

**Minutes of Council Meeting held by Leitrim County Council  
In the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

**Members Present:**

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

*And Councillor Jim Joe Shortt, Cathaoirleach presiding*

**Officials Present:**

*Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager*  
*Ms K. Murphy, Head of Finance*  
*Mr J. Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community and Enterprise Development*  
*Mr. V Dwyer, A/Director of Services Infrastructure*  
*Mr. C. Tracey, A/Director of Services for Planning, Environment & Emergency Services*  
*Mr B. Kenny, Senior Engineer*  
*Mr W. Lowe, Senior Engineer*  
*Mr T. McGovern, A/Senior Engineer*  
*Mr. M. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer*  
*Mr G. Miney, Senior Executive Engineer*  
*Mr P. McMahan, A/Senior Executive Engineer*  
*Mr. S. Rynn, A/Senior Executive Engineer*  
*Mr. P. MacShera, A/Senior Executive Engineer*  
*Ms. A. McGovern, Meetings Administrator*  
*Mr G Cooke, Administrative Officer*  
*Ms S. Flynn, Administrative Officer*

At the outset of the meeting Councillor Stenson conveyed his apologies for not being present at the Annual Meeting and wished Councillor Jim Joe Shortt and Councillor Francis Gilmartin every success in their respective roles as Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach for the forthcoming year. He also congratulated Councillor Brennan on a very successful year as Cathaoirleach.

**08/347**

**7/7/08**

**Deimhniu Miontuairisci**

***Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis and unanimously resolved;***

“That the Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008, be adopted.”

***Proposed by Councillor Tony Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan and unanimously resolved;***

“That the Minutes of Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008, be adopted.”

Councillor McElgunn referred to Minute Ref No. 08/308 of Council Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in relation to ongoing works at Kiltoghert, Carrick on Shannon. He advised that he had received a number of complaints from residents in relation to the inadequacy of the pipe that is being laid at this location and asked that the matter be reviewed. This was supported by Councillor Sinead Guckian. Mr. Vincent Dwyer, A/Director of Services, Infrastructure confirmed that the matter would be investigated.

**08/348**

**7/7/08**

**Votes of Sympathy**

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

- *Seamus & Mary Kerrigan, Towneymoyle, Glencar, Co Leitrim on the death of Ann Kerrigan.*
- *Niall & Ann McEvoy, Drumcliffe, Sligo on the death of Aoife McEvoy.*
- *Liam Keegan, Rocullion, Cloone, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of Mrs Josephine Keegan.*
- *Cllr Victor Kiernan, Carrieglass, Longford on the death of Evelyn Kiernan.*
- *Mr Gerry Bulter, The Quay Bar, Drumsna, Co Leitrim & Mr. L Moreno, 101 Constitution House, Glacis Estate, Gibraltar on the death of Michelle Moreno*
- *Paddy & Eddie Guckian, Coreen, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of Frances Guckian.*
- *Mrs Ivy Fisher, Drummingore, Newtowngore, Co Leitrim on the death of Christopher Fisher.*
- *Mrs Peggy McTigue & Family, Hill Road, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim on the death of Paddy Ward.*
- *Moirra O'Rourke, Newtowngore, Co Leitrim on the death of Benny O'Rourke.*
- *Mrs Mildred McNally, Dromod Beg, Dromod, Co Leitrim on the death of Jack McNally.*
- *Mrs Martina McGarry, Corduff, Aughamore, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of George O'Toole.*
- *Denis O'Rourke, Ardwarey, Dromahaire on the death of Catherine O'Rourke.*
- *Mr Sean Flynn, St Patrick's Park, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Kathleen Flynn.*
- *Mr Johnny Lynch, St Patrick's Park, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of Catherine Lynch.*
- *Mr Hubert Flynn, Cloonshebane, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of Kathleen Flynn.*

08/349

7/7/2008

**Draft Parking Places Bye Laws 2008**

The Draft Parking Places Bye Laws 2008 in respect of the town of Carrick-on-Shannon, as circulated to the members, appear as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Stenson, Chairperson of the Transportation SPC advised that the Draft Bye-Laws had been considered in detail by the SPC following discussion and consultation with the Chamber of Commerce. He advised that the SPC unanimously recommended the Draft Bye Laws to the Council for adoption.

Councillor Guckian outlined that she was aware that the issue of signage had been raised throughout the public consultation process in relation to the Draft Bye-Laws and requested that appropriate signage be implemented as soon as possible and to ensure a smooth transition to the new arrangements. Councillor Stenson advised that this had been requested and agreed by the Transportation SPC. Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager confirmed that the Council is committed to the implementation of appropriate signage in this regard.

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

“That Leitrim County Council adopt Parking Places Bye-Laws 2008 in respect of the town of Carrick-on-Shannon in accordance with Section 36 of the Road Traffic Act 1994.”

08/350

7/7/2008

**Carrick on Shannon Taxi Stand Bye Laws 2008**

The Draft Carrick-on-Shannon Taxi Stand Bye Laws 2008 as circulated to the members, appear as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Stenson, Chairperson of the Transportation SPC advised that the Draft Bye-Laws had been considered in detail by the SPC following discussion and consultation. He advised that the SPC unanimously recommended the Draft Bye Laws to the Council for adoption.

***Proposed by Councillor Liam McElgunn, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council adopt the Carrick-on-Shannon Taxi Stand Bye Laws 2008 in accordance with the provisions of Section 84 of the Road Traffic Act 1961 as substituted by Section 15 of the Road Traffic Act 2002”.

08/351

7/7/2008

**Annual Report 2007**

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

***Proposed by Councillor Tony Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council Annual Report 2007 be adopted in accordance with Section 221(3) of the Local Government Act 2001.”

**08/352**

**7/7/08**

**Youth Council in County Leitrim**

The report in relation to the proposed establishment of a Youth Council in County Leitrim as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That the proposal to establish a Youth Council in County Leitrim be approved”.

**08/353**

**7/7/08**

**Higher Education Grant Scheme 2008**

Ms. Aileen McGovern, Meetings Administrator outlined that the Higher Education Grant Scheme for the 2008/2009 Academic year had not yet been received from the Department of Education & Science. The members expressed disappointment at the delay in the publication of the Scheme but considered that it would be appropriate to approve the Scheme in principle to ensure that there would be no delays in processing applications under the Scheme.

***Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Tony Ferguson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

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

**08/354**

**7/7/08**

**Cluainin Voluntary Housing Association Ltd**

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that Department approval is awaited in relation to this Scheme. She outlined that the matter has been put before the members to ensure that there are no delays in progressing the Scheme should Departmental approval be forthcoming.

***Proposed by Councillor Francis Gilmartin, seconded by Councillor John McTernan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That the raising of a loan not exceeding €3.5 million to be provided to Cluainin Voluntary Housing Association Ltd. for the construction of 22 unit Residential Group Home at Main Street, Drumkeerin, under Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992, subject to sanction from the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, be approved”.

Councillor Bohan thanked the staff of the Housing & Planning Departments of Leitrim County Council for their advice and assistance in relation to this project.

08/355

7/7/08

**Water & Waste Water Infrastructure Loan**

***Proposed by Councillor Tony Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That the raising of a loan not exceeding €4.1 million for the purposes of water and waste water infrastructure, in accordance with Section 106(2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, be approved”.

08/356

7/7/08

**Nomination to the Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council**

***Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin, seconded by Councillor John McTernan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Councillor Frank Dolan be nominated to the Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council”.

08/357

7/7/08

**Nomination of Members and Chairpersons to the Strategic Policy Committees**

Ms. Aileen McGovern, Meetings Administrator outlined that she had received formal notification of the following resignations from Strategic Policy Committees:

1. Councillor Liam McElgunn resigning as a member of the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee
2. Councillor Francis Gilmartin resigning as a member of the Housing & Corporate Services Strategic Policy Committee
3. Councillor Gerard Reynolds resigning as a member of the Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development Strategic Policy Committee

***Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Councillor Francis Gilmartin be nominated to the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee”.

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

“That Councillor Liam McElgunn be nominated to the Housing & Corporate Services Strategic Policy Committee”.

***Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin, seconded by Councillor Gordon Hughes AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Councillor Thomas Mulligan be nominated to the Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development Strategic Policy Committee”.

Ms. Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator outlined that she had received formal notification of the following resignations as Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees:

1. Councillor Aodh Flynn resigning as Chairperson of the Housing & Corporate Services Strategic Policy Committee.
2. Councillor Mary Bohan resigning as Chairperson of the Planning Strategic Policy Committee
3. Councillor Sean McDermott resigning as Chairperson of the Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development Strategic Policy Committee

***Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Councillor Liam McElgunn be elected Chairperson of the Housing & Corporate Services Strategic Policy Committee”.

***Proposed by Councillor Tony Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Francis Gilmartin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Councillor Caillian Ellis be elected Chairperson of the Planning Strategic Policy Committee”.

***Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin, seconded by Councillor Damian Brennan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Councillor Thomas Mulligan be elected Chairperson of the Community, Cultural and Enterprise Development Strategic Policy Committee”.

Councillor Ellis proposed that the Planning Strategic Policy Committee meetings commence at 6.00pm. This was seconded by Councillor John McTernan and agreed by the members. Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager confirmed that this was a matter for the members and would not present a difficulty.

Councillor Colreavy requested clarification on the names of the Chairpersons of the Transportation and the Water, Environment & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committees. Ms. Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator confirmed that there were no changes to the Chairpersons of these Strategic Policy Committees. Councillor Enda Stenson remains as Chairperson of the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee while Councillor Gordon Hughes remains as Chairperson of the Water, Environment and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee.

**08/358  
7/7/08**

***Leitrim Integrated Development Company Ltd***

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that the guidelines for the Integrated Development Company stipulate that members of the Board cannot hold a position on both the Integrated Development Company and the County Development Board. She outlined that the Chairpersons of the Strategic Policy Committee automatically become members of the

Corporate Policy Group and in turn of the County Development Board. She outlined that Councillor Mulligan, as Chairperson of the Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development Strategic Policy Committee could not also hold a position on the Integrated Development Company.

Councillor Mulligan advised that he wished to tender his resignation from the Leitrim Integrated Development Company in the circumstances.

***Proposed by Councillor Thomas Mulligan, seconded by Councillor Tony Ferguson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Councillor Frank Dolan be nominated to the Leitrim Integrated Development Company Ltd”.

It was agreed that Councillor Colreavy’s Motion, which also relates to this matter, could be taken at this point.

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

"That Leitrim County Council amend the Councillor representation on Leitrim Integrated Development Company to ensure equality of Councillor representation between electoral areas, and that the Council adopt a principle that Councillor representation on any Company, Body or Board should - where numerically possible - always ensure area equality. As currently constituted, the Integrated Development Company has no Councillor representation from north of the county."

Councillor Colreavy welcomed the rectification of the situation whereby North Leitrim inadvertently did not have a Councillor representative on the Integrated Development Company. He indicated that he would have liked to have been offered the position but welcomed Councillor Frank Dolan’s nomination and outlined that the important issue is that North Leitrim now has representation. Councillor Gilmartin reminded Councillor Colreavy that he represents a significant part of North Leitrim.

Councillor Colreavy referred to the second part of his motion which relates to the principle of ensuring that Councillor representation on any company, body or board should, where numerically possible, always ensure area equality. He outlined that the Community Forum have also put forward this suggestion. He outlined that there needed to be a fair and equitable system in place. Councillor McDermott outlined that he agreed that there needed to be equity in representation but suggested that this matter could be dealt with in making appointments following the Local Elections in 2009.

Councillor Flynn outlined that such a situation has always existed and cited the case of the former North Western Health Board on which there had been 3 representatives from the Carrick Electoral Area for some 20 years. He queried whether the situation in relation to the prohibition of dual representation on the County Development Board and the Integrated Development Company applies to community groups also. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager confirmed that this applies to all representatives and confirmed that the Community Groups have been made aware of this requirement and are currently addressing it.

Councillor Guckian expressed concern that, with the resignation of Councillor Mulligan, the Carrick on Shannon Electoral Area, the largest Electoral Area, is not now represented through

Leitrim County Council nominations to the Integrated Development Company. Councillor Guckian advised that she represents the Leitrim County Enterprise Board on the Integrated Development Company. She outlined that she was capable of representing the Carrick Area and the entire county but indicated that she hoped, going into the future, that all areas would be represented.

Councillor Colreavy outlined that if his proposal were approved such a situation would not arise again. He clarified that his proposal would ensure that if there are four Councillor places on any committee, board etc there would be one Councillor nominee from each Electoral Area appointed. Councillor McGloin outlined that he would have no difficulty in supporting the principle in relation to representation on any body which relates to the development of the county but not necessarily outside of this. Councillor Reynolds outlined that he was supportive of the principle in relation to the Integrated Development Company but not necessarily in relation to all representation. Following discussion Councillor Colreavy indicated that he was happy that the first part of his motion had been satisfactorily addressed and that he was prepared to postpone further consideration of the second aspect of his motion.

Councillor Ferguson outlined that he understood that there were additional Councillor places on the Boards of Integrated Development Companies in counties where there is a Town Commissioners. He asked that the Council seek clarification in relation to any additional places on the Board of the Integrated Development Company in Leitrim. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager undertook to seek clarification in this regard.

*08/359*  
*7/7/08*

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

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

“That Leitrim County Council approve of Local Improvement Scheme No 2865 in the name of Reginald Bailey, Killoman. Coolegraine at the estimated value of €68,465.25”.

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

“That Leitrim County Council approve of Local Improvement Scheme No 2633 in the name of Gerard McCartin, Oughteragh, Ballinamore at the estimated value of €79,929.26.

Councillor McGowan queried the average cost of a Local Improvement Scheme. Mr. V. Dwyer, A/Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that the average cost of an LIS job would be approximately €27,000/€28,000.

*08/360*  
*7/7/2008*

**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 Committee Update Report**

Two Strategic Policy Committees meetings had take place since the last meeting of the Corporate Policy Group – the Transportation SPC and the Community, Cultural and Enterprise Development SPC

### **Transportation Strategic Policy Committee**

The meeting of the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2008 had considered submissions received regarding the Draft Carrick-on-Shannon (Parking Places) and Taxi Stand Bye-Laws 2008. Both Draft Bye-Laws had been recommended, following detailed consideration, by the SPC to the Corporate Policy Group and the Council for adoption. The report from the Transportation SPC as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book. Both matters were listed for consideration on the agenda for the Council meeting.

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

The meeting of the Community, Cultural and Enterprise Development Strategic Policy Committee had reviewed progress on the Leitrim County Council Play Policy – the Policy is currently under review and will be considered further by the SPC prior to being brought before the Corporate Policy Group and the Council. The SPC had also considered the proposed establishment of a Youth Council in Leitrim and had recommended the proposal to the Corporate Policy Group and the Council for approval. The report from the Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development SPC as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 6** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book. The proposal in relation to the establishment of a Youth Council was listed for consideration on the agenda for the Council meeting.

#### **▪ Resignations of the Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons**

The Corporate Policy Group noted the resignations of the Chairpersons of the Housing & Corporate Services SPC, the Planning SPC and the Community, Cultural and Enterprise Development SPC. This matter was listed for consideration on the agenda for the Council meeting.

#### **▪ Workshops draft Leitrim County Development Plan**

The Corporate Policy Group noted the planned workshops in relation to the Draft Leitrim County Development Plan 2009-2015.

#### **▪ 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.

**08/361**

**7/7/2008**

### **Correspondence**

*The following correspondence was circulated to the members;*

1. Letter from Waterways Ireland dated 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008 in relation to the public berthing facilities at Leitrim Village, Co Leitrim.

Councillor Gilmartin highlighted that Waterways Ireland hadn't responded to earlier correspondence in relation to this matter and suggested that a reminder system needed

to be put in place in relation to securing responses to correspondences arising from Council meetings. He requested that such correspondences be followed up for response.

Councillor McGloin outlined that he understood that part of the issue in relation to the berthing at Leitrim Village is that a meeting of the North South Ministerial Council is awaited. He requested that a follow-up letter issue to Waterways Ireland to clarify that this is the situation and ensure that the matter is listed on the agenda and is progressed. He outlined that he understood that Waterways Ireland have difficulties with the developer and are in correspondence with Solicitors for the Developer in this regard. He stated that a more hands-on approach is required by Waterways Ireland. He requested that a copy of the Waterways Ireland letter together with a copy of our follow-up letter be forwarded to Minister Eamon O'Cuiv requesting that he become involved in progressing the matter.

2. Letter from Department of Finance dated 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in relation to the National Irish Bank Closures in Leitrim.
3. Memo from Pat Love, Secretary, Co Leitrim Community Forum dated 27<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in relation to the councillor's representation on the new County Leitrim Integrated Body.
4. Letter from Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure dated 20<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in relation to the 2008 Grant allocation for the Local Improvements Scheme.
5. Letter from the Office of the Minister for Social & Family Affairs dated 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 acknowledging receipt of letter from Leitrim County Council dated 26<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in relation to the resolution passed by the members regarding pensioners in receipt of UK and US pensions.
6. Letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008 from Minister Eamonn Ryan, in relation to Broadband facilities in rural areas.

Councillor Kenny noted the contents of Minister Ryan's letter but queried the statistics quoted in relation to broadband availability and the level of provision nationwide which he suggested does not at all reflect the position on the ground. Councillor McGloin requested that the Community & Enterprise Directorate provide details for the September Council meeting on the position in relation to Broadband availability in the county. He suggested that we should then go back to Minister Ryan in relation to the situation in Leitrim.

Councillor Guckian complimented the tremendous work of the Community & Enterprise and Infrastructure Directorates of Leitrim County Council in assisting private enterprise through access to sites etc for broadband provision.

Councillor O'Rourke outlined the urgency of the Eircom Broadband roll-out and expressed concern in relation to the delays in the schedule. He outlined that private operators are constrained by land levels etc and will only operate where it is more feasible. Councillor Hughes welcomed the Minister's recent announcements in relation to Broadband but queried the statistics quoted in relation to broadband availability. He also expressed concern at the delays to the Eircom Broadband roll-out.

7. Letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> July 2008 from the Administrative Officer in Housing in relation to extending the original closing date of receipt of valid entries for the Leitrim County Council Housing Awards Scheme 2008.

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

**Correspondence to Office of Public Works:**

Councillor Gilmartin asked that a reminder issue to the Office of Public Works querying why no response was received in relation to correspondence regarding the renovation of Keshcarrigan Garda Station.

Councillor Ellis expressed disappointment that no correspondence had been received from the OPW in relation to a new roadway at Fenagh Abbey. Councillor McTernan outlined that requests for the OPW to attend a Council meeting in relation to Creevelea Abbey had also been unsuccessful. It was proposed that the OPW be requested to attend a Council meeting to discuss both matters.

**Taking in Charge Policy:**

Councillor Reynolds sought clarification in relation to the fee to be charged for the third and any subsequent inspections under the recently adopted Taking in Charge Policy. Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager confirmed that the fee would be a flat rate of €1,000 for a third and any subsequent inspection. She confirmed that the policy document was being amended to correctly reflect this position.

**Sligo General Hospital:**

Councillor Ferguson asked that a reminder issue to Sligo General Hospital in relation to the request for an outline of the general services provided at the hospital. He also requested that the members be re-circulated with a response previously received from Sligo General in relation to the Hospital Treatment Purchase Scheme. He stated that it is a disgrace that Sligo General Hospital should be one of the hospitals cited as not maximising this scheme. This was supported by Councillor Bohan who outlined that she was very disappointed to see Sligo named in this context. Councillor Kenny stated that his experience of Sligo General Hospital is that they do their utmost to provide the best possible service.

**Farm Waste Management:**

Councillor Mc Dermott asked that a reminder issue to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in relation to the extension of the Farm Waste Management Scheme.

**MABS (Money Advice & Budgeting Service)**

Councillor Reynolds outlined that he had just been made aware of the major difficulties in MABS offices throughout the country arising from the current economic crisis. He outlined the invaluable services provided by the Leitrim MABS office staffed by only one Advisor and one Secretary. He outlined that MABS Offices are unable to cope with the numbers now seeking advice. Cllr Reynolds proposed that a letter issue to the Taoiseach and the Minister for Social, Community & Family Affairs highlighting the crisis situation nationally and requesting that no cut-backs be considered in this area and that the matter of the provision of additional funding and additional Advisors be considered. He requested that the Motion be forwarded to all Local Authorities seeking support. The motion was seconded by Councillor Ferguson and was supported by all the members.

**September Council Meeting:**

Councillor Frank Dolan proposed that the September monthly meeting of the Council be held in North Leitrim, on Lough Gill. This was seconded by Councillor McTernan and agreed by

the members. Councillor Brennan supported the motion and outlined the importance of promoting and highlighting the facilities available.

### **Pedestrian Crossings**

Councillor Stenson referred to maps received by Members for the Carrick Area in relation to proposed pedestrian crossings in Mohill Town and queried whether there would be an opportunity to discuss the matter. It was agreed that a meeting could be organised with the Members for the Carrick Area to consider the matter.

### **Clean Up of Bridges**

Councillor Ferguson highlighted that many of the Bridges entering the County have been left with grass along the edges. He asked that these be cleaned up.

**08/362**

**7/7/8**

### **Conferences**

***Proposed by Councillor Damian Brennan, seconded by Councillor Tony Ferguson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the;

- Attendance of Councillor Enda Stenson, Councillor Mary Bohan and Councillor Enda McGloin at the 6<sup>th</sup> National Tourism Conference at the Ramada Hotel & Suites at Killerig Golf Resort, Killerig, Co Carlow from the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Sinead Guckian, Councillor Sean McDermott and Councillor Tony Ferguson at the Regional Seminar on the Green Paper on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2008 in the Clarion Hotel, Sligo.
- Attendance of Councillor John McTernan at the Western River Basin District Advisory Council meeting in Oranmore Lodge, Galway on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008.
- Attendance of Paschal Mooney at the Library Committee meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon.
- Attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the N.T.A.C.C Seminar at the Radison Hotel, Sligo on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the Shannon River Basin Advisory Council meeting in Punch’s Hotel, Limerick on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Jim Joe Shortt and Councillor Caillian Ellis at the Irish Public Bodies AGM in Croke Park, Dublin on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Aodh Flynn 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 Councillor Gordon Hughes and Councillor Martin Kenny at the Synge Summer School in Avondale House and Forest Park , Rathdrum, Co Wicklow on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2008 - 5<sup>th</sup> July 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Gerry Dolan at the Byrne Perry Summer School in Gorey, Co Wexford on the 27<sup>th</sup> –29<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

- Attendance of Councillor Caillian Ellis at ICBAN meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in Sligo.
- Attendance of Councillor Caillian Ellis at Combat Poverty Meeting in Dublin on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the Launch of flights of Fancy in the Leitrim Marina Hotel on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the opening of the new LAPWD offices in Mohill on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Franics Gilmartin at the Official opening of the An Tostal in Drumshanbo on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Gordon Hughes at the MacGill Summer School in the Glenties, Co Donegal from July 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> July 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Mary Bohan and Councillor Paddy O'Rourke at The "Baltimore" Training Seminar for Councillors on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2008 to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2008 in the West Cork Hotel, Skibbereen, West Cork.
- Attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson at the Arigna Leader meeting on new Programmes in Manorhamilton on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson at the Western Inter County Railway Committee meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in Knock.
- Attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson at the Western River Basin Advisory Committee in Oranmore on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson at the Conferring Honorary Degrees at the National University of Ireland, Galway on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

***Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin, seconded by Councillor Gordon Hughes AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Enda McGloin at the IPA Green Paper on Local Government in the Clarion Hotel. Sligo on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2008."

***Proposed by Councillor Gerard Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Gordon Hughes AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Gerard Reynolds and Councillor Gordon Hughes at the Synge Summer School in Rathdrum, Co Wicklow on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2008 to 5<sup>th</sup> July 2008."

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

"That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Jim Joe Shortt, Councillor Thomas Mulligan and Councillor Damian Brennan at the Local Government

Planning Service in the West Cork Hotel, Skibbreen, Co Cork on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> July 2008.”

***Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Thomas Mulligan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Damian Brennan, Cllr Gerry Dolan, Cllr Enda Stenson, Cllr Martin Kenny and Cllr John McTernan at the Mac Gill Summer School in the Glenties, Co Donegal on the 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> July 2008.”

***Proposed by Councillor Damian Brennan, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Damian Brennan, Cllr Thomas Mulligan, Cllr Enda Stenson, Cllr Enda McGloin and Cllr John McTernan at the Sliabh Luachra Summer School in Rockchapel, Co Cork on the 5<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> August 2008.

***Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Damian Brennan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Martin Kenny at the Synge Summer School on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June to July 5<sup>th</sup> 2008 at Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co Wicklow.

***Proposed by Councillor Martin Kenny, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Gerry Dolan at the Local Government Planning Service in West Cork Hotel, Skibbreen, West Cork on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

***Proposed by Councillor Martin Kenny, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Gerry Dolan at Combat Poverty in Dublin on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

***Proposed by Councillor Thomas Mulligan seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

*That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Damian Brennan, Cllr Gerry Dolan, Cllr Martin Kenny and Cllr Enda McGloin at the John Hewitt International Summer School on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2008 in the Marketplace Theatre Arts Centre, Armagh.*

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

08/363

7/7/08     **Road works at Leitrim Village**

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

"To ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure as to when its intended to start major long awaiting road works in Leitrim Village which also includes footpaths."

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

"A traffic calming scheme was included in the 2008 Programme of Works for Leitrim Village and is been funded under a Specific Improvement Scheme. This scheme is currently under construction."

Councillor Gerry Dolan outlined that there is a considerable amount of concern in relation to parking proposals and suggested that a meeting should be organized between the Council and local residents and business interests.

Councillor McGloin outlined that he recalled that there had been a meeting with a representative group from Leitrim Village on foot of detailed proposals put forward for works in the village. He outlined that the views expressed had been noted and taken on board prior to proceeding to public consultation. He outlined that he did not understand why there was now a problem. Councillor Gerry Dolan stated that the business people in the village claim they were not aware of any meeting. They are very concerned and feel that allowing parking will assist in slowing down the traffic through the village.

Councillor Gilmartin outlined that there had been a number of meetings in Leitrim Village in relation to the proposed works. He advised that a sub-committee had been established to meet with the Council in this regard. He outlined that no matter how you try to address the parking issue someone will be affected and you have to seek to find a compromise. He stated that the proposed works were brought out to Leitrim Village and have been on display in a shop in Leitrim Village.

Mr. Ciaran Treacy, A/Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services outlined that there had been at least 5 Public Notices erected in the Village during the Part 8 Public consultation process. He advised that notice was placed in a shop window and announcements were made at Mass in recent weeks in advance of the works commencing.

**08/364**

**7/7/08**

***Clean up around Castlefore Lake in Fenagh***

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council carry out the necessary clean up around Castlefore Lake in Fenagh. This clean-up was promised to the local community last April and is required due to the fact that Leitrim County Council have left it in its present position"

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

"The required works will be carried out in combination with planned works in the Road programme and will be completed by the end of July."

Councillor Ellis welcomed the reply.

**08/365**

**7/7/08**

***Urban Framework Plan for the Villages of Dromod & Rooskey***

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

"To ask the Co. Manager, what is the delay in the bringing forward of Urban Framework Plan for the Villages of Dromod & Rooskey, (a commitment was given that the plan would be in place by now) in view of the fact that both villages have been by-passed I believe that it is vitally important that the framework plan should be put in place as quickly as possible for the future development of the villages. I would ask that both communities would be consulted during the preparation of the plan."

***Report by Senior Planner, Planning***

"The Forward Planning Section has been heavily engaged in the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan. While it was considered that work on the UFP's might take place during the "Display Period", on going work on the Retail Strategy, Housing Strategy and the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Plan has had to take precedence during this period. The matter is under constant review to see where resources may be freed up. The Manager will investigate the possibility of obtaining additional resources to enable the preparation of the Urban Framework Plans to be outsourced, if necessary"

Councillor McGowan queried if it was envisaged that works would commence in 2008. Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that some of the issues have been dealt with through the Land Use Strategy. She outlined that it had been hoped to be in a position to undertake these Plans in-house. She advised that if funds can be identified the Plan will be progressed in the current year.

Councillor Reynolds and Councillor Guckian supported the motion.

**08/366**

**7/7/07**

***Realignment of the Crossroads at Drumcoura***

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

"To ask the area engineers office when will the realignment of the crossroads at Drumcoura commence in order to improve visibility at this dangerous junction. Can I also ask what is the present position regarding the completion of the widening/resurfacing of the roadway from Aughoo Bridge towards Drumcoura in order to compliment the excellent work done to date".

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

"Improvement works are underway at this junction under the Restoration Improvement grant. This work will include new road marking and the erection of signage. Any additional works from Aughoo bridge to Drumcoura will have to be included in the 2009 Roads Work Programme."

Councillor Hughes welcomed confirmation that works are underway at this junction. He referred to the second part of his motion and urged that the remaining section of road be included in next years roads budget. Mr. V. Dwyer, A/Director of Services, Infrastructure confirmed that these works would be included for consideration for funding in 2009. He also highlighted that significant funding was expended at Swan Island in 2007.

Councillor Ellis supported the motion and complimented the Area Office on the works undertaken. He expressed disappointment that nothing had happened at Corrawallen and referred to a commitment at the April Council meeting in relation to works and signage at this location. He asked that the matter be reviewed and that the A/Director of Services revert to

him in this regard.

Councillor Kenny also supported the motion and highlighted the issue of getting lights erected at this location.

It was agreed that Motion No. 26 submitted by Councillor O'Rourke which is a similar motion would be dealt with at this point.

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

"I wish to complement Leitrim County Council on the excellent work carried out at Drumcoura on the Carrigallen - Ballinamore Road which I had repeatedly called for. However there still exists a very hazardous section that being from the crossroads over to the road leading to Keenkeen. This road is only 4 metres wide in places with a few very bad bends along with a steep incline at one point. I call upon Leitrim County Council to continue the road widening along this area in order to make it safe."

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

"Significant works have been carried out on this road during the past few weeks and funding exists only to complete same. This road would benefit from additional work and can be included as part of the 2009 roadworks programme."

Councillor O'Rourke outlined that his motion refers to the narrow stretch of road now existing at this location, with a steep incline and overhanging hedges, and he outlined that he is calling for this to be addressed as soon as possible.

Councillor Hughes queried if Development Charges levied in respect of developments in this area would be allocated to carrying out the necessary works. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager advised that the stretch of road concerned would have to be examined in terms of identifying the best options.

08/367

7/7/08

***Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with Disability***

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

"Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to review the Housing (Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability), Regulations 2007 to cater for circumstances where there has been a change in income circumstances in the current year. The Regulations currently require that the grant is means tested based on income in the previous tax year and no discretion is allowed. No provision is made for a change in financial circumstances as a result of accident/injury/disability which can cause significant hardship and this situation must be addressed. Other legislation and guidelines have made provision for such circumstances."

Councillor McElgunn outlined that there must be discretion in relation to situations where financial circumstances have changed as a result of disability. The motion was strongly supported by all the members.

Councillor Flynn highlighted the complexity of the Revenue Commissioners Tax Clearance Form that must be completed by applicants in respect of these grants and suggested that this matter should also be reviewed by the Department.

08/368

7/7/08

**Decentralisation**

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

"May I ask the County Manager [A] Do we know what number of jobs actually came to Leitrim as a result of decentralization, and [B] Do we still expect the Central Fisheries Board to come to Carrick."

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

"There are approximately 140 staff working in the decentralised Department of Social Community & Family Affairs Office in Carrick-on-Shannon. Discussions are still progressing in relation to the proposed decentralisation of the Central Fisheries Board to Carrick on Shannon."

Councillor Stenson welcomed the 140 jobs currently in place and expressed the hope that the Central Fisheries Board decentralization will be successfully progressed.

Councillor Ferguson outlined that part of the brief of the recently appointed new CEO is to arrange for the redeployment of the staff of the Central Fisheries Board to Carrick-on-Shannon. This was welcomed by the members. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined that she was aware that discussions were at an advanced stage in relation to the decentralization programme for the Central Fisheries Board and advised that there should be a clearer picture before the end of the year on this matter.

Councillor Mulligan welcomed the figure of 140 but outlined that it falls short of the original figure of 180-200. He outlined that the Council needs to keep on top of the matter and do what we can to ensure that the original commitments are delivered upon. Councillor McGowan supported the motion and welcomed the jobs which have come to Carrick on Shannon to date. He also welcomed the news of the appointment of the new Chief Executive for the Central Fisheries Board and said he hoped that the redeployment of staff to Carrick-on-Shannon would be sooner rather than later.

Councillor Guckian welcomed the progress and suggested that we should now start boking for further Departments/Statutory Agencies to be decentralized to Carrick-on-Shannon which is an ideal location. This was supported by Councillor McGloin who outlined the facilities available in Carrick-on-Shannon and the importance of promoting these.

Councillor Bohan outlined that considerable progress has been made in relation to the Central Fisheries Board decentralization. She outlined that the former CEO, the OPW and other staff have visited Carrick on Shannon and negotiations are ongoing in relation to a suitable premises. This progress was welcomed by the members.

08/369

7/7/08

**Traffic Calming System at Filling Station on the Sligo Road**

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

"At the July meeting of Leitrim County Council I will propose that the N.R.A. be requested to immediately introduce a proper traffic calming system at the filling station on the Sligo Road,

Manorhamilton. Presently it is just a fatality waiting to happen."

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

"There is already a right-turn lane in place on the N16 along the frontage of the petrol station to encourage patrons to use the entrance closest to the town centre as the safest option for access. The proprietor is willing to co-operate in introducing a one-way system through the forecourt to promote the use of the opening at the Western side as a dedicated exit only. From this point the maximum possible sight distance is available of traffic approaching from the town centre. The service station is within the 50 km/hr speed limit and we have applied to the NRA for permission to introduce a 60 km limit to the West as far as Windy Bridge."

Councillor Frank Dolan outlined that he had previously raised this matter. He welcomed the proposal to extend the speed limit but outlined that the current speed limit is being ignored and that some other method of slowing down the traffic is required. He outlined that there is an onus on the NRA to address this issue.

Councillor Ferguson seconded the motion. Councillor Colreavy also supported the motion and outlined that he believed that there are four separate points in Manorhamilton, as set out in his Question on the Agenda, which urgently need to be considered. Councillor Flynn also supported the motion and suggested that speed cameras are the only means of getting traffic to slow down.

**08/370**

**7/7/08 Postal Deliveries in Rural Areas.**

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

"This Council expresses its concern with the introduction of deregulation of postal deliveries and its effects on the door to door deliveries in rural areas."

Councillor Flynn outlined that deregulation comes into effect in 2009. He outlined that private companies will have the right to come in and carry out deliveries. He outlined the fear that such companies will cherry-pick and leave the rural deliveries to An Post with the possibility that rural deliveries will be cut to 3 days per week or roadside letter-boxes etc. He requested that Leitrim County Council call on the Government to ensure that those who get licences have an onus to deliver to both rural and urban areas.

This was strongly supported by all the members.

**08/371**

**7/7/08 Health Centre at Kilyclogher**

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

"At the July council meeting I will ask the council to have a look once again at the entry into the Health Centre in Kilyclogher. There is no entry from the roadway onto the footpath that is conveniently close to the front door of the Health Centre. This is a great inconvenience for older people. I have raised this problem in the past."

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

"The Health Centre in Kiltyclogher, and public footpath fronting it, is located well below the level of the public street. The footpath is separated from the street by a retaining wall and a grass median which contains some trees, mainly of the flowering cherry variety. This arrangement extends along the full length of the street from the Church to the old Courthouse. At intervals, there are a number of concrete ramps which provide access to dwellings, yards etc., There is one such ramp, approx 4.00 metres wide within 10 metres of the front door of the Clinic. This represents what must be described as convenient access for the public and contains an acceptable gradient for disabled access. In any event, it should be within the remit of the HSE to improve access to their premises, if they consider it necessary to do so."

**08/372**  
**7/7/08**

**Fair Trade Products**

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

"Could I ask this Council could they use fair-trade products in their canteen where possible? This would help to give a fair wage for those who work to produce such products. Can this council forward this motion to all other County Councils?"

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

"The Council fully supports the proposal and the matter will be referred to the Canteen Committee for implementation."

Councillor Gilmartin welcomed the reply and confirmed that the motion will be forwarded to all other Local Authorities.

**08/373**  
**7/7/08**

**Road LT42641-0 Derinaher Dromahair**

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

"I propose that the section of road LT42641-0 Derinaher Dromahair which is not a public road at present, be taken into charge by Leitrim County Council."

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

"This section of road is presently in poor repair and needs some improvement works to bring it up to an acceptable standard. The road owners should consider making an application to the Council for a Pilot scheme, a 25% local contribution would be required.

Following the completion of the necessary improvement works the Council will consider its taking in charge."

Councillor Bohan outlined that she was slightly disappointed with the reply which indicates that a Pilot Scheme requiring a 25% contribution would be required. She outlined that there are a number of young people now living on this local road and it is unfair to ask them to contribute. She requested that the position be reconsidered and that the Council consider making the road public in its current condition. This was supported by Councillor McTernan. Mr. Vincent Dwyer, A/Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that an LIS was carried out

on this road in the last 12 years and such a scheme cannot again be considered. He confirmed that the position would be considered further and he would revert to Councillor Bohan in this regard.

Councillor Kenny on a general point of information queried the policy position in relation to pilot schemes and roads becoming public roads. It was agreed that this would be a matter for consideration by the Transportation SPC.

**08/374**

**7/7/08 Housing Grant Schemes**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council seek an urgent meeting with the Minister for Housing, Mr Michael Finneran TD. to discuss the on going difficulties that this council has with the Department of Environment regarding 2 issues,

The difficulty in progressing grant aid for urgently required remedial works for some local authority estates in South Leitrim & the current difficulties this local authority has(as reported to members at the June meeting) in relation to the provision in the current year of the Housing Aid for the Elderly grant scheme."

Councillor McGloin outlined the difficulties in relation to both issues and stated that the intervention of the Minister was required in relation to both of these issues. In relation to the Housing Grant Schemes he queried whether there was adequate funding in place to cover our commitments up to the end of the year. Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined the position in relation to the Grants allocation for 2008 and advised that an application would be made to the Department seeking approval to the re-allocation of funding between the new and old grant schemes. She highlighted that the availability of match-funding for these schemes from own resources could be a very significant issue in 2009.

Councillor McGloin queried whether it was envisaged that a situation would arise where we would have to stop accepting applications. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager outlined that the situation may well arise where we do not have the resources to pay out on grants when payment is requested. She outlined that there is over €m in approvals issued under the various grant schemes and it is a matter of when these come forward for payment.

Councillor McGloin asked if there were any resources available for small works outside of a Remedial Works Scheme for estates such as Dristernan, Drumshanbo. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager advised that the Council's own resources have already been allocated. She outlined that, given the level of activity under the Tenant Purchase Scheme, there would be a difficulty in realising our internal resource requirements going forward. Councillor McGloin requested that works be undertaken to the pathway to OPD houses in Dristernan – he outlined that one of the Council's tenants at this location will be celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday in the coming weeks. Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager agreed that this matter would be progressed.

Councillor Gilmartin supported the motion and proposed that a delegation from Leitrim County Council meet with Minister Michael Finneran, T.D. He also stated, in relation to the grant schemes, that where an applicant is very sick, these applications should be processed as a matter of urgency and some process needs to be put in place in this regard. He also raised the issue of the condition of the Courthouse in Drumshanbo and asked that the grass cutting and other works committed to be carried out without further delay.

Councillor Kenny also supported the motion and expressed disappointment in relation to difficulties in securing funding under the Remedial Works Scheme. He suggested that a further appeal should be made to the Department in this regard. In relation to the Housing Grants he outlined that he understood that a number of local authorities have already run out of funding. He stated that it would be very disappointing if such a situation arose in Leitrim.

Councillor Mulligan supported the motion and asked that everything possible be done to secure funding for the necessary works. Councilor Stenson also expressed his disappointment in relation to the lack of funding for Treanmore Estate in Mohill.

Councillor Flynn stated that the Housing Grants allocation for Leitrim is double that allocated to Sligo. He also outlined that a significant portion of the funding to the H.S.E Housing Aid for the Elderly Scheme goes on administration costs. Ms. Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator clarified that none of the Council's Housing Grants allocation is spent on the administration of the Schemes. Councillor McGowan advised that following recent discussion, the local authority members on the HSE want to see the Housing Aid for the Elderly Scheme retained by the HSE. He suggested that a meeting with the Minister might assist in clarifying a range of issues.

08/375

7/7/08

**Review of Better Local Government**

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

"I will ask the Council to call on the Minister for Environment and Local Government to Initiate a Full review of better Local Government on the basis of service to the community and the cost benefit analysis of the entire project."

Councillor Ferguson referred to the recent Regional Seminar in relation to the Green Paper on Local Government Reform. He outlined that there was a need to review whether Better Local Government had achieved its primary objective of delivering a better service to the people we serve. He suggested that the regional and local government structures are well developed but under-utilised. He referenced the plethora of local bodies and agencies, established in recent years with separate structures, and argued that these were roles that could have been taken on by local authorities. He also queried the level of linkage between agencies such as the Western Development Commission and the Regional Assemblies and local authorities. He outlined the need to look at how more services can be delivered through local authorities.

Councillor Colreavy expressed concern in relation to local government reform and the risk of increasing regionalization and creeping privatization and cited the local authority's diminishing role in relation to roads, housing etc. He outlined that local authorities need to make sure that what we are doing is the best that can be done. He also suggested that more could be done locally in terms of progressing the Area Council concept.

Councillor Flynn outlined that he is on the Executive of the Association of Local Authorities and was part of the initial group looking at Local Government Reform. He advised that the group is preparing a further paper looking at a whole range of issues in relation to local government in Ireland.

Councillor Reynolds stated that he agreed with the sentiment of the motion but stated that the biggest issue in relation to local government reform is the financing of local government. He

stated that political leadership was needed and that if we want local government reform we will have to pay for it.

**08/376**

**7/7/08**

**Cutting Back Finances**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council write to the Government warning against cutting back finances, needed for vital services such as housing and assistance for the elderly and disadvantaged and indeed the programmes of work on roads and infrastructure. This possibility of cuts has being mooted recently in the name of balancing the budget in difficult times. We in this county have been the last to the experience the development boom and should be the last place to suffer from cuts in government spending. Investment must be ensured for the needs of this long neglected county."

Councillor Kenny outlined that there was no issue in relation to adopting a prudent approach in the current economic climate but stated that as Leitrim had been a late-comer in terms of the economic boom it should also be the last place to suffer from cuts in government spending.

Councillor Flynn highlighted the impressive progress made in the county and stated that there was no question that Leitrim had been neglected in any way in terms of exchequer and other funding. He also stated that wind farms are an important source of social revenue and that the refusal of permission for such developments was a matter of serious regret.

Councillor Bohan reiterated that very significant investment had taken place in the county which had transformed the county. She expressed the hope that any necessary cut-backs would not affect the county too seriously.

Councillor Reynolds also acknowledged the significant level of development and investment but also highlighted Leitrim's particular vulnerability in terms of our dependence on central government funding. Councillor Colreavy also acknowledged the progress received but stated that the case must be made that 'the weakest should be hurt least' in terms of any cut-backs.

Councillor Kenny outlined that he was not in any way seeking to talk down the progress achieved but was simply seeking to ensure that we receive fair play in any proposed cut-backs.

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager confirmed that our dependence on central funding is highlighted in all of our dealings with Central Government. She also outlined that Leitrim has some particular advantages, including the availability of quality affordable property, and highlighted the importance of playing on these advantages in addition to making the point in relation to our particular vulnerability.

**08/377**

**7/7/08**

**Grange Housing Estate**

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

"At the July meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Director of Services,

Infrastructure, when will work commence on the new footpath from the Grange housing estate, Drumsna, towards the village. This project was approved at the beginning of the year under the Development Contribution scheme. I would also ask that appropriate lighting would be installed and that due consideration will be given to the design and layout of the new playground in the area. I would ask that the Area Engineers office liaises with Community and Enterprise to ensure best design on both projects."

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

"The Council have made provision for this work within the Development Levy Programme, with a scheduled commencement date of December 2008. The area office will liaise with Community and Enterprise prior to the work commencing"

Councillor Guckian thanked the staff involved. She outlined that she understood that the playground is scheduled for October/November and asked that the footpath be tied in with this time-frame.

**Part II - Questions.**

08/378

7/7/08

**Shoemakers Cross**

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to improve the Shoemakers Cross at Stralongford, Aughnasheelin to insure the safety of the persons on the Bus Eireann School Bus and other users of this road."

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

"Works has been carried out to make the turn more accessible for the School Bus. However a further inspection will be completed to consider potential improvements."

08/379

7/7/08

**Castlefore, Fenagh**

***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 removing the bends at Castlefore in Fenagh in view of the fact that the Council have purchased the necessary lands to do this work."

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

"There are a number of bends that have to be improved on Regional Road R209. Significant funding will be required to carry out this work. An application for funding under the Specific Improve Grant was made for this year, but this location did not receive any funding. This section of road will also be listed for funding in next year road programme."

08/380

7/7/08

**Sewage Treatment Works in Kilclare**

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

"Can I ask the Director for Infrastructure if there is any progress to report in relation to the possible future provision of sewage treatment works at Kilclare, Carrick-on-Shannon?"

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

"We applied to the DOE for funding for a scheme here and have now been informed that we should consider inclusion of the scheme in the next Water Services Investment Programme, commencing in 2010."

**08/381**

**7/7/08**

**Recycling centre Drumshanbo**

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

"Can I ask Leitrim County Council to provide 2 lights from the recycling centre to the entrance to Moorlands equestrian centre in Drumshanbo. Lights that were there originally were taken down and were not replaced! Can I get a commitment that they will be replaced in conjunction with current works ongoing in that area of the town?"

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

"At present there are 2 public lights between the recycling centre and the entrance to the Moorlands equestrian centre. These two lights are in working order and the lighting of this section of road is considered adequate"

**08/382**

**7/7/08**

**Cloonboney Crossroads**

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

"To ask Mr. Paul Mc Mahon, Senior Executive Engineer Carrick-on-Shannon, to provide a number of passing bays on the road from Cloonboney Crossroads on the R202 to Fearnought on the N4, as it is impossible for two vehicles to meet on this road, a commitment was given last year that the works concerned would be carried out during 2007."

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

"Passing Bays are desirable on this road and will be provided if additional funding becomes available in 2008."

**08/383**

**7/7/08**

**Errew Road**

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

"To ask Mr. Paul Mc Mahon, Senior Engineer, Roads Carrick-on-Shannon, what is the delay in carrying out repairs to the stone wall and piers at the entrance to the Errew road beside Francie Faughnan's house, a commitment was given in 2006 that the works would be carried out that year. The wall and piers were one of the original entrances to Lough Rynn estate, was damaged some years ago. It is very unsightly for the local community and the large number of people who use that road on regular basis."

**Report by Senior Executive Officer, Infrastructure**

"This work will be carried out over the coming weeks"

08/384

7/7/08

**Hedge Cutting**

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

"To ask the area engineer what is the up-to-date position regarding the hedge cutting programme for the Ballinamore area as there is presently a lot of overgrowth of hedge-row which is posing a danger to pedestrians & passing traffic alike".

**Report by Senior Executive Officer, Infrastructure**

"Verge trimming is now on going at required locations on the Regional Road network."

08/385

7/7/08

**Pedestrian Crossings, Ballinamore**

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

"To ask the area engineers office what is the present position regarding the proposed new pedestrian crossings for Ballinamore at the following locations; National school, St Felim's College, Catholic church & at the entrance to the Lahard Estate. Can I also seek an update regarding the proposed pedestrian crossings for Carrigallen & other associated road safety measures proposed for this location. Could the area engineer also confirm the likely cost of these works & when it is expected to commence construction of same".

**Report by Senior Executive Officer, Infrastructure**

"Under the Low Cost Safety Grant, we have received €45,000 for Ballinamore and €15,000 for Carrigallen. Any works carried out will have to be kept within this budget. We have selected a number of locations for Controlled Pedestrian Crossing in Ballinamore and are currently getting quotations. Work will start in Ballinamore after the Surface dressing is completed. The entrance to Lahard Estate will be part of our application for Low Cost Safety Grant for 2009. In relation to the Controlled Pedestrian Crossing in Carrigallen we are also obtaining quotations and have already carried out some of the ducting work required."

08/386

7/7/08

**Traffic Calming Measures**

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

"Will Leitrim County Council prepare (in conjunction with local Councillors) proposals for the implementation of (improved) traffic calming measures at the following Manorhamilton locations:

- \* N16 Enniskillen Road at National School / Our Ladys Hospital entrance
- \* N16 New Line on the approaches to Main Street / Castle Street junction
- \* N16 Sligo Road between McCormacks Shop / Petrol Station and Council's Recycling Centre
- \* R280 Creamery Road in the vicinity of roadside houses"

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

"We will meet with the elected members in the first instance to discuss their concerns, at a time to be arranged. A design has already been prepared for a comprehensive traffic calming plan for Route N16 East approach to the town, which cannot however be implemented until all developments currently under construction have been completed. It will also be dependant on the availability of NRA funding."

08/387

7/7/08

**Local Improvement Schemes**

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

"In relation to Local Improvement Schemes (LIS):

1. What is the current average wait from application to work commencement date?
2. What number of schemes are currently:
  - - Awaiting approval decision?
  - Approved and awaiting work commencement?"

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

"The current average wait is three years. We have 229 applications currently awaiting approval, with four awaiting commencement."

08/388

7/7/08

**Pedestrian Crossings in Mohill**

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

"Has a decision been made as to the location of the three promised and much needed pedestrian crossings in Mohill as yet."

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

"Our design office is finishing the design and location of these crossings at present. We hope to forward details of these crossing to all the public representatives in the area in the near future. We will then sit down with all interested parties and agree the details of these crossings."

08/389

7/7/08

**Dead Trees**

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

"I will ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure who is responsible in the situation where a "Dead Tree" is standing very close to the roadside."

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

"Leitrim County Council are responsible to the hedgerow, fence etc for such hazards with the landowner retaining responsibility thereafter. Each case however must be reviewed on its merits."

08/390

7/7/08

**Ross Lane**

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

"At a previous meeting of Leitrim County Council I was told that the Council Executive would look at the possibility of providing funding to remove that extremely dangerous corner on Ross Lane. What is the up to date position on this."

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

"As previously advised, the funding in place for the provision of new footpaths, public lighting and realigned street to serve a group of recently built dwellings opposite the Comprehensive School, will not extend to the removal of the bend in question on the Ross Lane. Significant further funding is required for the work involved."

08/391

7/7/08

**Litter Control**

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

"What are the bases of the council seeking financial information from business people in relation to litter control?"

***Report by Senior Planner, Planning***

"Leitrim County Council were obliged under Article 52 of the Waste Management(Packing) Regulations 2007 to serve notices on all business operators in the county to identify major producers as defined in the regulations. A major producer is a company or business that produces in excess of 10 Ton of packing and has a turnover in excess of €1m. Leitrim County Council needed to establish which business operators were in this category and thus a notice issued to all business operators as we could not decide that any business was above or below this. In the notice all business operators were reminded of their obligations to segregate their waste properly and to dispose of their waste properly.

Leitrim county Council was not seeking exact turnover figures just confirmation that they were above or below €1m."

08/392

7/7/08

**Mullies/Lisnabrack/Ballyglass**

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

"Can the County Manager confirm that all households in the Mullies/Lisnabrack/Ballyglass will be connected into the refurbished water scheme?"

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

"All existing customers on the Mullies, Fallacara, Brackary Beg and Brackary More GWS will be provided with a water connection on the scheme now under construction. Any one on this scheme not served currently can apply to Leitrim County Council when the scheme is taken in charge following its completion."

08/393

7/7/08

**Seating at Bus Stop**

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

"To ask that seating be provided at the Bus Stop for Sligo, near the Bridge at Carrick-on-Shannon. At present people, including the elderly and invalids, have to stand while waiting for the bus."

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

"We will contact Bus Eireann and examine the possibility of getting a Bus Shelter Provided."

**08/394**

**7/7/08**

**Parking**

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

"To ask that the parking area at the 'Man and Boy' statue, at Boathouse Bay near Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, be properly lined-out, to facilitate people wishing to park there."

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

"This area will be upgraded, with car parking provided under a development Charge Scheme. Work is due to commence towards the end of 2008"

**08/395**

**7/7/08**

**Roadway, footpaths and public Lighting**

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

"What is the present position regarding works on, Roadway -Footpaths - and public lighting, on the Attrory Road, as €301,168 was allocated to complete these works in February 2008."

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

"The first phase on this work will be completed in the next two weeks. The Area staff will commence the second section in early 2009"

**08/396**

**7/7/08**

**Local Road LP2211-1**

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

"Can I ask the District Engineer to have a look at local road LP2211-1 in the townland of Bronagh, Glenfarne where timber has been harvested lately. This is a road that alot of money has been spent on in recent years by the council. The road has been damaged where the lorries are coming into the above mentioned road."

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

"Some minor damage was caused at the entrance to the forest at the location in question during recent essential timber extraction operations. It will be repaired in the near future."

**08/397**

**7/7/08**

**Village Enhancement Programme**

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council for an update on the proposed village enhancement programme village of Rossinver."

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

"There are no proposals at present for the enhancement of Rossinver Village."

**08/398**

**7/7/08**

**Potholes**

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

"Could this Council repair the pothole outside of Tommy Bohan's house and the one outside Elizabeth Bohan's house at Funhsinagh?"

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

"Routine Maintenance work will be carried out at these locations in the coming weeks"

**08/399**

**7/7/08**

**Melick to Courdery**

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

"I have asked this Council on a number of occasions before, did they receive the compensation I asked them to request from the forestry sometime ago and if not why. This road is the one that has become in such bad repair that the people cannot use it. This road goes from Melick to Courdery."

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

"This matter will be investigated as a matter of urgency with Coillte and a report will issue to you next week."

**08/400**

**7/7/08**

**Drumcoura Cross to Swan Island**

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

"When will the necessary works in the townland of Drumcoura i.e. infilling/embanking of the roadside along the road from Drumcoura Cross to Swan Island farm be undertaken. Each time surfacing has taken place the road is raised creating a steep fall off to each side, these works need urgent attention."

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

"Improvement works are desirable and will be considered as part of the 2009 programme."

**08/401**

**7/7/08**

**Resurfacing**

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

"When will the resurfacing of the Longford Road at Carrigallen i.e. towards the school and the Roman Catholic Church commence as the present surface is deteriorating rapidly."

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

"This improvement work was started on Monday 30th June."

**08/402**

**7/7/08**

**Drumkeerin Village**

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

"When will re-surfacing works commence on the R280 at Drumkeerin Village (Manorhamilton Road). The road is in a very poor state of repair."

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

"Resurfacing works on this road will commence in August following the completion of the public sewer line at this location"

**08/403**

**7/7/08**

**Greaghmaglough Road, Drumkeerin**

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

"I propose that urgent repair works be carried out on the Greaghmaglough Road, Drumkeerin"

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

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

**08/404**

**7/7/08**

**Roads Safety Statement**

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

"Is there a roads safety statement on all the roads of County Leitrim and if so is it available to all the members in each of the areas that they represent?"

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

"The safety statements which currently exist relate to the delivery of our annual roadworks programme and are designed to protect the Public and Council Staff when carrying out work on roads within the county."

**08/405**

**7/7/08**

**Roads in the Largy Area**

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

"I will ask the Director of Services Roads when it is proposed to reinstate the roads in the Largy area?"

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

"The roads in the Largy area will be reinstated on completion of the Mullies/ Brackary GWS, which has given rise to their present condition."

08/406

7/7/08 **Road resurfacing from Ballinamore to Fenagh**

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

"I am asking the Director of Services, Infrastructure when will the road from Ballinamore to Fenagh road through Ardrum be resurfaced as it is needed badly after the sewage scheme left very uneven areas where the trench was in-filled."

**Report by Senior Executive Officer, Infrastructure**

"Temporary reinstatement of the trench has been completed by the contractor to date on the road at Ardrum, Ballinamore after the construction of the Ardrum Group Sewerage Scheme.. There are funds within the construction contract for the permanent reinstatement of the trench. This will be carried out by Leitrim County Council once all construction work on the sewerage scheme is complete."

08/407

7/7/08 **Street Lights**

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

"I am asking the Director of Services, Infrastructure can two or three street lights be erected at the road from the entrance to Druncowra City bar and restaurant to the cross on the Carrigallen to Ballinamore road, in the interest of public safety."

**Report by Senior Executive Officer, Infrastructure**

"Improvement works are on going at this junction. Improved signage and lining will also be carried out. Rural junctions such as this are not considered suitable for public lighting. Public lighting is not considered a suitable safety measure at locations like this."

08/408

7/7/08 **Road Markings at Carrick-on-Shannon roundabout**

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

"At the July meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Directors of Services, Infrastructure why has there been a delay in providing the " vehicles turning left only" road markings at the main roundabout on the eastern entrance to Carrick on Shannon. At our February meeting I requested that the dangerous situation regarding traffic entering this roundabout be addressed as 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. In rush hour traffic Drivers are still driving up the left side to cross over onto Circular Road. It was agreed in February that due to the limited space on the roundabout that road markings would be provided to allow left turning vehicles only to use a newly marked lane on the left."

**Report by Senior Executive Officer, Infrastructure**

"This work will be carried out in the coming weeks"

08/409

7/7/08

**Group Water Scheme - Jamestown**

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

"At the July meeting of Leitrim County Council , I will ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure what is the up to date position regarding the provision of a group sewerage scheme for residences on the school road Jamestown, which are in close proximity to the proposed treatment plant but which are not currently included in the proposed new sewerage scheme in the village. In January, this year it was agreed to liaise with these residents with a view to progressing a new group scheme."

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

"It will be necessary to have the Jamestown Plant within the Town and Village Sewerage Scheme in operation before we could proceed. However the residents should progress an application in the meantime through the Rural Water Section."

**This concluded the business of the meeting at 9 p.m.**

**Jim Joe Shortt**  
**Cathaoirleach**

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

**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008**