

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

Members Present

Bohan, Mary,	McDermott, Sean
Brennan, Damian	McElgunn, Liam
Colreavy, Michael	McGloin, Enda
Dolan, Frank	McGowan, Sean
Dolan, Gerry	O'Rourke, Paddy
Ellis, Caillian	McTernan, John
Ferguson, Tony	Mulligan, Thomas
Flynn, Aodh	Reynolds, Gerard
Guckian, Sinead	Shortt, James Joseph
Hughes, Gordon	Stenson, Enda
Kenny, Martin	

And Councillor Francis Gilmartin, Leas-Cathaoirleach presiding

Officials Present:

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager
Ms K. Murphy, Head of Finance
Mr Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services
Mr. J. Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community and Enterprise Development
Mr John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure
Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Housing & Corporate Services
Mr. C. Tracey, Senior Planner
Mr W. Lowe, Senior Engineer
Mr Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer
Mr Darragh O'Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. P. MacShera, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Mr Vincent Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer
Mr Shane Tiernan, Senior Executive Officer
Ms Sinead Flynn, Administrative Officer
Ms Linda Flanagan, Senior Social Worker
Ms. A. McGovern, Meetings Administrator

**08/533
3/11/08**

Deimhniu Miontuairisci

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan seconded by Councillor Damian Brennan and unanimously resolved;

“That the Minutes of the Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Aras An Chontae on Monday 6th October 2008, be adopted.”

**08/534
3/11/08 Votes of Sympathy**

The members extended a vote of sympathy to the following;

- Tom Coyle, Hartley, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Rose Coyle.
- Mrs Patricia Kiernan, Drumbreanlis, Carrigallen on the death of Elizabeth Molloy.

- Josephine Greenan & Family, Ussaun, Mohill on the death of Paul Greenan.
- John Blunnie, Summerhill, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of John Paul Blunnie.
- Gerry O'Brien, Effernagh, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Anne Jane O'Brien.
- Philip McGuinness, Carrowrevagh, Glenaniff, Co Leitrim on the death of Patrick Joseph McGuinness.
- The McDonnell Family, Main Street, Bundoran, Co Donegal on the death of Mark McDonnell.
- Joseph & Mary McLoughlin & Family, Larganhugh, Rossinver on the death of Michael Maguire.
- Philip & Annie McGuinness & Family, Carrowreabagh, Glenaniff, Rossinver on the death of Packie McGuinness.
- Marie Booth & Family, Gubacreeney, Kinlough on the death of Tony Booth.
- Margaret Barrett & Family, Portnason, Ballyshannon on the death of Tess McShea.
- Mr Sean Gallagher & Ms Patricia McLoughlin, Ardcolumn, Drumshanbo on the death of Mrs Angela Gallagher.

08/535

3/11/08 Draft Leitrim Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013

The Draft Leitrim Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book .

Proposed by Councillor Damian Brennan, seconded by Councillor Gerry Reynolds and unanimously resolved;

“That the proposal to proceed to public consultation in relation to the Draft Leitrim Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 under the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 be approved”.

Councillor Reynolds sought clarification as to when the construction and resurfacing works in relation to the redevelopment of the Rosebank Halting Site, Carrick on Shannon would be completed. Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Corporate Services advised that there are some outstanding works to be completed by the Contractor and the development will be left in a fully completed condition.

08/536

3/11/08 Overdraft Accommodation

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

“That overdraft accommodation in the sum of €3 million for the year ending 31st December 2009, subject to the sanction of the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government, be approved.”

Councillor Reynolds queried what the overdraft facility is for. Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager advised that this is a facility on our Revenue Account to deal with cashflow problems.

08/537

3/11/08 Leitrim Joint Policing Committee

It was agreed that this item would be deferred for consideration at the December Council meeting.

08/538

3/11/08 Budget Meeting

It was agreed that the Budget Meeting to consider the 2009 Budget be held on Tuesday, 16th December 2008 at 5 pm.

Councillor Colreavy referred to correspondence received from the Sligo Leitrim Mountain Rescue Team (Correspondence Item No. 14) and requested that this be considered at the Budget meeting.

08/539

3/11/08 Report from Corporate Policy Group

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**

A meeting of the Community, Cultural and Enterprise Development Strategic Policy Committee took place on 16th October 2008 and had considered the provision of Broadband in the County and the preparation of the Library Development Plan for County Leitrim for 2008-2013. The report from the Community, Cultural and Enterprise Development Strategic Policy Committee as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

□ **Leitrim Joint Policing Committee**

The requirement to establish a Leitrim Joint Policing Committee had been considered and it had been noted that this item was listed for consideration at the Council meeting.

□ **Budget Meeting**

The preparation of the 2009 budget had been discussed and it was agreed that a further meeting of the Corporate Policy Group would be held in this regard. Tuesday 16th December 2008 had also been suggested as the date for the 2009 Budget meeting, for ratification at the Council meeting.

□ **Nomination of Community Forum Nominee to the Housing & Corporate SPC**

The Corporate Policy Group had noted the nomination of Kathleen O'Connor, Carrick on Shannon as the Community Forum nominee to the Housing & Corporate Services

SPC representing the Disadvantaged Sector. It was agreed that this matter would be brought to the Council meeting for ratification.

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

“That the nomination of Kathleen O’Connor as the Community Form nominee to the Housing & Corporate Services Strategic Policy Committee representing the Disadvantaged Sector be approved”.

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

The Corporate Policy Group was advised that the material alterations to the Draft County Development Plan would be advertised this week and would be on public display from the 10th November 2008 for a period of 4 weeks.

□ **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.

08/540

3/11/08 Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated to the members:

1. Letter dated 5th September 2008 from Éamon Ó’Cuív TD, Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs regarding CLÁR grant aid for slatted houses.
2. Letter dated 3rd October 2008 from the Department of Finance regarding the resolution passed by the Council on the provision of a special Tax Free Allowance/Tax Credit for parents and guardians paying fees and maintenance in respect of students ineligible for a Higher Education Grant.
3. Letter dated 9th October 2008 from OPW relating to river drainage and Heritage Sites in County Leitrim.

Councillor McTernan outlined that the correspondence from the OPW did not address the Creevlea Abbey issues. He outlined that the OPW should be maintaining this Abbey. He asked that Leitrim County Council invite the OPW to address a meeting of Leitrim County Council in relation to these issues. This was supported by Councillor Bohan.

4. Letter from Eircom dated 7th October 2008 regarding Leitrim County Council’s request for further information on eircom broadband rollout.
5. Letter dated 9th October 2008 from IDA Ireland in relation to WOCO and replacement industry for Leitrim.

Councillor Kenny stated that the situation with unemployment has deteriorated greatly since the correspondence first issued to IDA Ireland. He requested that Leitrim County Council invite Mr. Joseph McHugh, Manager of IDA Ireland for the North West Region and a representative from Enterprise Ireland to a meeting of Leitrim County Council to discuss the issues and the delivery of sustainable jobs for Leitrim. This was supported by Councillor Tony Ferguson.

6. Letter dated 15th October 2008 from the Chief Administrative Officer, An Garda Síochána in relation to the renovation of Keshcarrigan Garda Station.
7. Email dated 24th October 2008 from Marian Harkin, MEP in relation to the Rates Remission for Small Irish Businesses.
8. Letter dated 22nd October 2008 from the Office of the Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government acknowledging motion passed by Leitrim County Council for the upgrading and replacing septic tanks.
9. Letter dated 22nd October 2008 from Bus Éireann regarding school transport to Mohill Post Primary Schools.

Councillor McGowan requested that Leitrim County Council write back to Bus Éireann asking them to restore the school bus service to the students from the Gortletteragh/Bornacoola area who are attending schools in Mohill. This was supported by Councillor Guckian who outlined that the members of Leitrim County Council have had numerous motions over the years requesting that the catchment areas be reviewed.

Councillor Colreavy supported this and stated that the catchment area provisions are making it extremely difficult for the Gaelscoil in Manorhamilton in relation to travel arrangements and there must be a degree of flexibility in defining catchment areas.

Councillor Mulligan supported this and stated that it is critical that some kind of Liaison Committee is set up to deal with school bus routes. Councillor Brennan outlined that students in the vicinity of rural schools that were closed had a right to transport to the nearest school. He urged caution in relation to this matter. Councillor Reynolds agreed and stated that this is a political issue. He stated that correspondence should be referred to Deputy Sean Haughey, Junior Minister for Education. He stated however that no Minister had taken on the issue over the years. Councillor Flynn also urged caution and outlined that a review of catchment areas could be used as an excuse to close some vulnerable schools. Councillor Ferguson supported this and outlined that it could be detrimental to schools.

Councillor Stenson outlined that the cost of school transport has increased by 50% in the current year. He stated that this is not a free service and people are entitled to a proper service.

10. Letter dated 24th October 2008 from the Department of Health & Children in relation to the headquarters for the HSE in the West/North West in Manorhamilton.

Councillor Colreavy noted that the Minister had referred the matter to the CEO of the HSE. He stated that pressure must be brought to bear on the Government to ensure that Manorhamilton is selected as the HSE HQ for the West/North West. He called on all local TD's, Senators and Councillors to take action in this regard.

Councillor Ferguson supported Councillor Colreavy. He outlined that his Motion relates to this matter and is calling on the H.S.E. to ensure that all the present staff and services are retained at the H.S.E. Headquarters in Manorhamilton and that extra services be centered at this excellent location. He outlined that he has requested that this motion to be sent to our local T.D.'s, Senators and the Minister for Health and Children.

Councillor Mulligan strongly supported this. He recalled the huge efforts in the 1970's in ensuring that the Health Board Headquarters was located in Manorhamilton and stated that everyone must now push strongly for Manorhamilton as a regional Headquarters.

11. Email dated 24th September 2008 from Pat Canney, Galway County Council in relation to the revised timelines for the making of River Basin Management Plans.
12. Letter dated 29th October 2008 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food concerning the Farm Waste Management Scheme.
13. Letter dated 25th July 2008 from Waterways Ireland in relation to the Rynn River Waterway.
14. Letter from the Sligo –Leitrim Mountain Rescue Team in relation to the Annual County Council Estimates.
15. Press Release dated 31st October 2008 from the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in relation to the extension of slurry spreading period to the 30th November 2008.
16. Circular letter Fin 08/2008 dated 16th October 2008 in relation to the LGF General Purpose Allocations 2009.
17. Circular letter WSP 5/08 dated 23rd October 2008 in relation to the Water Services Act 2007 – Duty of Care Provisions.
18. Circular Letter LG 11/08 dated 17 October 2008 concerning the review of County/City Development (CDB) Strategies mid 2009 to end 2012.
19. Circular letter PD 6/08 dated 8th October 2008 in relation to the Implications of European Court of Justice ruling on retention planning permission for development requiring environmental impact assessment (Case C-215/06).
20. Letter dated 15th October 2008 from the Affordable Housing/Homelessness Section in relation to the proposed new arrangements for the sale of affordable housing.

21. Letter dated 30th October 2008 from the Department of Health & Children acknowledging letter concerning a meeting of Leitrim County Council in relation to future regional HSE main headquarters for the West/North West.

The following issues were also raised under meeting correspondence:

Vote of Congratulations

The members extended a vote of Congratulations to St Osnats Glencar Team on winning the GWP Junior C Championship Final and to Paul Williams on being named the Leitrim Guardian Person of the Year 2009.

Welcome

The Cathaoirleach and members welcomed Mr Shane Tiernan, Senior Executive Officer to the staff of Leitrim County Council.

08/541

3/11/08 Conferences

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Francis Gilmartin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

That Leitrim County Council approves of the following

- Attendance of Cllr Tony Ferguson at the Western River Basin Advisory Council meeting on the 2nd September 2008 in Oranmore, Co Galway.
- Attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson and Councillor Sean McGowan at the Elastometal 20th Anniversary on the 12th September 2008 in Manorhamilton.
- Attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson and Councillor John McTernan at the Western River Basin Advisory Council meeting on the 2nd October 2008 in Oranmore, Co Galway.
- Attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson at the Launch of the N.16 Upgrade in Enniskillen on the 3rd October 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the 50th Tidy Towns Awards in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin on the 8th September 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the Feile Frank McGann Seminar in Strokestown, Co Roscommon on 9th to 12th October 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the Seminar on the Local Government Budget 2009 on the 31st October 2008 to 1st November 2008 in the Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co Wexford.

Proposed by Councillor Liam McElgunn, seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Sinead

Guckian at the North South Confederation of Councillors seminar on the 24th & 25th October 2008 in Clifden Station House Hotel, Clifden, Galway”

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

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Gerry Reynolds at the Ireland’s Waters 11th Annual Conference on the 17th October 2008 in Inchydoney Island Lodge, Clonakilty, Co Cork”.

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

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Enda McGloin at the Roscrea Autumn Conference 2008 on the 31st October 2008 to 2nd November 2008 in Roscrea, Co Tipperary”.

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

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Mary Bohan at the Family Life Today – The Greatest Revolution Seminar on the 4th & 5th November 2008 in the West County Hotel, Ennis, Co Clare”.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Leitrim County Council approves of the attendance of Councillor Mary Bohan, Councillor Gerry Dolan, Councillor Thomas Mulligan, Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor Gerard Reynolds and Councillor Enda McGloin at the National Tourism Conference on the 27th to 29th November 2008 in the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co Clare”.

Part 1 – Notices of Motions

08/542

3/11/08 Trees at Disternan, Drumshanbo

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

"I wish to ask the District Engineer to have some trees at Disternan, Drumshanbo opposite Michael McGowan's garage topped as these are over grown and are dangerous in high winds to housing and people in that area as some of these trees there were hitting onto roofs of houses in recent storms. Also to have a general clean up in that area."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"The Council will engage a specialist to give advice on the condition of the trees at this location, with a view to carrying out pruning or cut back as recommended"

Councillor Gerry Dolan welcomed the reply. This motion was supported by Councillor

McGloin.

Councillor Ellis queried the position in relation to responsibility for trees overhanging the public road. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that the maintenance, pruning or cutting of such trees is the responsibility of the landowner.

08/543

3/11/08 Central Fisheries Board

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

"That this Council ask the Minister what is the position regarding the Central Fisheries Board in view of the fact that the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer has been given the job of overseeing the transfer of the service to Carrick-on-Shannon including that of the staff."

Councillor McElgunn requested that clarification be sought from the Minister in relation to this matter. He outlined that Leitrim County Council pushed very hard for decentralization for the county and must now push very hard for its full delivery. He stated that staff are very keen to move to Carrick on Shannon.

Councillor Stenson fully supported the motion. He outlined that assurances had been given in July that the Central Fisheries Board were coming to Carrick-on-Shannon and the building is already in place. He stated that Fianna Fáil representatives must seek answers from the Minister in relation to this matter.

Councillor Kenny also supported the motion and stated that the decision is a disgrace. He stated that Carrick is one of the locations where staff wanted to relocate to and the County needs these jobs. He stated that it is important that all parties unite in their efforts to secure the promised decentralization to Carrick-on-Shannon.

Councillor Reynolds supported the motion and stated that the announcement that decentralization was to be deferred came as a shock. He outlined that excellent accommodation is available in Carrick on Shannon, the people want to move and we must seek to progress this matter in a united way.

Councillor Bohan outlined that she has been a member of the Central Fisheries Board for a number of years. She stated that the new CEO was given the task of overseeing the move to Carrick on Shannon. She stated that the deferral is very regrettable but she was confident that this decentralization will happen. She paid tribute to Councillor McElgunn, the County Manager and the Staff of Leitrim County Council for their efforts and the numerous discussions and meetings in relation to this with the Central Fisheries Board. She stated that she fully supported the motion and the members must do everything possible to ensure this decentralization takes place at the earliest possible date. She confirmed that Fianna Fáil members are doing their utmost in relation to this matter.

Councillor McGowan also supported the motion and stated that he is optimistic that decentralization will come to Carrick-on-Shannon sooner rather than later.

Councillor Brennan supported the motion and stated that the Council must unanimously support the ongoing efforts to have decentralization to Carrick-on-Shannon delivered without further delay and stated that there would be no division among the members on this issue.

Proposed by Councillor Liam McElgunn seconded by Councillor Gerard Reynolds AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That Leitrim County Council ask the Minister what is the position regarding the Central Fisheries Board in view of the fact that the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer has been given the job of overseeing the transfer of the service to Carrick-on-Shannon including that of the staff."

08/544

3/11/08 Re-Alignment of Policing Divisions in Leitrim

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

"I call on Leitrim County Council to examine current proposals from the Gardai in relation to the re-alignment of policing divisions within Leitrim. This proposal occurs because of the proposal to set up local joint policing committees for Co. Leitrim. I am concerned in particular that Drumshanbo will be centrally policed from Manorhamilton which is 26 miles away and would possible prove too long of a distance away in the event of an after hours emergency"

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services & Housing

"A letter will issue to the Garda Commissioner in relation to this matter."

Councillor McGloin requested that the correspondence to the Garda Commissioner be copied to the relevant Superintendents. He outlined that his concerns are in relation to out-of-hours service levels and stated that assurances were required in this regard.

Councillor Flynn urged caution in relation to the motion outlining that each Superintendent area must have a sustainable level of population and this could result with no district in North Leitrim.

Councillor Mulligan stated that he hoped that any re-alignment of the policing divisions has been based on good policing policy and not based on the lack of upkeep and maintenance of barrack buildings throughout the area. This was supported by Councillor Gilmartin who outlined the need for Barracks buildings to be properly maintained.

Councillor McGloin clarified that his only difficulty with Drumshanbo being policed from Manorhamilton is related to the distance and the need to ensure an adequate out of hours service and response.

Councillor Stenson raised the issue of a lack of policing in Carrick-on-Shannon and a recent significant increase in the level of break-ins. He appealed to the Superintendent to do something about the situation and get more Gardaí out on patrol. This was supported by Councillor Guckian who stated that this issue needs to

be the first issue to be tackled by the Joint Policing Committee. She also suggested that there should be a renewed focus on Community Alert and other such local area initiatives.

Councillor Reynolds also expressed concern and acknowledged that additional resources are required, particularly at weekends. He stated however that it is important that Carrick does not get a bad name as it is a very nice place to live and visit. Councillor McElgunn reiterated the need for additional patrols in Carrick on Shannon.

Councillor McDermott stated that people in rural areas in general are suffering from burglaries. He stated that the level of patrols needed to be stepped up significantly as a deterrent. Councillor Brennan agreed and stated that the whole issue of penalties also needs to be looked at by the Minister.

08/545

3/11/08 Stone wall at Kiltymooden, Ballinamore

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

"To ask the District Engineer when will the Council complete the stone wall at Kiltymooden, Ballinamore and also the resurfacing of the roadway at this location which has been on-going now for a significant period of time. Can the officials also confirm if all necessary work has been completed for the commissioning of public lighting at this location and if the E.S.B. have confirmed when the aforementioned lighting will be turned on."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Leitrim County Council will complete the stone wall and associated works along Kiltymooden once we can reassign staff to carry out this work after the road works programme is complete. All civil works for the commissioning of the public lights are complete and we are waiting for the ESB to carry out their work. The ESB have erected the lamp standards but as yet have not confirmed when the lights will be switched on."

Councillor Hughes queried when the roadway will be resurfaced. He also queried when exactly the stone wall will be completed. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that following completion of the Road Works Programme at the end of November staff will be reassigned to complete the stone wall and associated works, weather conditions permitting. He advised that the Council is in constant contact with the ESB in relation to the public lighting and it is hoped this will be operational by the end of the year.

Councillor Ellis supported the motion and advised that the County Manager has given him assurance that this wall will be completed as soon as possible and hopefully by the end of the year. Councillor Kenny also supported the motion.

08/546

3/11/08

Restoration of the road from Killnagross P.O.to Gowel church and on to Kiltoghert Community centre

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

"At the November meeting, I will request that money be provided for the immediate restoration of the road from Killnagross P.O.to Gowel church and on to Kiltoghert Community centre, the people living in this area and those passing through to work have suffered great inconvenience since the upgrade of the water scheme commenced, regardless of the present financial situation this work must be carried out and the area around Gowel church/footpath, lighting, and carpark complete."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"This project has substantial permanent road restoration money included in the contract and all of the roads in question will be fully repaired. However it is premature to carry out the permanent restoration at this stage as testing of the pipe line is not yet complete. Limited repairs will be carried out in the mean time to keep the network serviceable and the permanent restoration will be carried out as soon as possible. The footpath and lighting at Gowel will then be attended to."

Councillor Stenson queried when the laying of water pipes will be completed. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that the Council is experiencing some difficulties with the contract but it is expected that the area in the immediate vicinity of the Church will be completed by Christmas. Councillor Stenson stated that the area beside the Church is quite low and it is desirable that it would be drained. Mr. McGuinness advised that this is to be looked at.

Councillor McElgunn supported the motion. He also welcomed the provision of public lighting at this location.

Councillor Reynolds also supported the motion. He outlined that works were to have been done prior to the children returning to school in Killnagross. He welcomed the commitment that drainage issues would be taken into account as part of the reinstatement works.

Councillor Mulligan supported the motion. Councillor Guckian outlined that there are a number of issues in the immediate vicinity of these works that have been on the agenda for some considerable time. She outlined that she hoped the engineering staff take on the rectification of all of these issues as part of the works.

Councillor Gilmartin queried whether any difficulties the main contractor is having with sub-contractors would mean the contract would be held up further. Mr. McGuinness advised that the contract has fallen behind somewhat but it can still be finished on time.

Councillor Ellis called on the Council to ensure that there is no hold-up in the completion of the scheme.

08/547

3/11/08

Meeting with NRA

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

"That Leitrim County Council seek a meeting with the NRA to discuss issues relating to road development in County Leitrim."

Councillor Flynn outlined that he understands that it is normal practice for each local authority to meet with the National Roads Authority on an annual basis and he proposed that Leitrim County Council seek a meeting with the NRA to discuss issues relating to road development in County Leitrim. This motion was supported by Councillor Ferguson.

Councillor Colreavy supported the motion but questioned the benefit of such a meeting. He stated that Mr. Peter Quinn's report on the N16/A4 should be brought to any such meeting and a commitment must be obtained from the NRA that the N16 will be on the agenda of Transport 21.

Councillor Flynn stated that all national roads related issues would be included for discussion at any such meeting. Councillor McDermott also supported the motion. He outlined that he has been part of various delegations to the NRA and there would need to be a very clear agenda. He stated that Leitrim must be fighting to get commitment for the design through to planning phases of the N16 in order that the project would be ready to progress when money becomes available. He stated that our Senior Politicians must make the case for the N16.

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

"That Leitrim County Council seek a meeting with the NRA to discuss issues relating to road development in County Leitrim."

08/548

3/11/08

Public Lights at the side of Fire Station in Drumshanbo

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

"Why are the public lights at the new length of road at the side of the Fire Station in Drumshanbo not connected

- (a) Is the money paid to the E.S.B. and when was it paid?
- (b) If it is not paid why not?
- (c) This is very dangerous for people in the dark. The poles are up 18 months."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"The works at this location were carried out in February 2008. The ESB connection was applied for at this time. The contractor has not submitted an electrical Certificate to the ESB in respect of these works. The Council has been in ongoing discussions with the contractor in relation to this matter and he has assured us that the cert has

now been submitted. The ESB has confirmed that the works will be completed as a priority following receipt of the Cert. The situation will be kept under review."

Councillor Gilmartin stated that it is disgraceful that the contractor has not submitted the electrical certificate and asked that the situation be kept under review.

08/549

3/11/08 Proposed Cutbacks in the Agricultural Budget

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

"I call upon Leitrim County Council to ask National Government to consider amending the proposed cutbacks in the agricultural budget for the year 2009 given the negative impact they will have here in the most disadvantaged part of the country, reducing the spending power of farming families with the obvious result for the Local economy and employment. Area Based payments are an important part of farmers income in Disadvantaged Areas and should be maintained."

Councillor O' Rourke stated that he had felt compelled to table the motion given the cuts in agriculture in the recent budget. He outlined that sometimes people see cuts in agriculture as only affecting farmers. He outlined that these cuts have a much wider impact and will affect every aspect of the local economy. He stated that the area based payments must be reinstated. He outlined that the principle of disadvantaged lands was established in the 1970's. He stated that some areas since included would have to be considered questionable. He called on the support of all the members in requesting that the Area Based payment, particularly for Leitrim, be reinstated.

Councillor Ellis outlined that his motion (below) is similar in nature. He stated that Leitrim is a severely disadvantaged area. He stated that the qualifying areas have been tweaked over the years. He called on the Government to reverse the decision in relation to severely disadvantaged areas such as Leitrim. He outlined that if all these schemes are dropped there will be no incentive for people to take over the family farm and forestry development will increase substantially. He called on the IFA and the Government to sit down and look at reinstating the severely disadvantaged areas. He called on all members to take up the issue.

Councillor Stenson fully supported the motion and stated that the cutbacks are extremely severe particularly for a county like Leitrim where farmers depend on these payments. He stated that every effort must be made to have these cuts revoked.

Councillor Bohan also supported the motion. She outlined that over the years the leaders of IFA at national level have had the eligible areas extended into areas that didn't need it as much. She stated that the area aid must be reinstated in severely disadvantaged areas.

Councillor Ferguson also supported the motion. He outlined that the IFA in County Leitrim must go back to the IFA at national level to ensure the pressure is put on the Government to reinstate the supports in severely disadvantaged areas.

Councillor Kenny also strongly supported the motion and stated that the cuts were

based on balancing the budget rather than having any regard to their impact on the agricultural sector and the economy in general.

Councillor Brennan stated that the cuts in relation to farming were absolutely reprehensible. He outlined that it is hard to believe that initiatives such as the Farm Retirement Scheme had been cut. He objected to any criticism of the IFA and to any suggestion that the cuts are related in some way to the extension over the years of the eligible areas. He stated that Fianna Fáil had introduced these cuts and that the only person who can reverse the cuts is Minister Brendan Smith and it is him and the Government that must be targeted.

Councillor Bohan called for a united approach to the issue. It was agreed that nobody was seeking to blame the IFA in any way in relation to the cuts. Councillor Guckian supported the motion and outlined that the members are standing up in relation to issues that they are concerned about. She also outlined that Fianna Fáil members are working behind the scenes in relation to these issues. Councillor McGowan also supported the motions and stated that we must get the message across that these cuts are unacceptable.

Councillor Reynolds supported the motion and stated that the only way the cuts can be reversed is through a political decision. He stated that he has the height of respect for Minister Smith but cannot understand how he has allowed such reprehensible cuts in agriculture. He stated that the Minister for Agriculture must go to the Minister for Finance seeking a reversal of the cuts.

Councillor Gerry Dolan also supported the motion and suggested an amendment seeking that the stocking density which was increased by 100% be brought back to its original level. This was agreed by the members.

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

"That Leitrim County Council ask National Government to consider amending the proposed cutbacks in the agricultural budget for the year 2009 given the negative impact they will have here in the most disadvantaged part of the country, reducing the spending power of farming families with the obvious result for the Local economy and employment. Area Based payments are an important part of farmers income in Disadvantaged Areas and should be maintained".

08/550

3/11/08 Re-instate farming subsidies in severely disadvantaged areas

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council write to the Taoiseach, Minister for Finance and Minister for Agriculture to leave in place in the severely disadvantaged areas the subsidies for the Suckler Cow Grant, Farm Retirement, Installation Aid and Area Based payment. The Minister for Agriculture, in particular, should be aware that this area needs the above subsidies in order for farmers to stay in existence."

This motion was discussed in detail in conjunction with Councillor O'Rourke's motion

above, in relation to amending the proposed cutbacks as announced in the Budget.

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

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Taoiseach, Minister for Finance and Minister for Agriculture to leave in place in the severely disadvantaged areas the subsidies for the Suckler Cow Grant, Farm Retirement, Installation Aid and Area Based payment. The Minister for Agriculture, in particular, should be aware that this area needs the above subsidies in order for farmers to stay in existence".

08/551

3/11/08

Outdoor Staff

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

"I propose that regardless of reduced funding that Leitrim County Council should not reduce the number of outdoor staff employed either temporary or otherwise. I further propose that we look at the possibility of increasing the numbers of staff in the area of housing maintenance and repairs."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"All Local Authorities are required to implement a 3% payroll deduction in accordance with the Government decision on reducing payroll costs. This matter is currently being examined in terms of options available and will be the subject of consideration and discussion over the coming weeks. In relation to the staffing levels in the area of housing maintenance, the Council is satisfied that the current levels meet current needs, however the matter will be kept under review."

Councillor Bohan stated that Outdoor Staff seem to be the first area to be hit when funding becomes scarce and this is not acceptable. She advised that there can be long delays in getting housing repairs completed and queried the possibility of having additional staff assigned to Housing Maintenance. Councillor McTernan supported this motion.

Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services advised that there are 12 permanent staff in the Housing Maintenance area and the activity and performance levels are kept under ongoing review. She requested that any specific issues in relation to delays be brought to her attention.

Councillor Bohan outlined that she didn't agree that there were adequate resources in the Housing maintenance area.

Councillor McTernan raised the issue of monies made available by the ESB for roads in the Killenummery area and queried when this work is due to start. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that agreement has been reached with the ESB and works will commence after the roadworks programme has been completed.

Councillor Bohan suggested that a review of staffing in the housing maintenance area should be undertaken and consideration should be given to retaining temporary

outdoor staff for as long as possible. This was supported by Councillor Brennan who outlined the importance of the outdoor staff. Councillor Reynolds also supported the motion and stated that temporary outdoor staff should be retained for as long as possible.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager advised that all 12 Housing Maintenance Staff are permanent. She advised that the level of repair requests is in the region of 300-350 annually. She outlined that temporary outdoor staff would be primarily in the Roads function and their contracts have now ceased. She advised that a number of temporary staff working on roads grants have been retained. She advised that the number of casual staff employed is based on the level of funding received. She advised that the Local Government Fund is reduced by €1 million for 2009 and the road grants will not be announced until January 2009.

Councillor Ferguson asked if the County Manager's Report to the Budget meeting would outline how the 3% cut on payroll is going to be achieved. Councillor Reynolds asked if a breakdown of where casual vacancies are likely to arise in 2009 could be brought to the Budget meeting. Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager confirmed that there will be much more detailed meetings on the budget given the difficulties it presents in the current year and this information will be made available.

08/552

3/11/08

Second Level Education

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

"At the November meeting of Leitrim County Council, I look for support on calling on the Minister's for Finance and Education to reconsider the budget restrictions proposed for funding of Second level Education. In particular to address concerns regarding reduced funding in the following areas; the provision of substitute cover for teachers on official school business, the provision of School book grant scheme and the provision of grant aid for Applied Leaving Certificate and Transition year."

Councillor Guckian outlined that she is calling on the Minister to reconsider the budget restrictions in relation to second level education.

Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Michael Colreavy AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That Leitrim County Council, look for support on calling on the Minister's for Finance and Education to reconsider the budget restrictions proposed for funding of Second level Education. In particular to address concerns regarding reduced funding in the following areas; the provision of substitute cover for teachers on official school business, the provision of School book grant scheme and the provision of grant aid for Applied Leaving Certificate and Transition year".

08/553

3/11/08

Cuts in Education

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

"That Leitrim County Council condemn the following cuts in education in the recent budget namely

- (1) 200 fewer primary teachers
- (2) 200 fewer secondary teachers
- (3) College fees increased from 600 to 1,500 euros
- (4) Child benefit for 18 year olds halved in 2009 and eliminated in 2010 making it more difficult for lower income families to send children to college
- (5) A significant cut in the school building programme.

We call on the government to reconsider as education is the most important piece of infrastructure that we can provide particularly in times of less than full employment."

Councillor Mulligan outlined that he had tabled the motion immediately after the Budget. He stated that the figures outlined are being vehemently disputed and the impact will be much more serious. He said that in addition to the obvious cuts there will be other impacts including the loss of extra curricular activities. He stated that these cuts are impacting on the most vulnerable in society and must be revisited.

Proposed by Councillor Thomas Mulligan, seconded by Councillor Damian Brennan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That Leitrim County Council condemn the following cuts in education in the recent budget namely

- (1) 200 fewer primary teachers
- (2) 200 fewer secondary teachers
- (3) College fees increased from 600 to 1,500 euros
- (4) Child benefit for 18 year olds halved in 2009 and eliminated in 2010 making it more difficult for lower income families to send children to college
- (5) A significant cut in the school building programme.

And call on the government to reconsider as education is the most important piece of infrastructure that we can provide particularly in times of less than full employment".

08/554

3/11/08

Cuts in Education

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

"I am proposing that Leitrim County Council officially write to the Ministers of Finance, Brian Lenihan TD and Education, Bat O'Keeffe TD, strongly demanding that the drastic cuts to the education provisions across the board, entailed in the budget, be reversed and that a major school building programme be established, to employ people in the construction sector and provide new schools across the country including in Ballinamore."

Councillor Kenny highlighted examples of two and three teacher schools that are being so negatively impacted. He stated that these outrageous cuts will have a huge impact on the most vulnerable and must be fought.

Proposed by Councillor Martin Kenny, seconded by Councillor Michael Colreavy AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"I am proposing that Leitrim County Council officially write to the ministers of Finance, Brian Lenihan TD and Education, Bat O'Keeffe TD, strongly demanding that the drastic cuts to the education provisions across the board, entailed in the budget, be reversed and that a major school building programme be established, to employ people in the construction sector and provide new schools across the country including in Ballinamore."

08/555

3/11/08 Withdraw proposed budgetary changes in the Education Sector

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

"At the November meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will call on the Minister for Education & Science Mr. Batt O'Keeffe T.D. to withdraw the proposed budgetary changes which adversely affect the Education sector e.g. the increase in the pupil teacher ratio, the withdrawal/reduction of support services and grants and increased fees to name but a few."

Councillor McGowan outlined that he was seeking the support of the members in seeking to have the education cuts reversed.

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

"That Leitrim County Council, call on the Minister for Education & Science Mr. Batt O'Keeffe T.D. to withdraw the proposed budgetary changes which adversely affect the Education sector e.g. the increase in the pupil teacher ratio, the withdrawal/reduction of support services and grants and increased fees to name but a few."

08/556

3/11/08 Adjournment of Council Meeting

Councillor Gilmartin outlined that the Annual Mass for deceased Members and Staff of Leitrim County Council was at 8.00pm. He outlined that there were a number of members wishing to speak in relation to the Education cuts and a number of motions still to be considered. He queried whether members wished to hold over these items to the December meeting or adjourn the meeting and reconvene after Mass to consider the remaining items.

Proposed by Councillor Gerard Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Aodh Flynn AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That the Council Meeting be adjourned for Mass and reconvened at 8.45pm after Mass to conclude the business of the meeting".

08/557
3/11/08

Education Cuts

Councillor Colreavy outlined that there were 6 motions on the agenda in relation to various Budget cuts. He outlined that he fully agreed with the motions put forward. He stated that the National Budget is totally devoid of strategy and is seeking to balance the books rather than looking at stabilizing or developing the economy. He predicted that this is the first in a series of budgets that we will see. He stated that Councillors understand better than Oireachtas representatives what the impact of the budget provisions will be locally. He stated that the members of Leitrim County Council have a right, a duty and a responsibility to contact TD's and National Government in relation to these cutbacks.

Councillor Stenson outlined that the cuts in education hit hardest and must be addressed. Councillor Brennan outlined that the education cuts are very difficult to understand, will particularly hit the weaker pupils and are unworkable in many ways. He outlined that the cutbacks will have enormous consequences in Leitrim and have not been properly thought out. He stated that there is no alternative but to start again with a new budget. He also outlined that all sides need to pull together in addressing the serious issues facing the economy.

Councillor Bohan supported the motions and outlined that she agreed that the proposals had not been properly thought out. She outlined that the Government has invested so much in education over the years. She outlined that there are areas where savings can be achieved but stated that these proposals will have to be reconsidered and that she would like to see the Minister for Education sit down with all the partners in this regard.

Councillor Flynn supported the motions and outlined various areas in which money has been squandered. Councillor McElgunn also supported the motions and outlined the impact on extra-curricular activities which are so important. Councillor McDermott also supported the motions.

08/558
3/11/08

Disabled Persons Grants/Essential Repair Grants

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

"I would like to ask Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate how many people have been informed that there is no money available to pay their Disabled Persons Grant or Essential Repairs Grants in this year. The same for applicants for Housing Aid for Older People, Disability Grant and Mobility Grant. What was received from the Department of the Environment in grant assistance last year for the above schemes?"

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"In 2007, Leitrim County Council received a total allocation of €1,545,126 in respect of the Disabled Persons Grant and Essential Repairs Grant, of which the Council had to contribute €515,042 from its own resources. In 2008, a total allocation of €1,621,700 was received in respect of housing grants - €1,085,850 for DPGs and ERGs (Leitrim County Council own contribution - €361,950) and €535,850 for

Housing Aid for Older People, Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability and Mobility Aids Housing Grant (Leitrim County Council own Contribution - €107,170).

The allocation for DPGS and ERGs was fully expended at the end of September 2008. At present 12 applicants have requested payment under the DPG and ERG Schemes and have been informed that the allocation has been expended in full and that payments will be processed in 2009 on receipt of new funding allocation.

All applicants approved under the new grant schemes are informed at approval stage that approval is subject to Leitrim County Council having adequate financial resources available to meet the demand for payments under the scheme and in the event that the allocation available under the Scheme has been fully expended there may be a delay between the request for payment and payment issuing."

08/559

3/11/08 Manorhamilton Court House

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

"I will ask the County Manager, what the position is in regard to Manorhamilton Court House. The court services had indicated that a major refurbishment of the Court House would take place in 2008."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"Manorhamilton Courthouse is vested in the Courts Service and the maintenance and refurbishment of the Courthouse is their responsibility. A letter will issue to the Courts Service seeking an update on the refurbishment project."

08/560

3/11/08 Arterial Drainage in North Leitrim

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

"At the November council meeting I will ask Leitrim County Council if they have made any progress with the O.P.W. regarding arterial drainage in North Leitrim."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services & Housing

"The Council has had correspondence from the OPW in relation to this matter and this correspondence has been circulated to the Members in Meetings Correspondence - Item No. 3. A meeting will be arranged with the OPW to discuss the issues involved."

08/561
3/11/08 H.S.E. Headquarters in Manorhamilton

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to call on the H.S.E. to ensure that all the present staff and services are retained at the H.S.E. Headquarters in Manorhamilton and that extra services be centered at this excellent location. I request that this motion to be sent to our local T.D's, Senators and the Minister for Health and Children."

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

"That Leitrim County Council calls on the H.S.E. to ensure that all the present staff and services are retained at the H.S.E. Headquarters in Manorhamilton and that extra services be centered at this excellent location. That this motion also be sent to our local T.D's, Senators and the Minister for Health and Children."

Part II - Questions.

08/562
3/11/08 Road Markings at Kingston Terrace

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Liam McElgunn;

"To ask Leitrim County Council to replace the road markings at Kingston Terrace and also to see if this junction can be made any safer."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The road markings will be renewed when the weather conditions permit and the contractor is next in the area. The road design section will examine the location with a view to ascertaining if any improvements can be made to the junction and of course a funding source would also need to be identified before any work could be carried out."

08/563
3/11/08 Footpath and Lighting from Lisnagot to the Cemetery

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Liam McElgunn;

"To ask Leitrim County Council to develop both footpath and lighting leading from Lisnagot to the cemetery as there has been a lot of development on this road."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The Carrick Area Office will carry out a survey to determine the extent of public lighting, footpaths, land acquisition and road widths required in this area. A design and costings will be prepared and depending on the availability of funding work will be carried out in a phased approach. It should be noted that priority will be given to road frontage where large scale development has taken place with view to connecting these areas to existing footpaths and public lighting ."

08/564

3/11/08 Footpaths and Lighting from Ballinaglera village to St Hugh's Park

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"I ask John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure when is it proposed to proceed with the promised footpaths and lighting from Ballinaglera Village to St. Hugh's Park along the R-207?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Work under Development charges scheme were always planned for the period 2008/9. Given the present financial position, it is prudent to plan these works as part of the 2009 Works programme, which will be prepared in early 2009."

08/565

3/11/08 Chlorine in water supplies

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"I ask John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure to inform me of the current policy regarding the use of chlorine in the water supplies in Co. Leitrim including the policy directives to group water schemes concerning the input of chlorine into the water supply."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Leitrim County Council as the Water Authority have the responsibility to insure that all water supplied by it is potable and complies with the parameters in the S.I. No. 278 of 2007 EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (DRINKING WATER) (NO. 2) REGULATIONS 2007. The county council also have a responsibility to insure that private group water schemes also comply with these regulations. The most important parameter in these regulations relate to microbial standards. Put in layman's language the water supply must be disinfected to kill off any bacteriological element which could have an adverse effect on public health. Not only must the water be produced to these standards but it must also be delivered to the customer at the same standard. To do this the disinfection agent must not only kill the pathogens at production stage but must also insure that there is a residual left in the pipe lines to deal with any contamination picked along the way. Chlorine is the most widely used substance to achieve this. Currently a residual of 1 to 1.2 mg/l is aimed for leaving the treatment plant. This ensures that we have a residual of 0.2 mg/l at the end of the network. All private group water schemes which were deemed to be quality deficient must address the bacteriological elements as a matter of urgency to comply with an EU Court ruling. Leitrim council have no option but to issue the directive to all such schemes requiring chlorination as soon as possible."

08/566

3/11/08 Resurfacing from Edentenny to Ardrum, Ballinamore

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;

"To ask the District Engineer when will the council complete the resurfacing of the

roadway leading from Beirne's filling station at Edentenny to Ardrum, Ballinamore which is in a very poor state of repair and urgently needs to be addressed."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The permanent restoration of the pipe track is part of the contract for the provision of the new sewer line at this location and the contractor intends to carry out this work in the near future. In the mean time the district engineer has been authorised to carry out temporary remedial works."

08/567

3/11/08 Installation of Public Lighting and footpaths n Newtowngore

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;

"To ask the District Engineer what is the up-to-date position regarding the installation of public lighting and footpaths from the village of Newtowngore out as far as the national school. Can I also ask will the council improve visibility at the junction for Carrigallen immediately after the national school before a serious accident occurs at this location."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The construction of the public footpath and public lighting along this section of road to the school in Newtowngore is planned for early 2009.

In relation to the question concerning sight distance, the property owner has been advised to cut back the hedges along this section of the local primary road. The planning permission given to the development requires works to be carried out at the junction to improve sight distance and visibility."

08/568

3/11/08 Signage

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"I ask the Senior Planner, what is the criteria regarding the placing of signage, to direct much needed Tourists as to where they can find restaurants, B+B's, etc. these signs are vitally important if we want to attract people into our county. At the moment we have signs at every corner and crossroads advertising anything from a rat race to a hen fight, yet an application to direct strangers/tourists to where they can find one of the aforementioned services is rejected by this authority."

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

"The placing of advertising / direction signs on the public road / public property are governed by section 254 of the Planning and Development Act and by associated regulations whereby an annual license is required to be obtained from the Planning Authority before the sign is erected. The appropriate annual license fee is set by regulation and is currently (a) for a fingerpost directional sign to tourist accommodation €50 and (b) all other signs €630. The purpose of the fingerpost sign (a) must be directional and may not be placed solely for the purpose of advertisement. Sign (b) may be for advertising purposes. The policy for the latter is the same as that for any advertisement sign which requires planning permission and is assessed under the same criteria. The general operating policy is to avoid proliferation of signage and generally direct road users from the main roads to the sites in question [i.e. from national and regional roads] Signage along a national or

regional road is considered to be unnecessary as road users usually have no problem finding these roads. Once directed off the main road, the promoter is requested to sign the route to the final destination. In considering the granting of a license, the planning authority must take into account the capacity of the proposed location to safely accommodate such a sign and that the additional signage does not interfere with the existing directional signage at the junction, in the interest of traffic safety, and to protect the visual amenity of the area.

The planning department acknowledges that in recent time a significant number of unauthorized and unlicensed signs have been erected on the public road and other public property. The Planning Authority recently published the fact that such signs are illegal and that the Council would shortly be undertaking a campaign to have these illegal signs removed from public property. The Council has, however, to have regard to exemptions for temporary signage for local events of a religious, cultural educational, political, social, recreational or sporting character where the event is not being promoted or carried on for commercial purposes, in accordance with classes 16 and 17 of the Exempted Development Regulations Schedule 2, part 2. The Planning Department proposes, in association with the Planning Policy SPC and the Council, to develop a coherent and comprehensive policy regarding advertising and signage, including auctioneers directional signage [signs of the site for sale itself are exempt, subject to limits] and it is intended to bring forward such proposals very shortly."

08/569

3/11/08 Mary Mount Complex Carrick-on-Shannon

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"What is the present update on the non-completion of works at the Mary Mount complex Carrick, it has now become impossible to actually walk on the drive way, I urge the council in conjunction with the developer to bring closure to this issue and have the works completed."

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

"The current position regarding the completion of works in the Marymount complex is that the developer has indicated the completion of remedial works to the foul and storm drainage systems. The developer has requested that the Council inspect these works to ensure that the Council is satisfied that the remedial works are in accordance with Council requirements. This inspection is to be undertaken shortly and should the works be deemed satisfactory the developer will commence the completion of the road surfacing and lining. The completion of landscaping works will commence following the completion of roadwork. Whilst some of these works are weather dependent it is hoped that works will be completed before the end of the current year."

08/570

3/11/08 Staff

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Aodh Flynn;

"I ask the County Manager what is the current number of staff employed by Leitrim County Council.

1. What are the positions held by staff members.
2. Permanent Staff
3. Temporary Staff
4. Short term contract staff."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"The current number of staff employed at 3 November 2008 by Leitrim County Council is as follows:

Permanent - 331
Temporary Contract - 23
Part-time Firefighters - 48"

08/571

3/11/08 Resurfacing of road into Sheffield

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"I ask John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure to add the road into Sheffield on to the 2009 list of roads for resurfacing."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"This Sheffield road will be assessed and included for consideration the 2009 Dromahair Area Programme subject of course to funding considerations."

08/572

3/11/08 Repairs to pipes at Willie Mortan's House

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"Could Leitrim County Council do some repairs to the pipes beside Willie Mortan's house as the road keeps flooding."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The location in question will be inspected in the near future to establish the cause of this flooding problem."

08/573

3/11/08 Calloughs, Carrigallen

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to investigate as to whether the road surface i.e.(the surface put in place in 2007) at Calloughs, Carrigallen on the town side of the entry to the G.A.A. Park is contributing to the unprecedented amount of minor traffic accidents occurring there over the last year. 4 number of cars have off roaded with potential for a major incident to occur."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"After investigation of the regional road R201 approaching Carrigallen, it must be noted that the entry into the GAA park is located within the urban speed limit."

Problems being experienced at this location are likely to be as a result of excessive speed and inappropriate driver behaviour."

08/574

3/11/08 Signage for Pedestrian Crossing

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to have signs erected on the Longford Road at Carrigallen indicating the presence of the soon to be commissioned pedestrian crossing."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"All pedestrian crossing in Ballinamore and Carrigallen will require pedestrian crossing advance signage in accordance with The Traffic Signs and Road Manual. These will be erected shortly after commissioning."

08/575

3/11/08 Local Primary Road LP3458

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Caillian Ellis;

"I ask the District Engineer to see if it is possible to have lay-bys put in place on the road around Laura Lake and up as far as Doonan's Cross as the volume of traffic has increased considerably on this road due to the number of new houses on same. I would be obliged, if you could see if the hedge along the forestry on this road could also be cut back."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Following a site visit to this local primary road, LP3458, we note that there are more than 20 areas along this road which act as lay-bys. However, if, in the future, we have road improvement works in the vicinity we will create additional lay-bys along this route."

08/576

3/11/08 Townspark Residents Association

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;

"At the November meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Carrick District Engineer to meet with the Townspark Residents Association, to address a number of outstanding issues in the area. Items to be addressed include, the provision of speed restrictions, provision of additional footpaths, development of the amenity area beside the playground, replacing road markings and addressing pedestrian and traffic safety at junction with the back lane, Lisnagat."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The Carrick Area Office will contact the Townspark Residents Association to agree a time and place for a meeting to discuss the issues as raised above"

08/577

3/11/08 Five Crossroads to Tullynaskreena School and Tullynaskreena towards Garvagh

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"That repairs be carried out on the road from the Five Crossroads to Tullynaskreena School and Tullynaskreena towards Garvagh. Also that the sign for Tullynaskreena be erected at the five roads."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Routine maintenance works will be carried out on these roads in the coming weeks. A sign for Tullynaskreena will be erected at the five cross roads junction."

08/578

3/11/08 Road from Sracamore to Greaghnafarna

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"That the road from Sracamore to Greaghnafarna Cross be repaired as soon as possible."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

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

08/579

3/11/08 Drainage Works

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"To ask Mr. Michael Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, Carrick-on-Shannon Engineering area, to carry out drainage works on the Black river from both Drumshanbo South Lake and Cattan Lake to where it links up with the Rynn river at Clooncumber, and also to carry out immediate repairs to the wooden footbridge over the Black river known locally as the "Black sticks" as a number of the timber boards are missing and it is quite dangerous for anyone crossing the river."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The areas in question will be inspected with a view to carrying out the necessary work when water levels are suitable.

In relation to the wooden footbridge, this will be structurally assessed and limited repairs carried out if feasible."

08/580

3/11/08 Lighting in Dromod Village

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"To ask Mr. John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure, when is it

planned to carry out the programme of works on the replacement of the steel lighting poles in the centre of Dromod village with the ornamental poles as was agreed with the local Development Association, funding was provided in the 2008 lighting programme, has a contractor been appointed to carry out the works involved."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"An order for this work has been with the ESB for some time now, and it is anticipated that the work will be carried out within the next two months."

08/581

3/11/08 Hedge Cutting

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;

"I will ask John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure to have the hedge cut on the opposite side of Glencar Resource Centre. People going there with children to the "Little Learners" find it very blind while trying to turn right."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The location in question, on Route N16 near Diffreen School, will be examined in the near future to assess the extent of the hazard complained of and the Council's capacity to mitigate it. The resolution of this problem may involve the serving of a Hedge Cutting Notice."

08/582

3/11/08 The path along the walls of the Star Fort

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I ask Leitrim County Council, when will the new walk-way i.e. outside the Church of Ireland graveyard in Manorhamilton be levelled off to make it safer for walking, especially for older people?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The path along the walls of the Star Fort, at the location in question, consists of a gravel surface on which some work remains to be completed. This will involve further funding for this particular project but, in the meantime, the walk will be left as safe as possible for all those using it."

08/583

3/11/08 Mullies, Manorhamilton

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I will ask Leitrim County Council when will the roads in the Mullies, Manorhamilton be repaired? These roads have been damaged by pipe-laying for the new water scheme."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The damage in question has arisen due to the construction of the new Mullies/Brackary GWSS. The Contractor has carried out the initial stage of the agreed permanent reinstatement work in many areas affected. Final reinstatement

cannot be carried out, however, until suitable weather conditions have arrived for such work. This is likely to be in the coming Spring."

08/584

3/11/08

N.15 at Duncarbery to Kinlough

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"I ask John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure, and the District Executive Engineer when it is proposed to surface the road from the N.15 at Duncarbery near the service station for 400 metres in the Kinlough direction?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The road in question is LP2063 past the old Duncarbry Lodge site. There is funding in place from Development Contributions to carry out the resurfacing work required. However, for many reasons - not least the present inclement weather - it is now envisaged that it will not be carried out until early Spring 2009. In the meantime the road will be maintained in a passable condition."

08/585

3/11/08 R280 at Glenade House, Cullionboy, Glenade

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"I will ask the District Engineer when it is proposed to remove the exposed trees along the R280 at Glenade House, Cullionboy, Glenade? The danger of these trees with the removal of shrubbery has been drawn to my attention."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Ownership of Glenade House has changed in recent months. Since then, the new owner has removed large areas of rhododendrums and other shrubbery with which the property had become overgrown. This vegetation never provided any real protection from the wind to the fine deciduous trees which have now simply become more visible. These trees are on private property onto which the Council would have no authority to enter for the purpose of cutting them down. All we can do is to monitor the situation and issue notice to the owner in the event of any tree becoming clearly unstable and dangerous."

08/586

3/11/08 3% cut in Salary costs

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Martin Kenny;

"How many job losses in council staff will result from the cut of 3% in salary costs imposed by government and what effect is this going to have on services in roads, housing or other areas."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"In the context of preparing the Revenue Budget for 2009, the impact of the requirement to implement a 3% reduction in payroll costs and the options to achieve these reductions is currently being examined."

This matter will be the subject of consideration and discussion over the coming

weeks and pending the completion of this process, the Council is not in a position to confirm the impact of both the requirement to achieve 3% reduction in payroll costs and the reductions in government funding allocations."

08/587

3/11/08 Road L1511

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Martin Kenny;

"I am asking John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure to have works carried out on the road L1511 between Greagh cross and the main Carrigallen/Mohill road as there are several narrow parts and bends that need attention."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Improvement works have been carried out on this section of local tertiary road, LT1511, in the recent past. No works have been programmed for this road within 2009/2010 road improvement works programme."

This concluded the business of the meeting at 9.20 pm.

Francis Gilmartin
Cathaoirleach

Aideen McGovern
Meetings Administrator

Date: 1st December 2008