pensions**

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

"This Council calls on the Minister for Social Welfare to give equal rights to pensions for assisting relatives in farms and businesses."

***Proposed by Councillor Aodh Flynn, seconded by Councillor Tony Ferguson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That this Council call on the Minister for Social Welfare to give equal rights to pensions for assisting relatives in farms and businesses."

**08/249**

**6/5/2008**

**Signage at Drumeela Church**

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

"I call upon Leitrim County Council to put in place immediately the necessary signage at Drumeela Church indicating the dangerous nature of the junction along with a sign indicating a concealed entrance. These signs were promised ages ago and are long overdue."

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

"Suitable signage has been ordered and we await delivery. The new signs will be erected as soon as they come to hand."

Councillor O'Rourke welcomed the reply. He advised that some good improvements have been implemented on this road. He stated that this junction needs to be adequately signed. The motion was supported by Councillor Ellis and Councillor Hughes.

**08/250**

**6/5/2008**

**2020 Vision – Sustainable Travel and Transport**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council prepare a detailed submission on the public consultation document "2020 Vision - Sustainable Travel and Transport" published recently by Department of Transport. I further propose that the Council request the Minister for Transport to appoint a nominee of this Council to the policy decision-making body. This would help ensure that the urban bias of recent policy development is challenged and that the interests of people in rural areas are protected and promoted in the eventual transport policy development."

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

"The Council are currently preparing a submission on this public consultation document. A

request can issue to the Minister for Transport requesting that a nominee of this Council be appointed to the policy decision-making body."

Councillor Colreavy outlined that he considered that the motion was too narrowly focused and proposed an amendment to his motion. He outlined the need for someone that we can influence and someone who will be accountable in ensuring that the views of rural people are represented. Councillor Ferguson and Councillor McDermott supported the motion. Councillor Flynn also supported the motion and outlined that local authority members have been excluded from virtually all state bodies. Councillor Reynolds supported this and outlined that there are now a range of State agencies including the HSE and NRA that nobody politically can raise questions with.

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council prepare a detailed submission on the public consultation document "2020 Vision-Sustainable Travel and Transport" published recently by the Department of Transport. I further propose that the Council request the Department of the Taoiseach to legislate that representatives of the Council for the West and the BMW region are appointed to each national policy-making and decision-taking body, including (but not exclusively) the National Transportation Policy Committee, National Roads Authority, Industrial Development Authority, An Bord Pleanála, Health Services Executive etc. This would help ensure that the urban bias of recent policy development is challenged and that the interests of people in rural areas are protected and promoted. That this motion be circulated to all local authorities in the Council of the West and the BMW region."

***08/251***

***6/5/2008***

***Substance Misuse and Underage Drinking***

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

"That we, the members of Leitrim County Council, call on the leaders of all the political parties in Ireland to place the problem of substance misuse, underage drinking and the difficulties associated with this behaviour at the top of their policies. It was evident that none of these issues were properly debated and discussed during the recent General Election campaign. We call for a real commitment to put a proper level of resources in all areas of the country e.g. Garda drug squads, customs and excise personnel, modern equipment, dog training with expert handlers and proper treatment facilities for those unfortunate enough to be caught up in this vicious circle."

Councillor Ferguson outlined that the motion had gone through and been supported by the Regional Authority. He stated that these issues should be a top priority for all political parties.

***Proposed by Councillor Tony Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Jim Joe Shortt AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That we, the members of Leitrim County Council, call on the leaders of all the political parties in Ireland to place the problem of substance misuse, underage drinking and the

difficulties associated with this behaviour at the top of their policies. It was evident that none of these issues were properly debated and discussed during the recent General Election campaign. We call for a real commitment to put a proper level of resources in all areas of the country e.g. Garda drug squads, customs and excise personnel, modern equipment, dog training with expert handlers and proper treatment facilities for those unfortunate enough to be caught up in this vicious circle."

**08/252**

**6/5/2008**

**Resurfacing of R201 - Killamaun**

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

"That resurfacing work on the 201 in the townland of Killamaun near Kellys house be carried out immediately and that this work include the reconstruction of storm drains."

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

"The resurfacing work is scheduled for the end of July. Patching will be carried out as necessary until the resurfacing work is carried out."

Councillor Frank Dolan moved the motion on behalf of Councillor Mulligan and requested that the storm-drains be addressed in the course of the works.

**08/253**

**6/5/2008**

**Any Other Business**

▪ **An Taoiseach**

Councillor Ferguson conveyed his best wishes to Bertie Aherne, T.D. as he retires from the position of Taoiseach and wished the incoming Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, T.D. well in his new position.

▪ **Electoral Commission**

Councillor Brennan informed the members of a recent meeting between the Fine Gael Members of the Council and Party Leader, Enda Kenny, T.D. He outlined that the outcome of the meeting was a commitment that a proposal would be put forward that a Term of Reference be given to the Constituency Commission that no county with a population below 45,000 would be split for Dáil Elections. He advised that it would be proposed that, subsequent to the Dáil discussion on the matter, the current proposals would be sent back to the Commission for reconsideration in the context of this additional Term of Reference.

▪ **Leitrim Comhairle na n-Óg**

Councillor Brennan informed the members that the launch of the Leitrim Comhairle na nÓg Newsletter, Helpline Card and Bebo Page, was taking place at 7.30pm in Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

**Part II - Questions.**

08/254

6/5/2008

**Public Lighting at Breffni Crescent, Carrick on Shannon**

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

"To ask the Director of Services what the up to date position is regarding the erection of public lighting at Breffni Crescent, Carrick on Shannon."

*Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;*

"A works programme has been agreed with the ESB and LCC will commence ducting work in 4 weeks time."

08/255

6/5/2008

**Killavoggy Road**

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

"To ask this Council as to when it is intended to have the Killyavoggy Road from McHughs Cross to the Iron Bridge, resurfaced, and to upgrade the Iron Bridge there."

*Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;*

"This section of road is included for upgrading in this years roads programme. Advanced drainage works are now complete, and the road resurfaced is scheduled for mid July. Regarding the upgrading the Iron bridge, a survey on this structure will take place before the end of year."

08/256

6/5/2008

**Lough Rynn Road, Mohill**

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

"To ask Mr. John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure, to include the provision of a footpath as part of the programme of works that are planned this year on the Rynn road out of Mohill as far as the turn off for Lough Rynn Hotel & Golf complex, this would provide a safe place for the large number of people who walk this section of road on a daily basis. The provision of the footpath would offer the local people and the many tourists who visit Mohill the chance to walk out as far as the turn for the Hotel, and return if they so wish on the R202 from the cross at Liam Ellis's house via Local Road No. LT-10532-0 through the wood and Swiss cottage, and it would be a very worthwhile tourist attraction for Mohill."

*Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure;*

"Roadworks are due to commence on the Lough Rynn road at the start of June. The work involves strengthening the road way and extending the existing footpath to the town speed

limits. A walking area will be provided from the speed limits. We are currently working on the design of the road strengthening works and once this is complete we will be in a position to finalised the detail of the walking area."

**08/257**

**6/5/2008**

**Junction on LS 7483-0**

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

"To ask Mr. John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure, to put in place a programme of works to improve the view at the junction on the Carrick-Mohill road at Laheenamona, of local road from Rosdoowaun-Tamlaghtavally LS-7483-0. It is extremely dangerous for the local community coming out onto the R201 with a limited view back towards Carrick and they are concerned and fearful for their safety, and they claim that it is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs there."

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

"Works of this nature are usually carried out under a Low Cost Safety Scheme. A proposal will be made to include this junction in the 2009 list of schemes."

**08/258**

**6/5/2008**

**Kiltoghert Graveyard**

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

"May I ask when will as previously promised a water connection be put in place at Kiltoghert Graveyard."

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

"The water supply can be provided if the local group water scheme are prepared to make the connection available."

**08/259**

**6/5/2008**

**Public Lighting at Gowel and Kilnagross**

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

"What progress has been made in getting the E.S.B to erect the public lights at Gowel and Killnagross."

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

"The ESB have been paid to erect lights in both locations. We are waiting on the ESB to put up the poles and commission the lights."

08/260

6/5/2008

**Curracar/Drummuker Roadway**

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

"To ask the Area Engineers Office, when will the Council pipe the ground adjacent to the Curracar/Drummuker roadway which has been the scene of a number of cars entering the ditch at this location and continues to pose an on-going danger."

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

"Works will be carried out to improve the safety at the drain"

08/261

6/5/2008

**Roat LT-13121 – Kiltygerry, Ballinamore**

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

"To ask the area engineers office if the council will resurface the roadway leading to Kiltygerry, Ballinamore (L3121). The road in question is in a very poor state of repair and requires pot hole filling in the interim."

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

"The LT-13121 will be listed as a possible pilot scheme. The patching uniting will call to this road the next time it is in the area."

08/262

6/5/2008

**Drumsna Harbour**

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

"At the May meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will again ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to contact Waterways Ireland to discuss the need for upgrading of the Harbour in Drumsna. There is currently no service area for boating tourists. Also I would ask the Director to follow up on the commitment given last year by Waterways Ireland to relocate and upgrade the 'End of Navigation' sign at the harbour as recommended by the Tidy Town's Competition adjudicators. The report from the Tidy Towns listed this sign as inappropriately located. Currently, there are no markers in the water to indicate the end of navigation and as a result a number of cruisers, yearly, head towards the bridge, become grounded and have to be towed out."

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

"These matters will be referred to WaterWays Ireland and the out come of these discussions will be relayed to the Councillor."

08/263

6/5/2008

**Signage - Carrick on Shannon Town**

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

"At the May meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure, to liaise with the business people of Carrick on Shannon town centre, with a view to selecting appropriate signage design and selecting key locations for installation of these signs which will indicate the wide selection of retail outlets within the town. Similar communal signage programmes have been developed in other towns throughout the country indicating the various shops available and have been successful in encouraging shoppers into their town centers."

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

"I can confirm that Leitrim County Council staff are available to discuss the matter of appropriate signage for Carrick on Shannon, and the business community or the Chamber of Commerce should contact my office to arrange a suitable date."

08/264

6/5/2008

**Water Supply – Carrick Road, Drumshanbo**

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

"Can I ask Leitrim County Council to take action to improve the poor water pressure currently being experienced by residents of the town of Drumshanbo especially in the vicinity of the Carrick Road, Moneynure and Corryard areas."

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

"We compiled Tender Documents and put this scheme out to Tender recently. Tenders are now in and we are hoping to sign contracts shortly. The works will involve new larger diameter watermain from Keane Tiles to Corryard Wood. This should solve the problems of poor pressure in this area."

08/265

6/5/2008

**Signage at Junction – Laragan to Drumshanbo**

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

"Can I ask Leitrim County Council to provide a STOP sign at the junction Laragan (LS 7305-0) to Drumshanbo. Currently traffic is not sure who has the right of way there and an accident is waiting to happen unless the sign is provided and the road marked to show what road has the right of way."

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

"The site will be inspected and the appropriate signs and road marking will be installed"

08/266

6/5/2008

**Public Lighting at Aughavas**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Jim Joe Short;***

"At the May Meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask the Director of Services Infrastructure to give serious consideration to providing public lighting at Aughavas along Regional Road No 201. There is so much activity in this area which includes the GAA Park and meeting rooms as well as a Post Office, Public Bar and Gymnasium"

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

"Quotations for the erection of public lighting at this location will be sought from the ESB, and depending on the cost the, the necessary lights could be provided on a phased bases starting at the Post Office."

08/267

6/5/2008

**Willowfield Road Junction, Ballinamore**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Jim Joe Short;***

"At the May Meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask the Director of Services Infrastructure if there will be a roundabout at the entrance to Willowfield Road, Ballinamore."

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

"As part of the development of the relief road in Ballinamore, there will be a roundabout at the junction of the relief road, R202 and R199. Due to the close proximity of the Willowfield Road to this proposed roundabout, it would not be desirable to construct a roundabout at the junction of the R199 and Willowfield Road."

08/268

6/5/2008

**Bridge at Tullybawn, Aughacashel**

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council what is the position with regard to putting in place the new bridge at Tullybawn, Aughacashel. The Director of Services, Mr. John McGuinness, informed me at the roads meeting in March that the bridge would be put in place early this year. We are now only a month away from the middle of the year and I request that the bridge be put in place immediately. Planning Permission for the erection of a new house across the bridge has been granted and the commencement of the building of this house is now ready to proceed."

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

"Funding has been made available to carry out this project this year. We are currently working on our Health & Safety and Traffic Management Plans for this project. We expect to

commence construction within the next three months."

**08/269**

**6/5/2008**

**Public Lighting at St. Mary's Church, Foxfield**

***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 erection of the new public lights at St. Mary's Church, Foxfield."

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

"Civil works have been carried out in conjunction with other works in this area. We are awaiting a quote from the Lighting Section of the ESB."

**08/270**

**6/5/2008**

**Bridge on Road L215, Meenkeeragh, Glenfarne**

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

"I will ask the Director of Services Infrastructure for an update on the work that has taken place on the bridge at Michael McLoughlin's house, Meenkeeragh, Glenfarne?"

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

"The single span masonry arch bridge at the location in question on L215 has been propped following recent damage. We are getting quotations at the moment from competent contractors for the grouting and guniting of the bridge, and hope to have the work completed in the coming weeks."

**08/271**

**6/5/2008**

**Regional Road R283 – Straduff, Kiltyclogher**

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

"Can I ask the Council if they would take a look at the timber fence at the end of a bridge on Regional Road N283 in the townland of Straduff, Kiltyclogher, as the timber has come away from the end of the bridge and there is a big drop down into the river. This is very dangerous."

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

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

**08/272**

**6/5/2008**

**Provision of Barrier Protection on Ballinamore Road, Keshcarrigan**

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to check provision of barrier on Ballinamore Road out of Keshcarrigan as they were to get back to me and where there is no white line from Letterfine to Mohill."

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

"There are two schemes in this years road programme at Letterfine and Toomans, following completion of these schemes lining will be put in place in accordance with the road regulations. The need for the provision of barrier protection on the Ballinamore Road out of Keshcarrigan will be assessed."

**08/273**

**6/5/2008**

**Disabled Persons Grant Scheme**

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

"In the event of an emergency request for a Disabled Person Grant and when the Occupational Therapist has sanctioned it why does it take a number of weeks to get this grant for the person concerned. I can provide example if required."

***Report by Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services;***

"The Council makes every effort to expedite emergency applications under the housing grant schemes. The response time in relation to emergency applications will be kept under review."

**08/274**

**6/5/2008**

**Public Lighting – Breffni Crescent**

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

"I will ask when improvement will be carried out to the public lighting at Breffni Crescent, Carrick on Shannon and what has been the outcome of the survey and study carried out by the Council staff and the ESB regarding public lighting on this estate. The present situation, where lights are out of order for months at a time, is causing difficulty to local residents, especially older people."

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

"A works programme has been agreed with the ESB and Leitrim County Council will commence ducting work in four weeks time."

**08/275**

**6/5/2008**

**Car Parking in Manorhamilton**

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

"What steps are being taken to provide car parking in Manorhamilton."

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

"Leitrim County Council have explored a number of options for additional car-parking spaces in Manorhamilton but as yet none have been successful, in one case the cost of site and developing same as car-park was not feasible due to excessive cost. In relation to Dillon Court, we are completing the resident's car park. This will create approx 26 spaces and relieve parking along the road. We are in continued contact with the liquidator regarding the potential for further parking. However, while they agree with the proposal in principle, they have a lot of legal issues to resolve in advance"

**08/276**

**6/5/2008**

**Resurfacing of Junction – Carrigallen**

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

"When will the necessary works to the road surface at the junction of the Bredagh road with the Main Street in Carrigallen be carried out."

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

"It is planned to carry out this work in conjunction with other Road Improvement Works in the area. This work will be carried out over the summer months."

**08/277**

**6/5/2008**

**Greener Homes Scheme – Sustainable Energy Ireland**

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

"What grants are available to people wishing to conserve domestic energy by way of improvements such as insulating roofs and walls, solar panel technology, draft elimination etc?"

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

"There are grants available under the Greener Homes Scheme which is administered by Sustainable Energy Ireland. This grant assists in meeting costs of items such as provision of solar heating systems, heat pumps, wood chip or pellet stoves or woodchip or pellet fuelled boilers. Grant levels range between €1,100 and €3,000 for boilers, stoves and heat pumps and the grants for solar panels are at rates of €250 and €350 per sq. metre up to a maximum of 6sq.metres.Full details of these grants are available on the SEI website [www.sei.ie/greenerhomes](http://www.sei.ie/greenerhomes). These appear to be the only categories for which grants are currently available."

**08/278**

**6/5/2008**

**Council Houses at Aras Breffni, Manorhamilton**

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

"When will the new Council houses at Aras Breffni, Manorhamilton be ready for occupation?"

***Report by Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services;***

"It is anticipated that the 14 units of accommodation at Aras Breffni, Manorhamilton will be ready for occupation in early June 2008."

**08/279**

**6/5/2008**

**Restoration of Streets and Pedestrian Crossings, Kinlough**

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure when will the pedestrian crossing and the surface dressing of all the streets in Kinlough take place."

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

"The permanent restoration of the streets in Kinlough and the provision of the pedestrian crossing will be out within the next two months"

**08/280**

**6/5/2008**

**Leitrim County Development Plan**

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

"I will ask the Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services, to address the difficulties experienced by persons wishing to build homes on their own lands but have no road frontage to meet the sight lines on their holding and to put in a clause to suit this in the new County Development Plan."

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

"Paragraph 3.02.06 of the Leitrim County Development Plan deals with road access for new developments. It states that road access should be on to minor roads where possible and that preference is given to sharing an existing road entrance where sight lines are adequate. It is acknowledged that there are many instances where an applicant doesn't have sufficient road frontage in his ownership to provide the required minimum sight distance. In such instances the applicant is asked to seek and secure the consent of adjacent landowners to the setting back and ongoing maintenance of the set back area so as to attain the required sight distance. While the County Development Plan stipulates the minimum requirements, each case is taken on its own merits and if it is considered safe and prudent to do so, discretion is exercised. However, it must be emphasised that safety of road users and indeed the future residents and users of the development is paramount."

08/281

6/5/2008

**Lough Rynn Road, Mohill**

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

"When is work on the Rinn road out from Mohill expected to start and will this work include a footpath as far as the Lough Rinn avenue."

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

"Roadworks are due to commence on the Lough Rynn road at the start of June. The work involves strengthening the road way and extending the existing footpath to the town speed limits. A walking area will be provided from the speed limits. We are currently working on the design of the road strengthening works and once this is complete we will be in a position to finalised the detail of the walking area."

08/282

6/5/2008

**No. 5 Cappagh Estate, Mohill**

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

"That significant and urgent repairs be carried out to No. 5 Cappagh Estate, Mohill."

***Report by Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services;***

"The Housing Department have not to date received a request for repairs to be completed at this dwelling. On receipt of a request from the Tenants this matter will be fully investigated."

***This concluded the business of the meeting at 7.15pm***

**Signed: Damian Brennan  
CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Signed: Aideen McGovern  
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

**Date: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008**