

**Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber,  
Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at 5.30 pm**

**Members Present:**

Bohan, Mary	McCartin, John
Colreavy, Michael	McDermott, Sean
Dolan, Frank	McGloin, Enda
Dolan, Gerry	McGloin, Siobhán
Ellis, Caillian	McGowan, Sean
Ferguson, Tony	McTernan, John
Gilmartin, Francis	O'Rourke, Paddy
Guckian, Sinead	Reynolds, Gerry
Hughes, Gordon	Stenson, Enda
Kenny, Martin	Ward, John
Kilrane, Gerry	

And Councillor Thomas Mulligan, Cathaoirleach presiding

**Officials Present:**

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager  
Mr Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services  
Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community & Enterprise  
Mr John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure  
Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Housing & Corporate Services  
Mr Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer  
Mr Ciaran Tracey, Senior Planner  
Mr Terry McGovern, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr Padraig MacShera, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr Darragh O'Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms Carmelita, Caslin, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr Vincent Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr Caoimhin Corrigan, Arts Officer  
Ms Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator

**09/474  
5/10/09**

**Deimhniu Miontuairisci**

**Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Frank Dolan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

"That the Minutes of the Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras An Chontae on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009, be adopted."

**09/475  
05/10/09**

**Votes of Sympathy**

The members extended a vote of sympathy to the following;

- The Family of the late Josie O'Rourke, Camber, Aughavas, Co Leitrim on the death of Josie O'Rourke.
- Maura White, Main Street, Kinlough and Sean Loughlin, Ballinaglera on the death of Fr Eugene Loughlin.

- Mrs Mary Lynch, Aughakilbrack, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim and the Mahon Family on the death of Frank Mahon.
- Mrs Michael Folan, Costra, Fenagh, Ballinamore on the death of Michael Folan.
- Mr & Mrs Gerard Cassidy, Drumleevan, Killygar, Carrigallen P.O., Co Leitrim on the death of Mary Kate Cassidy.
- James Doherty, Gaeglom, Drumkeerin, Co Leitrim on the death of Hugh Doherty.
- The Family of the Late Mai Kerrigan, Kiltyclogher on the death of Mai Kerrigan.
- James McGovern, Shannagh Grove, Mohill, Co Leitrim on the death of Rose McGovern.
- Sean & Catherine Ferguson, Foxfield, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim on the death of Mary Ferguson.
- Kevin & Margaret Maguire, No 3 Railway Road, Belcoo, Co Fermanagh on the death of Margaret McFadden.
- Mary McGloin, Drumouns, Kinlough P.O., Co Leitrim on the death of Gerry McNamara.
- The McDevitt Family, High Street, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim on the death of Enda McDevitt.
- Charles P. Forde, Liskellew, Drumkeerin, Co Leitrim on the death of James Forde.
- Mrs Geraldine Moran, Aghnagallop, Drumshanbo and the McDonagh Family, Carrick Road, Drumshanbo on the death of Mrs Lynda Ferris.
- The Farrell Family, Ballinawing, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Frankie Farrell.
- The Healy Family, Drumherriff, Drumshanbo on the death of Elizabeth Healy.
- Pat Logan & Family, Creenagh, Drumshanbo on the death of Martin Logan.

**09/476**

**5/10/09**

**Local Authority Development**

- (a) Report from Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services dated 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009 - 09/C/10 - enclosing proposal in accordance with the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

***Proposed by Councillor Gordon Hughes, seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That the construction of water treatment works building, wash water holding tanks and associated site development works at Derrynawanna TD., Aghacashel, Co Leitrim be approved".

- (b) Report from Jackie Maguire, County Manager - 09/C/09 - enclosing proposal in accordance with the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

"That the installation of a Permanent Art Installation consisting of four no. (4) wind harps in The River Shannon adjacent to the location of the existing boardwalk in Carrick-on-Shannon (Townland of Townparks) be approved".

**09/477**

**5/10/09 Abandonment of Public Road & Extinguishment of Public Right of Way**

Reports dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009 from John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure as circulated to each member appear as **Appendix 3 and Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Thomas Mulligan outlined that this matter had been deferred at the September Council meeting. He outlined that he had not been in a position to attend an on-site meeting organised by the Director of Services, Infrastructure and he requested that this matter be deferred for consideration at the November Council meeting.

Councillor Enda Stenson agreed to this deferral provided that this item would be dealt with at the November Council meeting.

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

**09/478**

**5/10/09**

**Declaration of Public Roads**

Report dated 29<sup>th</sup> September 2009 from John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure as circulated to each member appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That the declaration as a public road of the Road off junction of Local Road LP 3655-1 and Local Road LP 3655-0 in the townland of Attirory, south-westwards for a distance of 61 metres, be approved”.

***Proposed by Councillor John Ward, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That the declaration as a public road of the Road off Local Road LP1486-0 in the townland of Drumod Beg, Dromod at Ascaill Loch Bofinne Estate, north-westwards for a distance of 186 metres, be approved”.

**09/479**

**5/10/09**

**Taking in Charge of Housing Developments**

Report dated 29<sup>th</sup> September 2009 from Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services as circulated to each member appears as **Appendix 6** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That the Taking in Public Charge in accordance with the provisions of Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 of Phase 1 of the housing development known as Ascaill Loch Bofinne at Drumod Beg, Dromod be approved. The development is subject of the planning file reference number P04/567 in the Planning Register for County Leitrim.”

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

“That the Taking in Public Charge in accordance with the provisions of Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 of Phase 2 of the housing development known as Ascaill Loch Bofinne at Drumod Beg, Dromod be approved. The development is subject of planning files reference numbers P05/469 and P06/447 in the Planning Register for County Leitrim.”

**09/480**

**5/10/2009**

**Corporate Policy Group Report**

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

Ms. McGovern confirmed that the Members of the Corporate Policy Group had received an update in relation to the SPC Scheme. She confirmed that the Draft Scheme, following approval at the September Council meeting, has been placed on public display with a closing date for receipt of submissions/observations of Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009. She confirmed that a special meeting of the Corporate Policy Group will be convened to consider any submissions/observations received with a view to the scheme being presented for adoption, with or without amendments, at the November Council meeting.

Ms. McGovern also requested that members return the completed form, indicating their preference as to which SPC they wish to be represented on, at an early date.

**Update on financial position**

Ms. McGovern advised that the Corporate Policy Group had received an update in relation to the Non Principal Private Residence (NPPR) Charge – she outlined that as of Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009 (a.m.), a total of 913 properties had been registered and paid for in relation to Leitrim. She outlined that this represents a total of €182,600 or 0.9% of the overall take nationally. She advised that administration fees etc will be deducted from the amount paid prior to distribution to individual local authorities. She advised that a joint advertising campaign in relation to the NPPR is being undertaken regionally to raise awareness of the charge.

Members highlighted a range of queries and concerns in relation to the NPPR Charge.

Councillor Kenny suggested that it is inefficient to collect this money centrally and queried what the administration charge would be. Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that the ‘shared service’ approach which has been adopted eliminates additional overhead costs arising in the collection of this additional source of income. She also outlined that it is more efficient and effective to be able to log on to a central website and pay electronically

and the shared service approach adopted has proven very successful. She outlined that the local authorities had paid for the development of the system on a shared basis and a small administration/maintenance fee will be deducted prior to the funding being redistributed to individual local authorities.

A number of members sought clarification in relation to whether the NPPR charge applies in various specified instances. The County Manager clarified that any person who owns more than one property is liable for the charge in respect of any such property which is not his/her principle private residence in the State. She outlined that registration must be completed by the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 and that payment must be made by the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009 or penalty charges start to accrue. She stressed that the onus is on the individual to determine whether a property is liable for the charge or not. She outlined the definition of 'residence' as per the legislation and advised that there is a detailed Questions & Answers section on the NPPR website which addresses many of the queries raised. She undertook to seek clarification on the position in relation to whether persons living abroad who own a property in Ireland which is not their principle private residence are liable for the charge.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mulligan reiterated that the onus is on the individual and not Leitrim County Council to determine whether a property is liable for the charge and he urged caution in this regard as significant penalties could be incurred should the property subsequently be identified as liable for the charge.

### **Items for Council Meeting**

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

### **Members ICT**

Ms. McGovern advised that the position in relation to Members ICT had been considered and agreed by the Corporate Policy Group as per the report circulated to each member.

This report was noted by the members.

### **Any Other Business**

Ms. McGovern advised that the Corporate Policy Group had suggested that the tea-break be brought back to 5.15pm, prior to the commencement of the Council meeting, to allow the Council meeting to proceed without interruption. She advised that the new arrangements would be operational, on a trial basis initially, as and from the November Council meeting.

This was noted by the members.

**09/481**  
**5/10/09**

### **Meeting Correspondence**

1. Copy of the Association of County and City Councils Annual Audited Accounts for the financial year 2008.
2. Letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> September 2009 from Chief Fire Officer in relation to National Fire Safety Week 2009.

3. Letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> October 2009 from Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator in relation to the confirmation received from Mr Rory Leahy, Regional Manager, Bus Eireann that he will attend the November meeting of Leitrim County Council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009.

***Proposed by Councillor Gordon Hughes, seconded by Councillor John Ward AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That a presentation from Mr. Rory Leahy, Regional Manager, Bus Eireann be received by the Council at the November Council meeting.”

4. Letter of acknowledgement dated 29<sup>th</sup> September 2009 from the Office of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs in connection with a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in relation to the Family Resource Centres.
5. Letter of acknowledgement dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Science in connection with a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council to the Higher Education Grants Scheme.
6. Letter of acknowledgement dated 29<sup>th</sup> September 2009 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in connection with a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to REPS4 and the Disadvantaged Area Schemes.
7. Letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 from the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in relation to the Rural Social Scheme.

Councillor Stenson expressed his disappointment at the response from Minister O’Cuiv that the places on the Rural Social Scheme in Leitrim cannot be increased at present. He outlined that these places were never more critical for people and communities and he stated that this is a very bad decision. This was supported by Councillor McGowan.

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

#### **Presentation from Truly Irish Country Meats**

Councillor Ellis proposed that the Council receive a presentation from Truly Irish Country Foods at the earliest available Council meeting. This was supported by Councillor O’Rourke.

***Proposed by Councillor Caillin Ellis, seconded by Councillor Paddy O’Rourke AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That a presentation from Truly Irish Country Foods Ltd be received by the Council at the earliest available Council meeting”.

#### **Heritage Officer**

Councillor Kenny suggested that with the decrease in planning activity there should be capacity within the Planning Office to designate a staff member as Heritage Officer for the county.

### **Register of Electors**

Councillor Colreavy advised members that it is now possible for people to have their name and address on the Register of Electors 'as Gaeilge'. He stated that 30<sup>th</sup> October is the deadline for making an application and suggested that the form should be made available on the Council's website.

### **Policy on completion of Developments**

Councillor McCartin referred to an issue raised at the July Council meeting in relation to the formulation of a policy to deal with issues of completion of developments etc. He queried whether the survey of housing developments which was to be undertaken in September had been completed. Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager confirmed that some work has been undertaken but the study has not yet been fully completed. She confirmed that the matter would be coming back before the members. She advised that the appropriate route would be that this matter be dealt with through the Planning, Environment & Emergency Services SPC.

**09/482**

**5/10/09**

### **Vote of Congratulations**

The members extended a vote of congratulations to the following:

- Glencar-Manorhamilton GAA Club on winning the Leitrim GAA Senior County Championship.
- Cloone GAA Club on winning the GWP Intermediate Championship Final.
- Aughavas GAA Club on winning the Junior A Championship Final
- Mohill under 12's on winning the 15-a-side Championship Final.
- Fenagh Ladies on winning the Eurospar Leitrim Ladies Junior B Championship Final.
- Robert Richardson (Butchers), Newtowngore on the prestigious Award in Craft Butchers National Awards recently
- John McGuinness, Mohill on winning the FEI World Breeding Jumping Championships for Young Horses, in Lanaken, Belgium.

**09/483**

**5/10/09**

### **Conferences**

***Proposed by Councillor Thomas Mulligan, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

That Leitrim County Council approves of the following:

- o Attendance of Councillor John McCartin and Councillor Siobhan McGloin at the Induction Training Programme for Newly elected members on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009 in Sligo.
- o Attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the Elected Member's Training Seminar - The Planning And Development (Amendment) Bill 2009 in Galway on the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

- Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor Martin Kenny, Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Enda Stenson, Councillor Tony Ferguson and Councillor Thomas Mulligan at the Sean MacDiarmada Conference on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009 in Kiltyclogher.
- Attendance of Councillor Siobhan McGloin at the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland in Killarney, Co Kerry on the 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2009.
- Attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the La Touche Legacy Seminar in Wicklow from 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2009.
- Attendance of Councillor Mary Bohan at the 7<sup>th</sup> National Tourism Conference on the 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September 2009 in the Talbot Hotel in Carlow.
- Attendance of Councillor Caillian Ellis at a conference entitled “Towards a Progressive Economics’ on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2009 in DCU, Dublin.

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

“That the attendance of Cllr Enda McGloin, Cllr John McTernan, Cllr Frank Dolan, Cllr Siobhan McGloin, Cllr John McCartin, Cllr Martin Kenny, and Councillor Sinead Guckian at the LAMA Annual Winter Seminar in Limerick on the 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2009 be approved”.

***Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor Siobhan McGloin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That the attendance of Cllr Siobhan McGloin, Cllr Frank Dolan and Councillor John McTernan at the T.J.K Seminar on Local Government in the Punch Hotel, Limerick on 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September 2009 be approved”.

***Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan, seconded by Councillor John McCartin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That the attendance of Cllr Sean McDermott at the Clare Tourism Conference in Clare on the 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2009 be approved”.

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

“That the attendance of Cllr Francis Gilmartin at the Tasc: Towards Progressive Economics in DCU on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2009 be approved”.

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

“That the attendance of Cllr Francis Gilmartin at the The Nuclear Free Local Authorities All Ireland Forum in Bray Town Hall on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2009 be approved”.

**Proposed by Councillor John McTernan, seconded by Councillor Gordon Hughes  
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

“That the attendance of Councillor John McTernan at the Seminar on Substance and Alcohol Misuse in Killarney on the 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009 be approved.”

**09/484  
5/10/09**

**Deputation from IFA Executive**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mulligan welcomed the deputation from the IFA to the meeting.

Mr. Michael McGovern Chairman of the County Leitrim IFA Executive gave a detailed overview to the members of the issues currently facing farmers in County Leitrim including issues relating to commodity prices received by farmers and the very significant erosion of government supports to agriculture. He outlined that the IFA have made submissions in relation to where savings of €465m can be achieved in relation to agriculture without withdrawing these very critical supports to farming. He urged the members to put pressure on the Minister, the Taoiseach and the Government generally to re-look at the Department of Agriculture budget and rescind the recent cuts. He stated that this would see a meaningful return to schemes which is badly needed.

Mr. Adrian Leddy, IFA Regional Development Officer reiterated some of the issues facing the farming community in Leitrim. He outlined that the overall rural community is affected by these cuts to agriculture and stated that it is critical that all of the interests come together to seek to have these cuts overturned. He urged the members to review areas over which they have control eg. duplication of services and inspections. He also asked that the issue of water charges and development charges be given careful consideration in the forthcoming budget preparations. He stated that a team effort involving Councillors, rural Oireachtas members and the IFA can turn this situation around.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mulligan thanked Mr. McGovern and Mr. Leddy for their presentation. He assured the IFA of the full support of all of the members who are more than aware of the difficulties facing the local farming community. He outlined that the contribution which farming makes to the economy in Leitrim is fully recognised and assured the IFA of the full support of the members in whatever way possible. He then opened the floor to questions. Mr. McGovern and Mr. Leddy responded to various queries and clarifications sought by the members.

Mr. McGovern thanked the Cathaoirleach, the Members and the County Manager for permitting the deputation. The members in turn thanked Mr. McGovern, Mr. Leddy and the other IFA representatives in attendance for their presentation.

**Part I - Notices of Motion.**

**09/485  
5/10/09**

**National Carers Strategy**

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

"Leitrim County Council call on the Taoiseach and Minister for Social and Family Affairs to

publish the National Carers Strategy as committed to in the Social Partnership Agreement - Towards 2016 -and in the Programme for Government, as a matter of principal."

Councillor Gilmartin outlined his very strong feelings in relation to how much Carers in Ireland are doing. He stated that a very strongly worded letter needs to issue to the Taoiseach and the Minister for Social and Family Affairs calling on them to honour the commitment to publish this document.

This was supported by all the Members.

***Proposed by Councillor Francis Gilmartin, seconded by Councillor Michael Colreavy AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Taoiseach and Minister for Social and Family Affairs to publish the National Carers Strategy as committed to in the Social Partnership Agreement - Towards 2016 -and in the Programme for Government, as a matter of principal".

**09/486  
5/10/09**

### **Extension of Planning Permissons**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council extend all planning permissions already granted for one-off rural houses. Due to the present economic situation a lot of people with Planning Permissions for such houses are unable to commence work and I propose that they be extended for a further five years."

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

"The extension of the life of a Planning Permission is governed by the provisions of Section 42 of the Planning and Development Act 2000. Under these provision works on the permitted development must have commenced and substantial works, [usually regarded as to wall plate level in the case of a single house] must be completed before the Planning Authority may extend the duration of the permission. The proposed amendments to these provisions under the 2009 Planning and Development Bill, currently passing through the Oireachtas, will not amend this situation. The proposed amendment is designed for significant economic development projects. It is not within the legal remit of the Council to extend any permission which has not commenced, as requested. It, however, is always open of any landowner, who has an expiring permission, to re-apply for a new permission, either prior to the expiry or after the expiry of the current permission. Such new permission, if granted, would have a lifespan of 5 years."

Councillor Ellis outlined that he has been approached by various young people in relation to their planning permissions who, given the current economic circumstances, are not in a position to proceed with building at this time. He outlined that he had understood that there was some provision in this regard in the 2009 Bill. He requested that a letter issue to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government requesting that the Bill be amended to include such a provision. He also requested that a copy of the resolution issue to all local authorities calling for their support on this issue.

The motion was supported by Councillor O'Rourke.

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, to amend the 2009 Planning & Development Bill to include provision to extend all planning permissions already granted for one-off rural houses. Due to the present economic situation many people with Planning Permissions for such houses are unable to commence work and provision should be included in the Bill that such permissions be extended for a further five years".

**09/487**

**5/10/09 Proposals re amalgamation of some local authorities and VEC's**

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

"Considering the recent Mc Carthy report, and in particular their proposals to amalgamate some local authorities and VEC's, while acknowledging the need to reduce costs, I propose that we ensure that the authority of our County remains sacrosanct. Therefore I propose the following motion be sent to the Taoiseach and each of the other 14 Government Ministers.

We the Members of Leitrim County Council call on the Government to ensure that whatever future decisions are taken regarding the streamlining of local government, including the Vocational Educational Committees, that due safeguards be given to the individual County authority"

Councillor McGloin outlined that we must try and ensure that Government, in preparing their budgets etc, do not disregard the 'county' entity. He outlined that Leitrim is already split for electoral purposes and the county may now be under threat in relation to its VEC and Local Authority. He stated that we must seek a commitment from Government in relation to the 'county' unit and identity. He outlined that he is not suggesting that any county be spared from review in relation to how we do business etc but the county unit and identity must be sacrosanct.

Councillor Bohan commended and fully supported the motion. She stated that Leitrim has always had to fight a 'numbers game' due to our size. She stated she would be very disappointed to see any attempt made to abolish Councils in any of the smaller counties. She stated that a better approach would be to consider extra responsibility for local authorities and cut out some of the duplication in relation to regional bodies and other agencies doing work that local authorities could do.

In relation to the VEC's, Councillor Bohan stated that the McCarthy report refers to savings of €3 million over a period of time – she outlined that this is a very small saving and services still have to be provided. She outlined that the IVEA has made proposals on various occasions in relation to additional services which could be provided by the VEC's. She stated that there has been a lot of inaccurate and uninformed media reports in relation to the activities of VEC's in recent months. She outlined that Leitrim County Council and Leitrim Vocational Educational Committee have worked very well in the interests of Leitrim and called on all members to lobby their political representatives at national level on these issues.

Councillor Ferguson also supported the motion. He outlined that, as the only statutory body in County Leitrim, the case should be made that all public monies coming into the county should come through the local authority. He stated that the case needs to be made for an enhanced role for local authorities.

Councillor Colreavy outlined that Sinn Féin also support the motion. He stated that time and again the role of the elected member is being reduced.

Councillor O'Rourke also supported the motion. He outlined, as Chairperson of the VEC, that the argument for attacking VEC's some 15 years ago was based on the need for greater efficiencies and it is now based on an economic requirement in order to achieve €3 million in savings over a period of time. He stated that the full range of services provided by VEC's is not being reflected in the debate.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mulligan, outlined that in 1976/1977, when Leitrim County Council secured its own County Manager position this was seen as a huge step forward for the county.

All of the members supported the motion.

Councillor McGloin requested that the motion also be circulated to the spokespersons for Education and Environment for Fine Gael, Sinn Féin and The Labour Party.

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Government to ensure that whatever future decisions are taken regarding the streamlining of local government, including the Vocational Educational Committees, that due safeguards be given to the individual County authority"

**09/488  
5/10/09**

**Additional Signage on the N4 Drumsna**

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

"At the October meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask the Carrick on Shannon District Engineer to reinvestigate the possibility of additional signage on the N4 Drumsna, indicating to vehicles that traffic is merging from the left, from the slip road towards Carrick. In May 2007, on my motion, the Council agreed to erect a "Merging Traffic" sign on the N4 and the hard shoulder was lined appropriately to indicate to vehicles to exit the hard shoulder to allow for vehicles to exit the slip road in a safe manner. Since then there have still been a number of 'near misses' for vehicles exiting Drumsna. As recently as last week a vehicle was traveling west on the N4 in the hard shoulder, allowing other traffic to pass them, they failed to acknowledge the "merging traffic" sign and the hard shoulder road markings and a local resident who was exiting the slip road was forced to take the grass margin. This situation is extremely dangerous and must be addressed immediately."

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

"The question of additional signage at this location will be discussed with the NRA Safety Inspector and a report will be furnished to the Councillor."

Councillor Guckian stated that this matter was previously on the agenda in 2007 on foot of which signage was erected. She acknowledged that driver behaviour and habit is a significant part of the problem. She outlined however that the location of the sign vis-a-vis the slip road gives drivers, if they are to acknowledge it, very little time to move out of the lane. She requested, given the serious nature of this matter, that the Council would bring a recommendation to the NRA in relation to addressing this matter. She expressed concern that additional signage would not be adequate and queried the possibility of arrows pointing left on the roadway indicating the slip-road to Drumsna and bollards being placed on the hard shoulder approaching the slip road from Drumsna towards Carrick on Shannon. She referred to rubber bollards used at Athlone, albeit for a different purpose, and suggested that such an option might be considered. She stated that the matter needs to be discussed urgently with the NRA.

Councillor Stenson and Councillor Ward strongly supported the motion. Councillor Stenson outlined that if the Council was not having to rely on the NRA to carry out this work it would have been done long ago. Councillor McGowan also supported the motion and suggested that raised lines on the hard shoulder approaching this location might be effective in alerting drivers. The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mulligan also supported the motion.

Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure confirmed that driver practice is a contributing factor. He confirmed that the matter would be discussed with the NRA Safety Inspector as soon as possible and all possible options will be raised. He confirmed that both sides of the slip road would be looked at. He suggested that hatching off the hard shoulder might be a possibility.

**09/489**  
**5/10/09**

### **National Cancer Screening Service**

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

"That this Council call on Mary Harney, Minister for Health, and Tony O'Brien, Chief Executive Officer of the National Cancer Screening Service to provide a dedicated mobile Breast Check Unit within the county of Leitrim for the people of Leitrim."

Councillor Siobhan McGloin acknowledged that women from North Leitrim can now go to Sligo to access this service but outlined that many women feel that they should be able to avail of a breast screening service within the county. She also stated that people have lost faith in the promises made by the HSE and Minister for Health and feel that they have been misled in relation to the follow-up cancer care that was to be available in Sligo General Hospital, with patients now being referred on to Galway for their follow-up care.

Councillor Ferguson and Councillor McDermott supported the motion. Councillor McDermott stated that it had not made sense that women from North Leitrim would have to travel to Roscommon and he commended the women of north Leitrim for highlighting this situation.

Councillor Colreavy outlined that he fully understood the thinking behind the motion but cautioned that it could have an unintended outcome. He outlined that if a location in South Leitrim (eg. Carrick on Shannon) were to be selected as the location for a dedicated unit

for Leitrim, women from north Leitrim would actually have to travel further than currently. He outlined that an element of choice needs to be available for women in relation to which unit/clinic they would attend. He also agreed that people had been misled in relation to the provision of follow-up cancer care in Sligo General Hospital with many patients having to travel to Galway for this follow-up care.

***Proposed by Councillor Siobhan McGloin, seconded by Councillor Tony Ferguson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council call on Mary Harney, Minister for Health, and Tony O’Brien, Chief Executive Officer of the National Cancer Screening Service to provide a dedicated mobile Breast Check Unit within the county of Leitrim for the people of Leitrim”.

**09/490  
5/10/09**

**Carbon Tax**

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to write to the Minister for Finance, Brian Lenihan and request him not to introduce a carbon tax in the next budget as rural Ireland is not on a level ‘playing field’ compared to areas like Dublin that has its Luas, Dart, trains and regular bus services and taxi services and also a €10 million cycle lane being planned from Rathmines to Fairview. People living in rural areas don’t have these choices and will suffer greatly if these carbon taxes are introduced."

Councillor McDermott outlined that Leitrim would be at a huge disadvantage should such a tax be introduced. He further outlined that it would be inappropriate to introduce such a tax at a time when the economy is on its knees.

Councillor Enda McGloin and Councillor Thomas Mulligan supported the motion.

***Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Finance, Brian Lenihan and request him not to introduce a carbon tax in the next budget as rural Ireland is not on a level ‘playing field’ compared to areas like Dublin that has its Luas, Dart, trains and regular bus services and taxi services and also a €10 million cycle lane being planned from Rathmines to Fairview. People living in rural areas don’t have these choices and will suffer greatly if these carbon taxes are introduced."

**09/491  
5/10/09**

**Western Rail Corridor**

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

"That we the members of Leitrim County Council call on the Ministers of Transport and Finance to provide the necessary funding to continue the works on the Western Rail Corridor- The costs to date are €1.4m for Western Rail per kilometre and the costs for Clonsilla to Dunshaughlin are €21.4m per kilometre. This is a case of equal treatment for

West of Ireland and balancing the Regional Development."

Councillor Ferguson stated that this is another service targeted in the McCarthy report. He outlined the cost differential between the Western Rail Corridor and the Clonsilla to Dunshaughlin Line, although he acknowledged that land acquisition problems are a factor in the cost of the Clonsilla to Dunshaughlin line. He outlined that the Western Rail Corridor is secured all the way to Collooney in Sligo, that staff and facilities are in place and that Phase II from Athenry to Tuam needs to be progressed.

Councillor McGowan fully supported the motion and stated that there had been a lot of lobbying to get the corridor open. Councillor Kilrane also supported the motion and stated that a rail corridor on the West of Ireland is needed and brings benefits to all parts of the community. Councillor McCartin also supported the motion.

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Ministers of Transport and Finance to provide the necessary funding to continue the works on the Western Rail Corridor - the costs to date are €1.4m for Western Rail per kilometre and the costs for Clonsilla to Dunshaughlin are €21.4m per kilometre. This is a case of equal treatment for West of Ireland and balancing the Regional Development."

**09/492  
5/10/09**

**Dromod-Rooskey By-Pass**

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

"At the October Meeting of Leitrim County Council I will again ask Mr John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure, has there been any further response from the NRA with a view to securing funding and putting in place a programme of works, to provide a hard shoulder at the Sligo end of the Dromod-Rooskey by-pass, from the exit of the old N.4 as far as Doherty's lane. It is extremely dangerous for motorists exiting from the old N4, and for motorists from the Farnaught-Moheraven road (Road No.LP-1475-0) who are heading towards Carrick-on-Shannon. There is a lot of concern in the locality, and the community are fearful that it is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs there."

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

"We have had further discussions with the NRA regarding this junction. They still hold the opinion that the junction is in compliance with design standards and will not approve any alterations to the lay out at this location."

Councillor McGowan expressed his disappointment with the reply. He queried what standards the NRA are working to. He stated that this is a very dangerous junction and requested that the NRA Inspectorate be brought to this location to see the issues on the ground. He stated that a proper merging lane must be provided and he will not let the matter go until a satisfactory resolution is arrived at.

Councillor Stenson fully supported the motion. He also queried the position in relation to

various works that were to be completed on the By-Pass. Councillor Ward also supported the motion and stated that it is only when using the junction that you really appreciate the danger involved. Councillor Guckian also supported the motion and also queried the position in relation to the lights promised for Jamestown and Drumsna. The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mulligan also supported the motion.

Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure outlined that discussions have taken place with the NRA but he confirmed that they would go back again to the NRA on this issue.

**09/493**  
**5/10/09**

### **NRA & upkeep of Local & Regional Roads**

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

"Conflicting reports have emerged over the past few months regarding the transfer of control for the upkeep of Local and Regional roads from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to the N.R.A. May I ask the County Manager what effect this move will have on Leitrim County Council's Roads Department. As elected members we must, along with Area Engineers have a direct input into road grant allocations in each area. I am requesting clarity on how our County Manager and Director of Services for Infrastructure, sees the situation going forward."

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

"Local Authorities were advised by Circular Letter dated 18th August 2009 that the Minister for Transport has entered into an agreement with the NRA that they will manage the Regional and Local Roads Investment Programme from 1st Sept 2009 on his behalf. As a transitional measure the Dept of Transport will continue to make road grant payments for the rest of 2009 and there are no changes at present to the arrangements re submission of monthly expenditure returns. We were advised that, other than this, all correspondence re regional and local roads grants should be directed to Regional & Local Roads Unit in NRA.

On 27th August we received correspondence from the NRA in relation to the new arrangements. They have outlined that there will be no change in the status of the programme and that it is intended to use the existing system and procedures initially at least. The NRA outlined that they will prepare recommendations re grant allocations for consideration and determination by the Minister for Transport.

As we understand it, the only change is that submissions, correspondence, details of priorities/proposals etc are now to be made to the NRA rather than to the Department of Transport as heretofore."

Councillor Stenson stated that as an elected body the Council could not allow power over local and regional roads to go from the local authority. He outlined concern that this is the tip of the iceberg in eroding local authority powers and stated that he is greatly concerned for the future. He stated that local authorities must lay down a marker and he called upon all of the members to support the motion.

All of the members strongly supported the motion.

Councillor Kenny outlined his concerns that power will be centralized, away from local

elected members. He queried how the Minister can make a change like this without consulting with elected members. Councillor Frank Dolan stated that this is a service that is very well provided by the local authority and any attempt to centralize control over local and regional roads must be strongly opposed. Councillor McDermott supported this and stated that the notification of the decision in this regard, without advance consultation, demonstrates contempt for local authorities.

Councillor Enda McGloin proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Transport seeking clarification as to why he has made this move and what possible benefits there are for local authorities. Councillor Bohan queried if the NRA are to make recommendations in relation to priorities what function will the local authority have. She stated that the move should be opposed.

Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services clarified that submissions in relation to priorities etc are currently submitted to the Department for consideration but are now to be submitted to the NRA. He outlined his understanding that the Department Inspectorate is being transferred to the NRA but the Minister will still make the decisions in relation to allocations.

Councillor Kilrane stated that we are constantly seeing an erosion of the functions and powers of local authorities. He outlined that the power exists within the Roads Act to hand over power for all roads to the NRA. He stated that it appears that the functions of the NRA are being expanded as funding for national roads runs out and local authorities must take action.

Councillor Colreavy sought clarification on what correspondence had been received from the Department on this matter and if this correspondence had been circulated to members. He challenged the NRA or anyone to look at our local and regional roads expenditure and achieve better value for money. He stated that this move will lead to a diminution of the powers of local authorities.

Councillor McCartin stated that local knowledge and information is critical in determining priorities for local and regional roads and any attempt to take this responsibility from local authorities must be resisted.

Councillor Guckian outlined that officials from the N.R.A and the Department of Transport were appearing before a meeting of the Oireachtas Committee on Environment, Heritage and Local Government tomorrow and that some clarity might come out of this.

Ms. Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator advised that the correspondence in this regard had inadvertently been omitted from the Members Meetings Correspondence. Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager reiterated that, as we understand it, the only change is that submissions, correspondence, details of priorities/proposals etc are now to be made to the NRA rather than to the Department of Transport as heretofore.

Councillor Stenson reiterated the proposal that a letter issue to the Minister seeking clarification on the matter and outlining the Council's position in this regard. This was seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin and supported by all the members. It was also agreed that support would be sought through the Association of City & County Councils and LAMA and local authorities generally.

Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that a deputation be sought with the Minister for

Transport in relation to this matter. This was seconded by Councillor Reynolds.

**09/494  
5/10/09**

### **Medical Cards**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor John Ward;***

"Leitrim County Council requests the H.S.E. to maintain current procedures in relation to medical cards - centralisation of same resulted in long delays and poor access, which left patients and doctors frustrated and confused. The H.S.E. now plans to extend these arrangements to all medical card holders. This is a much more complex task, which is bound to cause chaos and confusion for medical card patients.

What is unclear is whether this decision has been taken by the Government, the H.S.E. Board or Senior H.S.E. management. What is clear is that the proposal would; (1) Make the Medical card process harder, slower and less accessible to people. (2) Dramatically reduce the systems responsive to people and GP's; (3) Depersonalise the process forcing vulnerable and elderly people to depend on email, recorded telephone messages and other "faceless" technologies. We know this will cost jobs in every county as services are being centralized in Dublin."

Councillor Ward highlighted the difficulties associated with obtaining a medical card and the red-tape involved and stated that centralization of the system will cause chaos and confusion for everyone involved.

Councillor McGowan supported the motion and outlined that he, together with Councillor Reynolds and Councillor Hughes, have raised this issue on the Regional Health Forum on foot of which various resolutions have been submitted to Government. He outlined that as members of the Regional Health Forum they would continue to fight in relation to this issue.

All of the members supported the motion. Councillor Kenny and Councillor Reynolds highlighted the importance of local information in dealing with Medical Card applications. The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mulligan also outlined that any centralization of the service would impact on HSE staff locally with possible relocations etc.

***Proposed by Councillor John Ward, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council requests the H.S.E. to maintain current procedures in relation to medical cards - centralisation of same resulted in long delays and poor access, which left patients and doctors frustrated and confused. Plans to extend these arrangements to all medical card holders is a much more complex task, which is bound to cause chaos and confusion for medical card patients.

We also seek clarification on whether this decision has been taken by the Government, the H.S.E. Board or Senior H.S.E. management.

What is clear to Leitrim County Council is that the proposal would; (1) Make the Medical card process harder, slower and less accessible to people. (2) Dramatically reduce the systems responsive to people and GP's; (3) Depersonalise the process forcing vulnerable

and elderly people to depend on email, recorded telephone messages and other "faceless" technologies. We know this will cost jobs in every county as services are being centralized in Dublin."

**09/495**  
**5/10/09**

**Back Line, Dromahair**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor John McTernan;***

"I ask the Council to change the proposed one way system and to leave the "Back Line" a two way system in Dromahair. The Community are requesting tarring and proper signs to be put in place and any other safety issues which may arise can be dealt with at a later date."

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

"Following extensive local consultation it is not now proposed to proceed with the one way system on the "Back Line" Drumahaire. We will however be improving the lining and signs at the Market Street/Backline junction"

Councillor McTernan welcomed the news that the two-way system will remain. He stated that the people of Dromahair will be happy that the proposed one way system on the Back Line in Dromahaire will not now proceed. He thanked the Engineers and staff of Leitrim County Council who have had extensive local consultation with the people of Dromahaire on this matter.

Councillor Bohan outlined that she is happy that the decision is in line with what the people in Dromahaire have recently asked for. She outlined that the proposed one-way system originally arose as part of the Dromahaire Area Plan. She outlined that some areas of concern have been raised and she asked that the Council look at lining these locations.

Councillor Frank Dolan also welcomed the decision and outlined that he considered that this was the correct decision.

**09/496**  
**5/10/09**

**Sewerage Scheme in Cloone Village**

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

"I call upon Leitrim County Council to provide an up date as to the expected completion of the sewage scheme in the village of Cloone and a time frame as to when homeowners and businesses can obtain a connection to same."

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

"The new waste water treatment plant in Cloone is programmed for completion in early December of this year. Householders and business owners will be contacted in the next month with instructions regarding the particular date for making of connections in December."

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke acknowledged the reply received and sought assurances that

works will be completed in December. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that this is based on the programme the Contractor has submitted. He confirmed that progress on the scheme overall is somewhat behind but that this is the latest information available and he expects the treatment plant in Cloone will be completed in December.

**09/497**

**5/10/09**

**Speed Limit extended on the Aughacashel Road, Drumshanbo**

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

"I call on the Director of Services, Infrastructure to have the 30mph speed limit extended out past the District Veterinary Office on the Aughacashel Road, Drumshanbo."

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

"Consideration will be given to extending this speed limit out road number LP 3306 in the next county speed limit review"

Councillor Gerry Dolan outlined that numerous people have been in contact with him seeking the extension of the 30mph speed limit at this location.

Councillor Enda McGloin supported the motion and queried if there would be a special meeting to consider speed limits across the county.

Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer, Roads confirmed that a review of the speed limits for the county will be undertaken in the next couple of months and will be brought before the members. He outlined that the review will be publicly advertised allowing an opportunity for proposals to be submitted. He confirmed that the members will also have an opportunity to submit their proposals for consideration.

This was welcomed by the members.

**09/498**

**5/10/09**

**Additional Lighting at Courthouse in Ballinamore**

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

"When will Leitrim County Council install additional lighting and security cameras leading to the public car-park at the rear of the courthouse in Ballinamore as was previously agreed at a meeting with the Ballinamore Business Association. There is an issue with anti-social behaviour at this location which is causing much distress to local residents particularly at night and urgently needs to be addressed."

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

"There are presently 6 public lighting columns from the main street in Ballinamore to the car park, 2 of which are situated within the car park. This is adequate lighting for this car park. There are no funds to provide CCTV at this time. The issue of anti social behavior will be taken up with the Gardai.

However, given that it now appears that the redevelopment of the Courthouse in

Ballinamore is no longer imminent this matter will now require a review."

Councillor Hughes requested that this matter be reviewed urgently.

**09/499**  
**5/10/09**

### **Rural Transport Programme**

Given that Motion Number 24 in the name of Councillor Gerry Kilrane and Motion No. 26 in the name of Councillor John McCartin relate to the issue of Rural Transport it was agreed that both motions would be taken together.

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

"The recent McCarthy report has suggested that the Rural Transport Programme be shelved. The Rural lift commenced from humble beginnings in 1999 to now operating 33 routes here in County Leitrim providing an invaluable service to rural dwellers but also a crucial social outlet for senior citizens. I propose that Leitrim County Council should immediately write to the Minister for Transport highlighting the success of the scheme to date, the huge setback its removal would be to a County like Leitrim and confirmation that the scheme will be retained in full."

#### ***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor John McCartin;***

"In light of the McCarthy Report, I propose that Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Transport to ask him to clarify his position on the continuance of the Rural Lift service. I would also propose that we impress on him the importance of the service to it's users, the business in the area and to the area's Community Care services"

Councillor Kilrane stated that the Rural Transport Programme provides a critical service to Leitrim and the proposal to shelve it fails to take account of the realities for rural areas in relation to access to transport and will result in older people in particular losing significant independence.

Councillor McCartin outlined that the rural transport programme is a low-cost service which is critical in rural areas. He proposed that a letter issue to the Minister seeking clarification of the position on what is the future of the scheme.

Councillor O'Rourke supported the motion and outlined that the net-cost to the State of the Scheme must be very low. He outlined that the scheme facilitates people in getting out and about and they can then engage in a spend which is good for the local economy.

All members strongly supported the motions.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mulligan confirmed that the scheme has meant a lot to people in rural areas and that there is a great social aspect attached to it.

***Proposed by Councillor Gerry Kilrane, seconded by Councillor John McCartin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council should immediately write to the Minister for Transport highlighting the success of the Rural Transport Programme to date, the huge setback its

removal would be to a County like Leitrim and confirmation that the scheme will be retained in full."

***Proposed by Councillor John McCartin, seconded by Councillor Gerry Kilrane AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Transport to ask him to clarify his position on the continuance of the Rural Lift service. I would also propose that we impress on him the importance of the service to it's users, the business in the area and to the area's Community Care services"

**09/500  
5/10/09**

### **Blanket Ban on Turf Cutting**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on Minister for the Environment and Local Government John Gormley TD not to implement the proposed blanket ban on turf cutting by farmers on their own bog lands."

Councillor Kenny outlined that, as far as he is aware, this issue doesn't affect Leitrim as of yet. He outlined however that such a ban will have a huge impact on people who save turf as a means of heating their homes. He stated that a blanket ban will not achieve an environmental improvement and the proposals must be reviewed. He stated that it would be ridiculous to think that people would be prevented from using their bog.

All of the members strongly supported the motion and expressed the view that 'saving turf' is part of the rural way of life which must be protected. Councillor Bohan clarified that the proposal does impact on Leitrim as there are a number of designated areas of special conservation in the county.

### **Part II - Questions.**

**09/501  
5/10/09**

### **Habours in Drumsna and Jamestown**

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

"At the October meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure what progress has been made to date with Waterways Ireland regarding the upgrading of facilities at Harbours in Drumsna and Jamestown. At the May 2008 meeting of Leitrim County Council it was agreed that the Council would contact Waterways Ireland to discuss the need for the upgrading of facilities at the Harbours, with a view to developing a plan for the installation of additional moorings and toilet facilities etc.. There are no service areas at either harbour for boating tourists. It was also agreed that the Council would express concerns over the number of boat users that fail to acknowledge the "end of navigation' in Drumsna. Currently, there are no markers in the water to indicate the end of navigation and as a result a number of cruisers, yearly, head towards the bridge, become grounded and have to be towed out. It was also agreed that a report from the meeting would be circulated."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Informal discussions were held with Waterways Ireland regarding the upgrade of facilities at the locations mentioned but no progress can be recorded.

From our most recent discussions, Waterways Ireland again have indicated that they do not propose to carry out any improvement works at either location at this time.

As regards signage at Drumsna, one existing sign was somewhat concealed when boats moored close to it so this has been relocated. They propose to review the situation and if extra signs are considered necessary then these will be provided."

**09/502**

**5/10/09**

**Footpath in Cloone**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to complete the footpath in Cloone Village out past Tommy Creegan's house as soon as possible."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"There are a number of ESB minipillars to be constructed by the Ballinamore District Office in Cloone village. We will endeavour to recommence these works in December/January. Once these minipillars are in position, cabling by the ESB can commence. We can resurface the remaining footpaths once this is complete."

**09/503**

**5/10/09**

**Signage**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to erect the signs as already promised for St Brigid's Street and Main Street in Ballinamore at the Junction on the ring road where it joins the Aughoo road."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The signs for the new relief road at this junction will be erected by the end of the year"

**09/504**

**5/10/09**

**Remedial Works to Housing Estates**

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

"I ask the Director of Services for Housing and Corporate Services what update there is to report in relation to the application to the Department of Environment for remedial works at the housing estates at Dristernan, Drumshanbo. There are some footpaths in the main Housing estate at Dristernan in urgent need of attention and I ask the Senior Executive Engineer if he would inspect same with a view to including them in any further or current grant application for improvements in Dristernan"

**Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing**

"Leitrim County Council has responded to the initial queries raised by the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government regarding submission made under the

Remedial Works Scheme. Approval to proceed with the Remedial Works Scheme is awaited from the Department. The repair/replacement of damaged footpaths in Dristernan Estate was included in the Council's grant application."

**09/505**  
**5/10/09**

**Re-Surfacing of Leitrim Village**

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to consider the re-surfacing of Leitrim Village on the Drumshanbo side of the bridge. I understand that this years budget is committed however it would be important to include this work at some stage in the near future as the street is very uneven after all the various works over the last 2 years."

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

"The resurfacing of the road pavement in Leitrim Village will take place next month as part of the Specific Improvement Grant Scheme for 2009."

**09/506**  
**5/10/09**

**Footpath Quay Street, Drumsna**

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

"At the October meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Carrick on Shannon District Engineer to replace the footpath on Quay Street, Drumsna, where the telephone kiosk has been removed. Currently a large gap remains in the footpath and a pile of bricks are left adjacent to it. It is my understanding that the contractor who removed the phone kiosk, contacted the District Engineer with a view to sourcing bricks to rebuild the footpath, but to date, several months later, the work has not been completed. I would also ask if any response has been received from Eircom with regard to using the old telephone kiosks to 'house' defibrillators particularly in rural areas. (re my question no.63 May 2009 meeting"

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

"Leitrim County Council will contact Eircom with a view to having the necessary restoration work undertaken.

With regard to the use of the old telephone kiosks the matter has been raised with Eircom and will be followed up for response."

**09/507**  
**5/10/09**

**Speed Ramps**

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

"To ask the Director of Services for Infrastructure to have speed ramps put in place immediately in the Townspark Area, Carrick on Shannon."

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

"A plan is being prepared to deal with safety concerns in the area. Local resident's suggestions will be considered in the preparation of this plan."

09/508  
5/10/09

**N16 roadway at the Big Bog in Glenfarne**

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure, when are land-owners going to get paid for land that was sold to re-align the N16 roadway at the Big Bog in Glenfarne."

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

"Offers were made to all landowners on this scheme. Any agreements that have been reached with landowners are currently with our solicitor and once legal matters are finalised payment will be made."

09/509  
5/10/09

**Regional Road R282**

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

"At the October Council meeting, I will ask when will the surface on the Regional Road R282 from Manorhamilton to Rossinver be properly re-instated - some work has been done but it is not totally satisfactory."

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

"This work is part of reinstatement works carried out by the contractor as part of the Mullies/Brackery Group Water Scheme. The contractor has been requested to return immediately to rectify these problem areas. The work will be carried out by the Area Office if we are unable to get a satisfactory response from the contractor"

09/510  
5/10/09

**Traffic Calming**

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

"When it is proposed to put traffic calming in front of Cross - View Houses in Tullaghan - where traffic comes in at speed from the N.15?"

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

"We will carry out an inspection of this location with the NRA Safety Inspector, who will advise us on the best option for this location. Subject to this inspection and his advice a source of funding will be sought for any proposed works."

09/511  
5/10/09

**Clearing of grass and weeds**

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

"When it is proposed to clear grass and weeds from the parapets of bridges in the

Manorhamilton area? There are many very nice stone bridges which are left in poor state of neglect as are our road signs."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Bridges in the Manorhamilton Area are cleaned as part of the annual maintenance program. However, there is a significant quantity of these structures in the area and therefore not all structures are cleaned each year. Hedgerow and vegetation around road signs and bridges will continue to be cleared as part of our annual maintenance program."

**09/512**

**5/10/09**

**Sightlines at the Cross roads at Bornacoola**

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

"At the October meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask Mr John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure to provide funding in the 2010 roadwork's programme to carry out improvements to the sightlines at the crossroads at the former post office at Bornacoola. It is extremely difficult and dangerous for motorists approaching the crossroads from the community centre and Cloonmorris direction."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"This junction will be included for consideration in the 2010 Roads Programme"

**09/513**

**5/10/09**

**Dromod to Clooneagh Cross**

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

"I ask Mr Michael Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer Carrick-on-Shannon Engineering Area, to have discussions with the landowner (name provided) with a view to removing the wall of the old house at Clooncolry and replacing it with timber post and rail fence in order to improve the view for motorists on the road from Dromod to Clooneagh Cross."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"We will contact the landowner in question with a view to discuss suggested improvements.

If agreement can be got this project can be included for consideration for the 2010 Roads programme."

**09/514**

**5/10/09**

**Lighting at Kilnagross P.O.**

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

"I am requesting that our Area Engineer again contact the E.S.B. and demand that the public lights already paid for be erected at Killnagross P.O. before the winter."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The ESB have already erected the lamp standards and have confirmed that works will be completed week commencing Monday 5th October."

09/515  
5/10/09

**Safety of Pedestrians**

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

"We have had numerous Motions and Questions regarding the control of speeding cars and the general safety of pedestrians in Townpark/Lisnagot/and the Breffni Crescent area. I ask is there Development Charge monies that can be used here to make the area a safer place to live."

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

"A plan is being prepared to deal with safety concerns in the area. Local resident's suggestions will be considered in the preparation of this plan. Any proposed works can be included for consideration in the 2010 Roads programme."

09/516  
5/10/09

**Sewerage Scheme Extension**

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure when it is expected that work will commence on the extension to the Sewerage Scheme at McLoughlins, McManus' and McGrails, at Attyrory, Carrick on Shannon, as they have applied to Leitrim County Council for a Group Sewerage Scheme."

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

"An application form was forwarded to this Group in May 2009 but to-date a completed form has not been received by Water Services. However, there was no allocations for new Group Sewerage Schemes in 2009 and at this stage Leitrim Council can not be sure whether funding will be available for this type of scheme in the future."

09/517  
5/10/09

**Watermains between Mong/Mohill**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John Ward;***

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure what is the position with the water mains between Mong/Mohill. At the present time no work is being carried out. I would also ask why some of the sub contractors have not been paid."

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

"The original Contractor on this scheme, has been removed from the project due to under performance and the Bond has been called in to complete the works. The Bondholders, Quinn Insurance, have put the remainder of the contract, together with outstanding snags, out to tender and these tender are now due back. A Contractor will shortly be appointed by Quinn Insurance in consultation with Leitrim County Council to complete the project including outstanding works not correctly completed by the original contractor. As regards payment to sub-contractors, their contracts are with the original contractor not

with Leitrim County Council and there are recognised mechanisms for recovery of monies due to them, which does not involve Leitrim County Council."

**09/518**  
**5/10/09**

**Road Repairs**

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

"I ask this Council to carry out urgent repairs to the Largy road (above the lake)."

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

"The road in question is local road LT-21251-1/2 over Glenade Lake. The land adjoining the road on the lake side has suffered three landslides in the recent past due to inclement weather and the existing steep gradient of the land. The landslides have undermined the road verge and funding for the repair of these areas shall be sought in next years Discretionary Budget. In the interim the areas will remain fenced off."

**09/519**  
**5/10/09**

**Ahanlish/Fartagh Road**

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

"That Leitrim County Council carry out urgent repairs to the Ahanlish/Fartagh Road as soon as possible"

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

"The road referred to is local road LP-2097-0. The road in question will be maintained as part of annual maintenance but the majority of this road is in good condition structurally."

**09/520**  
**5/10/09**

**St Patricks Park, Carrick on Shannon**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John Ward;***

"I ask the Director of Services why is there an odour from sewage present in a number of houses in St Patricks Park, Carrick on Shannon. Have any tests been carried out recently and if not could this matter be dealt with immediately?"

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

"In the past there was a problem in relation to smells emanating from the sewers at this location. This problem was solved by fitting odour control to the offending rising main. This system is monitored regularly and is working well. The recent problem with smells is most likely related to the spreading of farm slurry on near by lands."

**09/521**  
**5/10/09**

**Rock Valley Estate**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McTernan;***

"I wish to enquire as to why there is a delay in taking over the maintenance of the Rock - Valley Estate (Dromahair). (Completed almost 6 years and all development charges etc have been paid)."

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

"An application for Taking in Charge of Rock Valley was lodged with the Planning Authority on 19th December 2008 by the developer.

As the application was incomplete, a letter was sent to him on 20th January 2009 requesting the additional / outstanding information.

The developer subsequently submitted some additional information, which was received on 10th July 2009.

As all the requested additional information, as highlighted to him in the Council's letter of 20th January 2009, was not furnished, a second letter was sent on 20th July 2009 outlining what was still to be furnished / outstanding.

The planning Authority has not received any response to date and is not therefore in a position to proceed with the Taking in Charge of the estate until it receives a full response from the developer.

There is also an issue in relation to financial contributions in relation to works to the public road at the entrance to the estate, which facilitate the development, that have yet to be resolved. All development charges therefore have not been paid.

Any delay in relation to the taking in charge of this estate currently rests with the developer."

**09/522**  
**5/10/09**

**Re-surfacing**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McTernan;***

"I ask Leitrim County Council as to when the re-surfacing of the road from Killenummery Church to the county boundary will be done."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The re-resurfacing of the LP 4264 from Killenummery Church to the County Boundary is scheduled for completion in 2010 as part of the 2008-2010 Multi-Annual Road Works Programme."

**09/523**  
**5/10/09**

**Footpaths at Church Street, Carrigallen**

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

"When will Leitrim County Council complete the works on the footpaths at Church Street, Carrigallen - these works have been ongoing for a considerable time and property owners are anxious to have them completed, along with the danger they present in their present condition."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The District Office have programmed footpath construction for Carrigallen for December/January with remaining development funding. A section these footpaths are to be constructed as part of a planning permission granted by Leitrim County Council along Church Street."

**09/524**  
**5/10/09**

**Pedestrian Crossing**

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

"I would ask Leitrim County Council to consider providing a pedestrian crossing at Railway Road, Ballinamore in order to allow pedestrians cross safely from the parking area opposite the Doctors Surgery along with the other businesses and residences on that side of the Street."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"A pedestrian crossing adjacent the Doctors surgery is included in the low cost safety schemes for the Ballinamore District. However,adequate funding to complete all crossings proposed was not received. This will be considered again when funding is available"

**09/525**  
**5/10/09**

**Safety Barrier**

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to have a safety barrier erected along side the Canal heading from Diffier to Battlebridge Leitrim."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The cost of providing a safety barrier along this section of road would be in excess of €100,000. Consideration could be given to providing this barrier if a suitable source of funding became available."

**09/526**  
**5/10/09**

**Bridge at Gortvagh, Dromahaire**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to have the bridge at Gortvagh, Dromahaire made safe as promised for some time."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"No provision has been made in the 2009 road works programme for repairs to the parapet walls of this bridge.This work can be included for consideration in the preparation of the 2010 Roads programme and will ofcourse be dependant on funding being available."

**09/527**  
**5/10/09**

**Leckan, Aughawillan (LS 5372-0)**

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

"I ask the Area Engineer when will the Council carry out resurfacing works to the roadway located at Leckan, Aughawillan (LS 5372-0) as it is in a very poor state of repair."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The road in question can be included for consideration for next years Roads programme."

**09/528**  
**5/10/09**

**Tarmon, Ballinamore**

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

"I ask the Area Engineer when will the Council resurface the roadway located at Tarmon, Ballinamore as it is presently in a very poor state of repair with numerous potholes particularly at the junction with the main road."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The road in question can be considered for inclusion in next year's Roads Programme. Routine maintenance work will be carried out once the adjacent development construction work has been complete."

**09/529**  
**5/10/09**

**Station Road, Mohill**

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

"I ask the Area Engineer when will the road surface at Station Road, Mohill (from Central Motors to Coolabaun Td.) be reinstated as it is in a very poor condition at present."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"General improvements along Station Road are ongoing and it is proposed that the road will be re-surfaced as part of these works."

**09/530**  
**5/10/09**

**St Patricks Park, Tawlaughtmore, Mohill**

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

"I ask the Area Engineer to assess the current situation at St. Patricks Park, Tawlaughtmore, Mohill. There was a very serious accident a few weeks ago involving a young child and it is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs here. Cars are driving at excessive speed from the direction of Mohill and there is a dangerous bend on the Dromod side."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The area will be examined with a view to establishing what measures can be undertaken to improve safety. A source of funding will also have to be identified."

**09/531**  
**5/10/09**

**Hedgecutting**

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

"What steps has this Council taken to make sure that all hedges are cut along the roads for safety."

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

"Land owners are legally responsible for maintaining the road side hedges on their property. Notices have already been placed in the local newspaper reminding landowners of their obligations to cut their boundary hedges, these notices will be repeated over the Hedge Cutting Season. Leitrim County Council also issue hedge cutting notices to individual landowners when their hedges are causing an obstruction to the road way. Failure to comply with the Hedge Cutting Notice will result in a court appearance and possibly a large fine."

**09/532**

**5/10/09**

**On call at weekends**

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

"Are there any numbers we can contact at the weekends as I had to contact the Area Engineer on one weekend outside his working week. I would like to thank him for acting so quickly to get the tree removed at Drumaleague, Kilclare on that evening."

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

"A draft policy is being developed for dealing with road based incidents of this kind outside work hours. As part of this policy calls should be made to the emergency number 999 or 112 where they will be directed to CAMP West. Camp West will make contact with the appropriate staff within Leitrim County Council for dealing with the incident. This policy will be in operation in November."

**09/533**

**5/10/09**

**Corraneary road LT15101-0**

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

"I am asking the Director of Services, Infrastructure to have works carried out on the Corraneary road LT15101-0 that runs between the R201 in front of Pat Charles house and comes out on the L 1511 beside Aughavas Community centre which is a bad state of repair."

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

"After a site investigation, it is noted that the poor section of the LT15101-0 is a private gated road, and therefore does not come under the charge of the Local Authority."

09/534  
5/10/09

**Footpaths on Church Street, Carrigallen**

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

"I am asking the Director of Services, Infrastructure when will the footpaths on Church Street, Carrigallen be finished, as they have been left for several years now."

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

"The District Office have programmed footpath construction for Carrigallen for December/January with remaining development charge funding. A section of these footpaths are to be constructed by the developer as part of a planning permission granted by Leitrim County Council along Church Street."

***The business of the meeting concluded at 8.45pm.***

**SIGNED: Cllr Thomas Mulligan  
Cathaoirleach**

**SIGNED: Aideen McGovern  
Meetings Administrator**

**DATE: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009**