

**Minutes of Council Meeting held by Leitrim County Council  
In the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on  
Monday 6th April 2009**

**Members Present**

Brennan, Damian	McDermott, Sean
Bohan, Mary,	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	Stenson Enda
Hughes, Gordon	
Kenny, Martin	

*And Councillor Francis Gilmartin, Leas Cathaoirleach presiding*

**Apologies:** Jim Joe Shortt

**Officials Present:**

- Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager
- 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 Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer
- Mr Ciaran Tracey, Senior Planner
- Mr Terry McGovern, Senior Executive Engineer
- Mr Darragh O'Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer
- Ms Carmelita, Caslin, Senior Executive Officer
- Mr Caoimhin Corrigan, Arts Officer
- Mr Michael Gunning, I.S. Project Leader
- Ms Joan Lowe, Administrative Officer
- Ms. A. McGovern, Meetings Administrator

### **Water Conservation**

At the outset of the meeting Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that the Council was formally launching its Water Conservation awareness booklets for Schools, Farms and Public Use. A copy of each of the booklets was circulated to the members and Ms. Maguire advised that they would be widely distributed. She highlighted the importance of raising awareness in relation to the need to conserve water generally and also in relation to how people can reduce their water bills.

The Members welcomed the initiative and reiterated the importance of water conservation and increasing awareness in this regard.

09/166

6/4/09

**Deimhniu Miontuairisci**

**Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Gerard Reynolds AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

“That the Minutes of the Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras An Chontae on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009, be adopted.”

09/167

6/4/09

**Votes of Sympathy**

The members extended a vote of sympathy to the following;

- Mr Patrick McCormack, Upper Glencar, Co Sligo on the death of Bernadette McCormack.
- Mrs Mary McGurrin, Cartrongibbagh, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim on the death of John Cullen.
- Mr Hugh Kerrigan, Boynnagh, Ballyshannon P.O, Co Leitrim on the death of Mary Kate Gallagher.
- The Rynn Family, Kilcoo Road, Kiltyclogher, Co Leitrim on the death of Mrs Bella Rynn.
- Thomas Gilgunn, Cherrybrook, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim on the death of Kathleen Gilgunn.
- Ms Kay Horan, Magheraboy P.O., Sligo on the death of Patrick Feehily.
- Mrs Irwin, Springvilla, Dromahaire on the death of Keneth Irwin.
- Mr John McManus, Beaghmore, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of Kathleen McManus.
- Mary Cumiskey, Ardrum, Ballinamore, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Teresa Duffy.
- Mattie Fee, Clonboyher, Corrawallen, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of Kay Fee.
- George Reynolds, Foxborough, Drumsna on the death of Judge Miriam Reynolds.

09/168

**6/4/09 Draft Regional Planning Guidelines**

Councillor Francis Gilmartin, Leas Cathoirleach welcomed Mr. Pdraig Maguire, Regional Planning Guidelines Implementation Officer, from the Border Regional Authority to Leitrim County Council to give a presentation on the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines.

Mr. Maguire gave a detailed presentation to the Council on the preparation of the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines following which he invited questions from the Members. Mr. Maguire outlined that the closing date for submissions in relation to the Issues Paper and Draft Plan is 15<sup>th</sup> April 2009 and he encouraged all Members to put forward their submissions. A copy of the presentation appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor McDermott outlined that he was very disappointed that no reference had been made in relation to the N16 or the A4 in the Issues Paper. He also raised the

issue of flooding which is an ongoing problem in the Glenfarne area and must be addressed.

Councillor Colreavy stated that it is good to see a more vigorous approach to the cross-border region although some of what is outlined is probably aspirational. He outlined the importance of links between infrastructural planning and economic policy. He stressed that he hoped that the Regional Planning Guidelines would not be another series of 'hoops' that applicants would have to go through to obtain planning permission. He stated that there is no evidence that regional planning and spatial planning has worked for County Leitrim, the North West and the Border area generally. He shared the concern expressed by Councillor McDermott in relation to the omission of the N16/A4 from the Issues paper and stated that this route should be a primary vein. He outlined that he will be looking for evidence that economic policy will be tied into infrastructural planning and that the guidelines will not be again used to focus all development into specific gateways to the detriment of towns like Manorhamilton. Councillor Colreavy outlined concern that there is significant duplication between what the Border Regional Authority and other bodies are doing and stated that it is critical that duplication is avoided. He stated that regional guidelines are problematic where they prohibit action at local level.

Councillor Kenny expressed frustration in relation to the number of presentations and reports in relation to regional development, guidelines, river basin management plans etc. He questioned the value of the expenditure incurred on these reports and stated that if even one quarter of the money spent was invested out on the ground in rural Ireland it would represent better value for money. He stated that Regional Planning Guidelines are not the most important issue to be considered at this time.

Councillor Gilmartin challenged Councillor Kenny's remarks and highlighted the importance of the work carried out by the River Basin Districts, of which he is a member, in relation to the River Basin Management Plans.

Councillor Reynolds outlined that he was largely in agreement with Councillor Kenny's comments. He expressed concern that the Regional Planning Guidelines would have a negative impact on what Leitrim County Council hope to achieve through the recently adopted County Development Plan. He sought clarification in relation to the public consultation process and whether organisations such as IBEC, Chambers of Commerce etc had been consulted. He stated that the whole issue of rural housing is huge for Leitrim County Council and expressed concern that the regional guidelines would prohibit the provision of rural housing in some way.

Councillor Flynn stated that one of the failures of the report is that there is not enough emphasis on the area from Sligo across North Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan and parts of Fermanagh. He stated that there is already significant emphasis on Dundalk and Letterkenny and the focus must shift in this regard.

Mr. Maguire responded to the issues raised. He outlined that the Issues Paper document is not the Draft Guidelines and its purpose is simply to highlight the types of issues in relation to infrastructural deficits etc. He acknowledged the various issues for the Central Border Area and stated that this is an area that must be highlighted and targeted. He advised that the Regional Planning Guidelines are structured under the National Spatial Strategy – they will focus on the gateways and hubs in terms of the settlement strategy. He stated that the vehicle in relation to smaller towns and villages is the County Development Plan and the Regional

Planning Guidelines will not inhibit this. In terms of the economic strategy he stated that the strengths of towns like Carrick on Shannon would be looked at. Mr. Maguire acknowledged the comments in relation to the plethora of reports but stated that the Regional Planning Guidelines is a statutory plan which has a specific and important function. He outlined that there will be a requirement to comply with Regional Planning Guidelines under new Planning legislation and stressed the importance of input to the drafting and consultation process. He stated that every issue in every county couldn't be reflected in the Issues Paper and the detail will be in the Draft Guidelines. He stated that it is critical that the N16/A4 is developed. He advised that the comments from the members would be taken on board. He confirmed that a broad consultation process had been undertaken, including local Chambers, business groups etc. He advised that a full list of consultees will be detailed in the Director's report on the consultation.

Councillor Gilmartin thanked Mr. Maguire for his presentation and for responding to the issues raised. Councillor Ferguson, as Chairperson of the Border Regional Authority, outlined that he would like members to make submissions. He stated that the Regional Planning Guidelines is not a Consultants report – he stated that this is a report coming from the six local authorities in the Border Region, compiled by people who have knowledge on the ground. He advised that many of the points raised had already been raised at the Steering Committee meeting. He reiterated that the closing date for submissions is 15<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that the Regional Planning Guidelines is a statutory document which will be coming back before the members for consideration and adoption.

**09/169**

**6/4/09 Local Authority Development**

- (a) Report from County Manager - 09/C/01 - enclosing proposal between Leitrim County Council and Roscommon County Council 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 Gerard Reynolds seconded by Councillor Liam McElgunn AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That proposal to construct a new footbridge over the River Shannon at the location of the existing road bridge in Carrick-on-Shannon be approved.”

- (b) Report from Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services - 09/C/03 - 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 3** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That proposal to carry out on Regional Road (R282) re-alignment and widening works at Brackary Td, Manorhamilton be approved.”

- (c) Report from Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services - 09/C/04 - 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 4** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

***Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis and seconded by Councillor Gerard Reynolds AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That proposal to carry out on Regional Road (R209) re-alignment and widening works at Leamanish Td, Keshcarrigan, Co Leitrim be approved”.

Councillor Ellis queried when it is proposed to start works. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that an allocation is awaited in this regard.

- (d) Report from Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services - 09/C/05 - 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 5** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That proposal to carry out on Regional Road R280 re-alignment, regulating and widening at Gubinea Td., Manorhamilton be approved”.

- (e) Report from Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services - 09/C/02 - 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 6** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That proposal to carry out traffic calming works in Mohill Town be approved”.

**09/170**

**6/4/09 Annual Financial Statement 2008**

The Annual Financial Statement for Leitrim County Council for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008, as circulated to the members, appears as **Appendix 7** to the minutes of the meeting in the minute book.

Councillor Reynolds noted that this is the first time for Leitrim County Council to record a deficit. He queried the position in relation to the Voluntary Redundancy/Early Retirement Scheme which was part of the Budget for 2009.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that the Council is in deficit going forward. She outlined various issues which had contributed to the deficit and which were outside of the control of the Council. She confirmed that the Voluntary Redundancy/ Early Retirement Scheme will have to be implemented. She confirmed that she has been in contact with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in this regard. She advised that the Department is conscious of the difficulties local authorities are in but are not in a position to issue approval in advance of the interim budget scheduled for tomorrow. She advised that there is a possibility that a new scheme will be introduced in the interim budget.

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

“That Leitrim County Council’s Annual Financial Statement for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008 be adopted, in accordance with Section 108 of the Local Government Act 2001.”

**09/171**

**6/4/09 Over expenditure in the Financial Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008**

Report in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 (4) of the Local Government Act 2001, in relation to financial expenditure incurred by Leitrim County Council during 2008, as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 8** to the minutes of the meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That the over expenditure in the Financial Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008, be approved, in accordance with Section 108 of the Local Government Act 2001.”

**09/172**

**6/4/09 Abandonment of Public Road & Extinguishment of Public Right of Way**

(a) Report from Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure dated 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009, in relation to the proposed abandonment of Section of Regional Road R.201 at Shoalmore, Mohill, in accordance with the provisions of Section 12 of the Roads Act 1993, as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 9** to the minutes of the meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That proposal to proceed to public consultation in relation to the proposed abandonment of section of Regional Road R.201 at Shoalmore, Mohill, in

accordance with the provisions of Section 12 of the Roads Act 1993, be approved”

- (b) Report from Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure dated 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009, in relation to the proposed extinguishment of public right of way at Shoalmore and Killamaun, Mohill, in accordance with the provisions of Section 73 of the Roads Act 1993, as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 10** to the minutes of the meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That proposal to proceed to public consultation in relation to the proposed extinguishment of public right of way at Shoalmore and Killamaun, Mohill, in accordance with the provisions of Section 73 of the Roads Act 1993, be approved”

**09/173**

**6/4/09 Draft Casual Trading Bye Laws 2009**

Report dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009 from Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community & Enterprise in relation to the proposal to proceed to public display in relation to the Draft Casual Trading Bye Laws 2009 in accordance with Section 6 of the Casual Trading Act 1995 as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 11** to the minutes of meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Ellis outlined concerns in relation to the relocation of the casual trading bays in Ballinamore. Councillor Reynolds queried the relocation of the casual trading bay at Georges Terrace, Carrick on Shannon. He stated that the Farmers Market attracts significant customers and cautioned against reducing the available car parking in the vicinity of the market.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services advised that no change is proposed in Ballinamore and the trading bays are remaining as-is. In relation to Carrick on Shannon he confirmed that the casual trading bay which is being relocated is currently taking up two parking spaces. He advised that this licences bay is being relocated closer to the Farmers market and there is no net loss in car parking in the area.

***Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin seconded by Councillor Liam McElgunn AND UNANIMOULSY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council proceed to public display in relation to the Draft Casual Trading Bye Laws 2009 in accordance with Section 6 of the Casual Trading Act 1995 be approved”.

09/174

6/4/09 Draft Annual Report 2008

The Draft Annual Report 2008 as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 12** to the minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That Leitrim County Council’s draft Annual Report for 2008 be approved”.

09/175

6/4/09 Litter Management Plan 2008-2010

Report dated 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 from Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services in accordance with Section 10(3) of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 on the implementation of the County Leitrim Litter Management Plan 2008-2010 for the year 2008 as circulated to the members which appears as **Appendix 13** to the minutes of meeting in the Minute Book.

***Proposed by Councillor Tony Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That the report in accordance with Section 10(3) of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 on the implementation of the County Leitrim Litter Management Plan 2008-2010 for the year 2008 be approved”.

09/176

6/4/09 Draft Library Development Plan 2009-2013

Report dated 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 from Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community, Cultural and Enterprise Development in relation to the Draft Library Development Plan 2009-2013 in accordance with Section 78 of the Local Government Act 2001 as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 14** to the minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

***Proposed by Councillor Tony Ferguson and seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That the Draft Library Development Plan 2009-2013 in accordance with Section 78 of the Local Government Act 2001 be adopted”.

09/177

6/4/09 Leitrim County Council Play & Recreation Policy 2009- 2013

Report dated 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 from Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community, Cultural and Enterprise Development in relation to County Leitrim Play & Recreation Policy 2009-2013 as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 15** to the minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

***Proposed by Councillor Damian Brennan and seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That the County Leitrim Play & Recreation Policy 2009-2013 be adopted”.

**09/178**

**6/4/09 Community & Voluntary Sector Grants Scheme 2009**

Report dated 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009 from Ms. Joan Lowe, Administrative Officer, Community, Cultural and Enterprise Department in relation to Category A – Community Infrastructure/development initiatives - and Category B – Community based events/activities - under the Community & Voluntary Sector Grants Scheme 2009 as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 16** to the minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

***Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin and seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That the proposals in relation to the allocation of grants under the Community & Voluntary Sector Grants Scheme 2009 be approved”.

**09/179**

**6/4/09 Report from Corporate Policy Group**

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

**Strategic Policy Committee Update:**

Ms. McGovern outlined that the Corporate Policy Group had considered updates from three Strategic Policy Committees – The Community, Cultural and Enterprise Development SPC, Transportation SPC and the Water & Environmental SPC.

Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development

The Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development SPC, at their meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009, had discussed the review of the Casual Trading Bye Laws. This matter was listed on the agenda for the Council meeting for consideration. The SPC also received an update on the Audit of Community, Arts and Sports Facilities and on the Percent for Art Schemes currently in train.

The report as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 17** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Transportation SPC

The Transportation SPC, at their meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2009, had considered a presentation on the Carrick-on-Shannon Traffic Management and it had been agreed that the recommendation is not to change the current traffic flow. The Children at Play Signage Policy was also considered at this meeting.

The report as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 18** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

### Water & Environmental SPC

The Water & Environment SPC, at their meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009, discussed and considered the BER Regulations, the issue of Grease Disposal Bye Laws, water conservation and an update on the River Basin Districts Management Plans.

The report as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 19** to the Minutes of his Meeting in the Minute Book

### 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.

**09/180**

**6/4/09**            **Correspondence**

The following correspondence was circulated to the members:

1. Letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009 from Pat Dolan, Local Health Manager, Health Service Executive in relation to the Community Care Facilities in Ballinamore.

Councillor Ellis asked if a meeting has taken place with the Design Team for this project in relation to roads etc and queried if there are any design issues outstanding that might delay the submission of a planning application in May. Mr. Ciaran Tracey, Senior Planner confirmed that pre-planning meetings have taken place. He advised that the Design Team were to make contact with other relevant sections in the Council.

Councillor Hughes welcomed progress in relation to the Community Care facilities and outlined that he looked forward to the planning application being lodged in May.

2. Letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 from the Tánaiste and Office of the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment in relation to the Job Initiative Scheme.

Councillor Ellis outlined that many people who are out of work are very anxious to work a few days a week. He outlined that he would like to see money transferred from Social Welfare to the Rural Social Scheme and the Community Employment Scheme. He requested that a letter issue to Minister Eamon O'Cuiv, Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs in this regard. Ms. Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator confirmed that a letter had already issued to Minister O'Cuiv on this issue and a response is awaited.

Councillor Brennan stated that this is an important issue for this Council. He stated that there are 100 sanctioned places for Leitrim on the Rural Social Scheme but when people leave there is now an embargo on replacing them. He stated that if this embargo was lifted it would alleviate some of the

problems. He supported the call for extra places on the scheme and as a first step the lifting of the embargo.

3. Letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 from the Social Welfare Regional Office in relation to the provision of more localised and convenient locations for the purposes of signing on.
4. Letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009 from Denis Naughten TD in relation to the Health Executive Services in Manorhamilton.
5. Letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> March 2009 from Shelia Smith, General Manager, Sligo General Hospital in relation to Endoscopy Service at Our lady's Hospital, Manorhamilton.
6. Letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 2009 from Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in relation to the Young Farmers' Installation Scheme and Early Retirement Scheme.
7. Letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 from the Office of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs in relation to the Early Childcare Supplement.
8. Letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 from the Office of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs in relation to the Rural Social Scheme and Community Employment Scheme.
9. Circular F.11/09 dated 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in relation to the Electoral (Amendment) Act 2009 Revision of Dáil and European Parliament Constituencies.
10. Circular EPS/01/09 dated 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in relation to European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008.
11. Circular IPPP 2/2009 dated 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in relation to the Financial Measures in the Public interest Act 2009 – 8% Reduction in Professional Fees with effect from 1 March 2009.
12. Circular LG(P) 1497 dated 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in relation to the implementation of Savings Measures on Public Service Numbers.
13. Circular F.17/09 dated 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 in relation to the Polling Day Order for Local Elections 2009.
14. Letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 from the Office of the Minister, Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in relation to the Rural Social Scheme.
15. Circular Letter F.13/09 dated 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in relation to the Electoral (Amendment) Act 2009 – Nomination procedures at European Parliament and local elections.
16. Circular Letter WQ 03/09 dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in relation to the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No 101 of 2009).

17. Circular Letter LU 04/09 dated 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 in relation to the Amendment to Section 19 (7) of the Litter Pollution Acts 1997-2003.

Councillor Brennan referred to the amendments to the Litter Pollution legislation. He proposed that the Council should agree that there should be no posters erected in County Leitrim for the forthcoming Local elections. This was seconded by Councillor Gerry Dolan.

Councillor Kenny outlined that all of the members were first time candidates at one point and such a decision might be unfair to such candidates. Councillor McGowan confirmed that the Fianna Fáil group in the Carrick Area and Councillor Stenson had already agreed that they would not erect posters.

Councillor Colreavy suggested that this issue should have been discussed earlier as some members have already placed their order for posters.

Councillor Hughes supported the proposal and outlined that there have been no local election posters in the Ballinamore area for the last number of elections. Councillor O'Rourke confirmed this. He suggested that it would be desirable to have a Council policy in relation to the issue.

Councillor Guckian outlined that Community Groups and Tidy Towns Committees are in favour of the sitting members driving forward the campaign for no election posters. She supported the motion which reflects good environmental practice and stated that the Council should put out the message that they would like everyone to refrain from postering in the forthcoming elections. This was supported by Councillor Mulligan.

Councillor Frank Dolan stated that he was in agreement in relation to no postering but stated that the party hierarchy may not be of the same frame of mind. This was supported by Councillor McDermott.

Ms. Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator outlined that under the Amendment to Section 19(7) of the Litter Pollution Acts 1997–2003 posters cannot now be erected more than 30 days prior to the relevant poll. She outlined that this means that the earliest date for the erection of posters in relation to the forthcoming Local and European Elections is Wednesday 6th May 2009.

Following discussion there was general agreement that the sitting Council members would not erect election posters. It was agreed however that it was entirely a matter for other candidates to decide for themselves what they wished to do in this regard.

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

#### **Submission to Eircom re Removal of Phone Kiosks**

Councillor Hughes outlined that he had received a copy of the report that was sent to the Senior Planner from Eircom advising that they are proposing to retain the phone kiosks in Ballinamore, Carrigallen and Cloone subject to review after 12 months, but are to remove the kiosks in Newtowngore, Fenagh and other locations. He stated

that this is a deeply worrying situation. He thanked the Planning Office for their submissions and the efforts made to retain the phone kiosks. He stated that this decision is a backwards step and the costs of retaining these kiosks was not significant.

### **IFA Deputation**

Councillor Hughes outlined that he had received representations from the IFA in relation to the Draft River Basin Management Plans and the new provisions requiring the local authority to conduct farm inspections. He advised that the IFA had requested an opportunity to address the Members in relation to these issues. He proposed that a deputation from the IFA be received at the May Council meeting. This was agreed by the members.

***Proposed by Councillor Gordon Hughes and seconded by Councillor Damian Brennan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That a deputation from the IFA be received at the May Council meeting”.

### **Special Council Meeting**

Councillor Gilmartin, Leas-Cathaoirleach advised that a General Purposes Committee meeting of the Council will take place at 5.30pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2009 to be followed at 7.00pm by a Special Council meeting to consider the position in relation to Housing Grants.

This was agreed by the Members.

### **Narrow Gauge Railway**

Councillor McGloin congratulated the County Leitrim Library on the events organised last week to commemorate the closure of the narrow gauge railway. He outlined that the events were a huge success and acknowledged all of the work by the staff of the Community & Enterprise and Infrastructure Directorates. This was supported by all the Members.

### **Votes of Congratulations**

The Leas Cathaoirleach, Councillor Gilmartin extended a vote of congratulations and best wishes to Paschal Mooney on being selected to run in the European Parliament Elections in June. He stated that Mr. Mooney will represent the people of Leitrim well. This was supported by all the members.

The Members also extended a vote of congratulations to the following:

- Ms. Mary Shanley, Seltan, Kilclare on winning the All-Ireland Junior B Singles Handball
- Ms Mary Cullen, Drumcliffe, Co Sligo on winning the Womens 3,000 metres Indoor Bronze Medal at European Level.
- Strokestown Secondary School, Roscommon on their recent victory in the Connacht Colleges Senior C Championship
- Girls of the Convent of Mercy, Roscommon on winning the National titles in Soccer and Gaelic.

### **Welcome**

Councillor Gilmartin also welcomed Claire Mulcahy and her colleague Fergus from Shannonside FM to the meeting.

09/181

6/4/09

**Conferences**

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

That Leitrim County Council approves of the following

- Attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson at the workshop on the “EU Water framework directive: Irish, European and American perspectives” in Galway NUI on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009.
- Attendance of Councillor Gordon Hughes at the Annual Clonmel Seminar "Climate Change and alternative energies" in Clonmel on the 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2009
- Attendance of Councillor Frank Dolan at the Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council meeting in Civic Offices, Dublin on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009.
- Attendance of Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, Councillor Caillian Ellis and Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the Combat Poverty Agency Meeting in Dublin on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009.
- Attendance of Councillor Enda Stenson at the Women of 1916 seminar in Wexford on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009.
- Attendance of Councillor Enda Stenson and Councillor Sean McGowan at the LAMA Awards on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2009 in the City West Hotel, Dublin.
- Attendance of Councillor Caillian Ellis at the North Western River Basin District Advisory Council meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in Ballybay, Co Monaghan.
- Attendance of Councillor John McTernan at the River Basin Committee meeting in Galway on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009.
- Attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson and Councillor Sean McGowan at the Conference on “Ireland and its People” in the Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009.
- Attendance of Councillor Gerry Reynolds and Councillor Gordon Hughes at the Freedom of Information training on the 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009 in Limerick.
- Attendance of Councillor Gerry Dolan at the Kerry Environmental Conference in Kerry on the 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

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

“That Leitrim County Council approves the attendance of Councillor Sinead Guckian, Councillor Tony Ferguson, Councillor Thomas Mulligan, Councillor Enda Stenson,

Councillor Sean McDermott and Councillor Frank Dolan at the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual L.A.M.A. Conference on the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> April 2009 in Portlaoise.”

***Proposed by Councillor Francis Gilmartin, seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council approves the attendance of Councillor Enda McGloin at the Making the Future together Conference in Kilkenny on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009.”

***Proposed by Councillor Liam McElgunn, seconded by Councillor Francis Gilmartin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council approves the attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the Meeting Marketing Challenges through Brand Development in Dublin on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2009.”

### **Part 1 – Notices of Motions**

**09/182  
6/4/09**

#### **Illegal Dumping**

It was agreed that Motion No.16 in the name of Councillor Tony Ferguson and Motion No. 30 in the name of Councillor Sinead Guckian would be taken together as they both relate to illegal dumping.

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

"I will ask the County Manager and the Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services what plans they have for dealing with the serious illegal dumping which is taking place throughout the county in secluded areas at rivers, lakes and on the roadsides. This causes great offence and does great damage to the image of our county and its people. It would be useful if we could come up with an innovative idea in the current economic climate to create employment and have the benefits in positive results for all in improving this environmental problem."

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

"There has been a noticeable increase in the number of reports of illegal dumping to the Environment Department in recent months and indeed the increased levels of fly-tipping is very evident along our roadsides. This is happening despite ever increasing levels of environmental awareness raising and environmental enforcement, as outlined in the Litter Management Plan Annual Review for 2008. There has been a huge amount of voluntary effort enlisted through environmental campaigns, including 47 registered community groups and 20 adopt a bring bank groups and it is a major source of disappointment to them and to the Council that all of the good work is being destroyed by a minority who lack civic mindedness. The various initiatives that have been implemented in recent times have been outlined in the report. The main difficulties are in catching a culprit committing the offence or in finding identification in dumped material. Other possible initiatives could include the naming and shaming of offenders who have been caught and fined and the delegating of powers of litter wardens to a wider number of Council staff. In the meantime, the public are exhorted to come forward via the Council's Environmental Hotline 1890 205 205 and report

any incidences of illegal dumping."

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

"At the April meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services, to put in place further actions, to address the increasing problem of illegal road side dumping. While many successful initiatives and actions, contained within the Councils Litter Management Plan 2008 - 2011, have been rolled out to date, the problem of illegal dumping on our National, Regional, and Rural roads appears to be getting worse. The Council have successfully rolled out Anti Litter Initiatives such as the "Green Flag Schools" and "Adopt a Road" and we are fortunate that Leitrim still has a strong voluntary commitment given by our Tidy Towns Committees throughout the County however it is imperative that further plans and strategies are put in place to address the unacceptable level of illegal dumping on our roadsides, particularly in isolated areas. Can this Council impose higher fines, which could in turn pay for additional monitoring."

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

"The initiatives as outlined in the Litter Management Plan 2008-2011 are being implemented, as outlined in the report thereon to today's Council meeting. However, despite those initiatives and the substantial volume of voluntary activity that is ongoing throughout the county, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of reports of illegal dumping to the Environment Department and the increasing levels of fly-tipping is evident along our roadsides. Further actions appear to be necessary and means that can be considered include introduction of a policy of naming and shaming offenders who have been caught and fined and delegating the powers of litter warden to other Council staff who are out and about in the County. The public are also being asked to play a greater part by reporting via the Council's Environmental Hotline 1890 205 205, all incidents of illegal dumping. All such reports will be treated in the strictest confidence. The Council has no control over levels of fines as they are fixed at National level. While the maximum fines imposable under the legislation is €3,000, the average fines actually imposed by the Courts in 2008 have been €500 under the Litter Pollution Act and €800 under the Waste Management Act."

Councillor Ferguson highlighted that illegal dumping has become a very serious and more prevalent issue in the county. He called on the minority of the public who are causing this problem to desist and outlined that the waste collection service is not a very expensive service to use. He stated that illegal dumping is a terrible infringement on other people's rights. He complimented the Community Wardens and the Environment Department on their efforts and said he would like to see more litter offenders prosecuted. He outlined the great efforts made by so many people in the community in relation to the Adopt a Road and Adopt a Bring Bank initiatives and stated that this good work is being undermined by the minority who litter. Councillor Ferguson stated that it would be useful if Leitrim County Council could come up with an innovative idea in the current economic climate to create employment and have the benefits in positive results for all in improving this environmental problem.

Councillor Guckian paid tribute to the various initiatives undertaken by Leitrim County Council which have been very important and very successful. She stated that what is

happening in rural areas is undermining these efforts. She stated that the fines are inadequate and that the Courts system should be applying the maximum fines. She suggested that the Department should be called upon to increase the litter fines and the penalties imposed by the courts must be increased. She suggested that community service should also be considered for offenders.

Councillor McElgunn supported the motions and highlighted the efforts of so many communities in this regard. Councillor O'Rourke also supported the motions. He sought clarification in relation to who is responsible if rubbish is dumped on private property. Mr. Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services confirmed that the landowner is responsible in that instance. Councillor O'Rourke also outlined that he had observed where rubbish was being dumped out of cars while stopped at traffic lights associated with road works.

Councillor Stenson also fully supported the motions. He stated that the problem is increasing despite the fantastic facilities that have been provided. He outlined that fourteen bags of rubbish were picked recently by one landowner on his property. He stated that it was important that awareness is raised in relation to this issue.

Councillor Ellis supported the motions and said that illegal dumping is becoming increasingly evident. He complimented current and former Community Wardens and the Environment section on their efforts in combating this problem. He also complimented the Rural Social Scheme working in his area.

Councillor McDermott supported the motions and outlined that despite the provision of facilities significant illegal littering had taken place at the recent Rally Ireland event. Councillor Mulligan also supported the motions and stated that the focus needs to be on the first four to five miles outside of every town as this seems to be the problem area.

Councillor McGowan complimented Councillor Ferguson and Councillor Guckian on the motions and outlined that the Dromod community had collected 32 bags of litter along the R202 on a litter pick in recent weeks. He suggested that the Environmental Awareness Officer, Aine Carr, should encourage more communities to get involved in the 'Adopt a Road' initiative.

Councillor Guckian outlined that it is very difficult to keep voluntary activity going given the level of illegal dumping taking place. She stressed that something needs to be done to alleviate this problem. She referred also to the issue of dog-fouling at the harbour area in Drumsna and noted the response stating that no dog litter was found on inspection. She stated that this is because the Tidy Towns Committee is removing same.

Mr. Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services stated that it is a source of great disappointment that litter is increasing. He stated that this is an increasing problem countrywide. He outlined that there are 47 active 'Adopt a Road' groups and 20 'Adopt a Bring Bank' Groups. He advised that 90% of schools in the county are involved in the Green Flag Award Scheme. He stated that a small minority is destroying all this good work. He outlined that huge effort has been put into addressing this issue. He suggested that offenders who are successfully prosecuted should be 'named and shamed'. He also suggested delegating the powers of litter warden to other Council staff who are out and about in the County. He also called on the public to play a greater part by reporting via the

Council's Environmental Hotline 1890-205-205 any incidents of illegal dumping.

***Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Tony Ferguson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That the Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services put in place further actions, to address the increasing problem of illegal road side dumping. While many successful initiatives and actions, contained within the Councils Litter Management Plan 2008 -2011, have been rolled out to date, the problem of illegal dumping on our National, Regional, and Rural roads appears to be getting worse. The Council have successfully rolled out Anti Litter Initiatives such as the "Green Flag Schools" and "Adopt a Road" and we are fortunate that Leitrim still has a strong voluntary commitment given by our Tidy Towns Committees throughout the County however it is imperative that further plans and strategies are put in place to address the unacceptable level of illegal dumping on our roadsides, particularly in isolated areas.

That Leitrim County Council also calls on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to increase the fines and penalties for litter offenders as illegal dumping is becoming a more serious problem in the current economic circumstances and is spoiling the image of our countryside and its people".

**09/183**

**6/4/09**

**Welcome to Leitrim Signage**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council re-erect the "Welcome to Leitrim" signs on the border between Leitrim and Cavan on the Swanlinbar Road; Ballyconnell road and Killeshandra road."

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

"Due to budgetary constraints we do not have funding to purchase additional new "Welcome to Leitrim" signs similar to the ones erected through out the county in 2008. We will investigate the possibility of reusing or relocating some of the signs which were replaced by the 2008 scheme. We will endeavour to programme this work to coincide with the regional road signage scheme"

Councillor Ellis outlined that he was disappointed with the reply. He stated that this issue has been ongoing for a number of years and queried the cost of the recently erected 'Welcome to Leitrim' signs. He stated that it is a shame if we cannot have 'Leitrim' signs at all points of entry to the county. He outlined that these particular signs were in place but had been removed. He reiterated that he was very disappointed with the reply.

Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure confirmed that there are a number of the older type Leitrim signs in stock which will be relocated to the locations in question. He advised that funding is not available to provide signs similar to those on the N4 as they cost in the region of €3,000 - €3,500 each. He advised that the signs will be relocated almost immediately provided they are in good condition.

Councillor Hughes supported the motion and stated that these are three very important locations on the North/South arterial route. He stated that every small thing that can be done to assist tourism is critical.

**09/184**

**6/4/09 Re-surfacing of Road**

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

"To ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure when will re-surfacing take place on the road from Kiltoghert community centre to Kilnagross N.S. Also private property has been damaged by the Contractor carrying out the works on the installation of the water scheme on this route and when is it envisaged to have this property reinstated to it's proper state."

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

"Testing along this section of the pipeline is now completed so overlay works can commence shortly. Private property owners should raise their concerns with the Council Capital Projects Office. Contact details will be made available on request."

Councillor McElgunn moved the motion on behalf of Councillor Reynolds. He outlined that he and Councillor Reynolds had attended a meeting this morning in relation to this issue. He outlined that the residents have been very patient in relation to this matter. He outlined that Mr. McGuinness, Director of Services had confirmed that as soon as pressure testing is done this road will be reinstated. He also welcomed the commitment that residents would be kept informed and outlined that he hoped to see the matter progressed quickly.

Councillor Guckian supported the motion but outlined concerns that some members were not informed of the meeting. She requested that all the works be completed within the best possible timeframe and stated that the community have been very patient in this regard.

Councillor Stenson also supported the motion. He also expressed disappointment that not all of the local members were aware of the meeting to discuss the matter. He stated that the issues that had arisen were not the fault of the Council or of the local residents.

Councillor McGowan also supported the motion and welcomed the progress in this regard.

Councillor Mulligan queried if the contractor is still on site. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure confirmed that work is still ongoing, albeit at a very slow pace, and the Contractor is still on site.

**09/185**

**6/4/09 Housing Long Term Leasing Initiative**

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

"That Leitrim County Council request the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to provide for the following arrangements in the proposed private sector housing leasing initiative:

- That Local Authorities or approved occupiers have the option to purchase the leased properties at any stage during the period of lease
- That purchase price to local authorities or tenants may be reduced by an agreed percentage of market value to reflect each year of lease payments made
- That agreement regarding arrangements for lease / rent reviews (upwards or downwards) will be incorporated as part of the lease
- That all lease agreements must be approved by majority vote of members of the local authority
- That implementation of the proposed private sector housing initiative will not result in local authorities being left with inadequate capital allocation for local authority house builds, particularly rural house."

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

"On foot of discussion at the March Council meeting a range of issues as raised by the Members were discussed with Department Officials and a letter also issued to the Minister for State, Mr. Michael Finneran, T.D. conveying Members concerns in this regard. The points raised in that correspondence included:

- "(i) Purchase of houses should be the priority over leasing – Members outlined the value for money to be achieved through purchases given current market conditions as compared to a leasing scheme with no net gain to the exchequer in terms of public housing stock at the end of the lease period
- (ii) 20 year leases would not be sensible – much shorter terms should be considered with a clear option to purchase for the local authority.
- (iii) Consideration should be given to rent/purchase type scenario where the payments go towards the agreed purchase price of the property at the end of the lease/rental term. A Scheme such as the type operated by a developer in Galway should be implemented - option to have portion of the lease payments count as part of deposit for house for purchase at end of lease
- (iv) 5 units should not be the minimum limit of properties – it may not be possible to get 5 properties in smaller towns and villages in Leitrim and there should be an element of flexibility in this regard
- (v) Any diminution in the 'right-to-purchase' option for local authority tenants is a retrograde step. Option for house purchase should exist after one year for tenant of leased house. Proposal as it currently exists will result in a two-tier, inequitable tenancy system with some tenants having an option to purchase and others having no such option. Views were expressed that the terms and conditions for tenants of a leased house should be the same as for existing Council tenants
- (vi) Scheme must not militate against the building of one-off rural houses to meet particular housing needs – this is a fundamental principle for Leitrim County Council and a commitment must be secured in this regard
- (vii) While it is accepted that there is a requirement to address the level of vacant properties nationally and recognised that exchequer funding may not be available for a significant level of purchases in the short term, these concerns should be taken on board in the context of ensuring value for money for the exchequer in the longer term".

Councillor Colreavy acknowledged the detailed reply received. He outlined his

concerns in relation to the provisions to be included in the leases and stated that clarification is required from the Department in this regard. He outlined that the members of the Council currently consider Part VIII proposals in relation to proposed local authority housing developments. If the Council is to take on houses for 15-20 years the members should have the right to vote on whether or not the proposal represents a good investment. He requested that the motion be submitted to the Department.

Councillor Kenny seconded the motion and outlined that the members had already expressed concerns in relation to the scheme. He queried if the Council will be engaging in the scheme and to what extent. Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services confirmed that further details of the Scheme are awaited from the Department. She advised that 'Expressions of Interests' were sought from local authorities under the Scheme and we have made a submission for a small pilot scheme in Carrick on Shannon initially.

Councillor McGloin supported the motion and stated that it is critical that good value for money is achieved. He stated that the opportunity to have the option of buying these properties is very important.

Councillor Flynn outlined that he agreed with much of the motion but expressed concerns in relation to the requirement for a majority vote of the members in relation to proposals. He outlined concerns that significant pressure would be placed on members by developers. He stated that there are now opportunities to create greater integration of housing in Ireland. He expressed the view that management should have the right to negotiate the best price possible in the areas of greatest need.

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

"That Leitrim County Council request the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to provide for the following arrangements in the proposed private sector housing leasing initiative:

- That Local Authorities or approved occupiers have the option to purchase the leased properties at any stage during the period of lease
- That purchase price to local authorities or tenants may be reduced by an agreed percentage of market value to reflect each year of lease payments made
- That agreement regarding arrangements for lease / rent reviews (upwards or downwards) will be incorporated as part of the lease
- That all lease agreements must be approved by majority vote of members of the local authority
- That implementation of the proposed private sector housing initiative will not result in local authorities being left with inadequate capital allocation for local authority house builds, particularly rural house."

**09/186  
6/4/09**

**Mullasallagh Road**

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

"Would this Council please repair the bad sections of the Mullasallagh road from the

phone box at Kilclare and from Charltons cross back up to the Letterfine road via Drumbollog road."

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

"I have arranged for an early inspection of these roads. Any repairs required will be carried out in the near future."

Councillor Gilmartin stated that there appeared to be problems in relation to repairs to roads in recent months and the materials being used are not staying in the potholes. He stated that the job should be done properly from the outset even if this involves greater cost.

Councillor McGloin supported the motion and outlined that he had observed similar situations.

Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure outlined that the difficulty is that pressure comes on to repair potholes when the weather conditions are not suitable. He advised that the 2 options available are to leave the repair work until the weather improves or deal with the problem in the short-term which is less satisfactory. He outlined that pothole repair in good weather is generally much more effective. He also outlined that in many cases it is resurfacing that is required but the money is generally not available for this level of work.

**09/187**

**6/4/09**

**Traffic Calming Measures**

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

"I propose (a) That a pedestrian crossing or some form of traffic calming measures be put in place at the entrance to Drumkeerin Village on the Drumshanbo side and (b) That traffic calming measures be put in place in Killargue Village."

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

"Traffic calming measures at both these locations along the R280 are desirable, however there is no funding in the 2009 programme to carry out these measures. Works of this nature are usually carried out under a Low Cost Safety Scheme. Both these schemes will be included in our proposals for funding to the Department in 2010. Provision has been made in this years estimate for the provision of a footpath from the village to the play ground and the speed limit will be relocated to cover the R280 leading into the playground in Drumkeerin"

**09/188**

**6/4/09**

**Footpath and Lighting in Fenagh**

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

"I ask the District Engineer, further to previous correspondence what is the up-to-date position regarding the completion of the footpath and lighting in Fenagh out as far as the speed limit sign on the Keshcarrigan road. Can I also ask what is, the latest

position regarding the installation of the much needed public lighting at Foxfield church."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"(a) The invoice from the ESB have been paid and the erection of the lights at the Foxfield Church is currently on the ESB's programme of works

(b)The completion of the footpath was interrupted due to urgent road maintenance works and health and safety training courses.

It is hope to recommence these works shortly."

Councillor Hughes welcomed the fact that the ESB invoice has been paid and asked if there is any indication as to when the work will be carried out. He also asked for an indicative timeframe for the completion of the footpath which has been ongoing for an inordinate amount of time.

Councillor Ellis supported the motion. He stated that he had been in contact with the ESB today and they indicated that they have received no order from Leitrim County Council in respect of the public lighting.

Mr. Darragh O'Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that contact has been made with the ESB and the invoice has been paid. He undertook to follow up with the ESB in this regard. Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer outlined that local staff in ESB may not be aware of whether an order has been placed as these are processed at a central location. He advised that the position would be checked further.

Councillor Ellis queried when the Development Levies works would be completed at this location. Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager advised that the position would be reviewed in the context of any reduction in the Roads Allocation arising from the interim Budget tomorrow. She advised that we are currently holding Development Levies monies in reserve as they may be needed later in the year to keep the workforce going forward.

**09/189**

**6/4/09      Mountain View, Drumshanbo**

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

"I call on Leitrim County Council to consider its legal options in relation to the developer of the 'Mountain View' Housing estate in Drumshanbo who still has failed to provide any lighting for this housing estate, which is leaving the residents in a very dangerous position. This is a very serious health and safety risk!

I request an up to date report from building control to include any correspondence between the Council and the developer to date."

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

"Permission for this development was granted under Plan Reg. Ref. No. P01/775. The permission was due to expire on the 10th January 2007. However, under P06/174, the developer sought an extension of duration of the permission granted under P01/775. The permission was extend for a period of 9 months [approx] to facilitate the completion of the estate. The extended period expired on the 30th September 2008. As the developer did not apply for a further extension of the

original permission before the expiry of the initial extension, he is not in a position at present to seek permission for a further extension and as such permission under P01/775 has now fully expired. The Planning Authority are now in a legal position to undertake enforcement proceedings if deemed appropriate to ensure that the ancillary services of the development are completed to a standard to service the dwellings which have been completed under the permission. The Planning Office will undertake an immediate inspection of the estate to assess what actions, legal and otherwise, are open to it to ensure the proper completion of that part of the permitted development which has been carried out to date."

Councillor McGloin outlined that this is a long ongoing saga which he first raised in January 2006. He stated that the residents are experiencing huge problems, particularly in relation to the lack of public lighting. He welcomed that the Planning Authority are now in a legal position to take enforcement proceedings if appropriate and stated that he hoped this would happen. He outlined that there were improvements made in the past following pressure on the developer and he asked that negotiations take place with the developer in relation to the provision of lights at a minimum.

Councillor Stenson supported the motion and stated that this is an ongoing issue all over the county. Councillor Gerry Dolan also supported the motion.

Mr. Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services advised that the Planning Authority has been trying to progress the matter as a result of which some works were carried out. He advised that it is anticipated that enforcement action will be taken at this stage.

Councillor McGloin thanked Mr. Dolan for his reply. He asked if discussions could take place with the developer to find a solution to the lighting problem as a priority. Mr. Dolan agreed to this. Councillor McGloin also asked to be kept updated in relation to progress in this regard.

**09/190**

**6/4/09 Youthreach Centre, Mohill**

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

"At the April meeting of Leitrim County Council I will seek the support of members in calling on Leitrim VEC and the Department of Education & Science to provide an outreach centre for County Leitrim at the old Vocational School in Mohill. There is no dedicated outreach centre within County Leitrim and this is a service that is needed."

Councillor McGowan welcomed the opening of the new Community College in Mohill and complimented all those involved. He asked for the support of the members to call on Leitrim VEC and the Department of Education & Science to provide a Youthreach Centre in Mohill in the old Vocational School building. He outlined that the location is ideal and the building is structurally in good condition. He outlined statistics in relation to students who leave the education system and stated that the facility would be targeted at these people.

Councillor Stenson supported the motion and stated that the proposal had been raised at the VEC meeting. He advised that a sub-committee has been setup to look at the different options available for the building. He advised that the committee includes himself, Councillor Brennan and Councillor Bohan and confirmed that the outreach centre option will be one of the options considered.

Councillor Mulligan supported the motion and stated that this would be a very appropriate use of the building. He urged the sub-committee to facilitate some form of public comment/input to the deliberations.

Councillor Kenny also supported the motion. He outlined that the VEC currently rent some office space. He also suggested that the provision of an Outreach facility for St. Joseph's Training Centre in Carrick-on-Shannon could be considered.

Councillor Guckian supported the motion and wish the sub-committee success in their deliberations. She suggested that the outreach centre could possibly compliment the Council's Third Level programme in some way.

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

"That Leitrim County Council calls on Leitrim VEC and the Department of Education & Science to provide an outreach centre for County Leitrim at the old Vocational School in Mohill. There is no dedicated outreach centre within County Leitrim and this is a service that is needed."

**09/191**

**6/4/09 Road Repairs in the Mullies Area**

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

"That this Council ensure that Contractors carrying out works in the Mullies Area repair the roads to their previous good condition."

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

"Work on this scheme will be completed in the next month. On completion we will endeavour to have road restoration works carried out as soon as possible."

Councillor Flynn said that outside of the Brackery area the roads have been left in an appalling condition. He outlined that he hoped that sufficient funds have been withheld from the contractor to restore the road from the R280 to the Church in Mullies to its previous good condition. He stated that the contractor has a lot to answer for and the situation must be addressed.

Councillor Colreavy, Councillor McDermott and Councillor Frank Dolan also supported the motion.

**09/192**

**6/4/09 Speed Ramps at Aughameeny and Drummagh**

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

"To ask Leitrim County Council to put speed ramps at Aughameeny and Drummagh as the residents are very concerned at the speed of cars using this road. Also what is the update on the unfinished footpath in this same location."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The road in question is within the speed limits - the Gardai have been asked to prioritise enforcement in this area. We do not believe ramps are appropriate on this local primary road - the matter can be revisited if policing measures do not yield the desired effect.

The acquisition of lands necessary for the footpaths is in progress."

Councillor McElgunn stated that policing measures are not having the desired effect. He stated that a child had been knocked down in this area in recent weeks and residents are very concerned. He asked that the Council re-look at the issue. He also asked that the footpath be completed as a priority.

Councillor Guckian supported the motion and stated that there is genuine concern among the residents. She asked if anything can be done to alleviate these concerns and suggested that rumble strips or similar could be considered.

Councillor Stenson supported the motion but stated that speed ramps may not be the solution. Councillor McGowan also supported the motion.

Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure confirmed that the District Engineer has written to the Garda authorities in this regard. He advised the matter would be discussed with the Gardaí he would follow this issue up with the Gardaí and revert to the members in this regard.

**09/193**

**6/4/09**

**Purchase of Materials**

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

"At the April meeting of Leitrim County Council I will propose that this Council have a distinct policy in place "That the Council would where at all possible purchase materials that are produced within the county"."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Leitrim County Council, as far as possible, try to support companies in county Leitrim however we are controlled by very strict public procurement rules, which are legally binding and of course we must always insure that we achieve best value for money for this council."

Councillor Frank Dolan stated that the motion was prompted by discussion at the February Council meeting in relation to sustaining jobs. He stated that where materials are produced within the county it should be a priority to deal with those companies. He stated that companies that are supplying goods and services to the

Council need to be supported now more than ever.

Councillor Colreavy stated that it behoves every organization to ensure that they are as efficient as possible. He outlined however that EU policy re tendering, ordering etc cannot be contravened and materials cannot be ordered locally if they are more expensive than in an adjoining county.

Councillor McDermott supported the motion.

**09/194**

**6/4/09**

**Carrick-on-Shannon By-Pass**

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

"Reports of late in the Local and National media would suggest that the proposed continuation of the Dromod/Rooskey By-Pass to Carrick-on-Shannon has being put on hold, May I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure what is the actual situation with this proposal."

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

"Leitrim County Council has not been notified, to date of any reduction in the allocation for this road scheme. The consultants Roughan O'Donovan have been appointed for the design of this project. Work is progressing on the scheme and the consultants are programmed to go to Public Consultation on the Constraints Study Area for the new road scheme at the end of May."

Councillor Stenson stated that he wanted to get confirmation or otherwise in relation to recent media reports. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure confirmed that the Council has not been made aware of any change in the status of this project.

**09/195**

**6/4/09**

**Increase in Bus Fares for School Children**

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

"I ask this Council to call on the Minister for Transport to withdraw his proposal as to increase the bus fares for school children on the school buses."

Councillor Gerry Dolan stated that people cannot afford this increase and there is now a requirement to pay the fee in full in advance of the school year starting. He stated that this is an issue of great concern and requested that a letter issue to the Minister for Transport seeking the withdrawal of this proposed increase.

Councillor Mulligan supported the motion and stated that the whole situation in relation to the school bus service is problematic and increasingly unworkable for students and parents. He cited a case in the Grovagh where children have to travel two miles to meet a bus at 7.20 am and they are not dropped off at this point in the

evening until 5.20 pm. He outlined that two routes had been combined into one in this case with very negative impacts on people affected.

Councillor Stenson supported the motion and stated that the cost of school transport has become unrealistic and unreasonable and the pick-ups times are also ridiculous. Councillor Kenny also supported the motion and stated that huge obstacles are being placed in people's way in relation to this service. He stated that it is outrageous for something like this to be increased when everything else is being cut in terms of cost.

Councillor O'Rourke also supported the motion and stated that he could not see any justification for the increase given decreases in fuel prices etc. Councillor McGowan proposed that an invitation be sent to the Manager of Bus Eireann in Sligo to come to a meeting of Leitrim County Council and explain the increase in school bus rates.

Councillor Brennan stated that this huge increase is coming at a time when many people are losing jobs and cannot be justified. He outlined that parents who cannot afford this increase and who depend on this service to take their children to school will suffer because there will be a drop in numbers and services will be terminated.

Councillor Hughes supported the motion and the proposal to invite a representative from Bus Eireann to a meeting of Leitrim County Council to explain the decision. Councillor McDermott also supported the motion.

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

"That Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister for Transport to withdraw his proposal as to increase the bus fares for school children on the school buses."

**09/196  
6/4/09**

#### **Temporary Outdoor Staff**

It was agreed that Motion No.31 in the name of Councillor O'Rourke and Motion No. 33 in the name of Councillor Martin Kenny would be taken together as they both relate to temporary Outdoor Staff.

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

"That Leitrim County Council consider taking on some part time outdoor staff to engage in the many tasks like roadside drainage, repair of fencing at amenities etc which require little expenditure in the way of materials or other supports and yet would benefit the area immensely and prevent further deterioration of roads and amenities."

***Report by County Manager, County Manager***

"The type of work referred to in this motion would be highly desirable and relatively low cost, however the funding available for 2009 is not sufficient to allow this council recruit any additional outdoor staff.

Furthermore, Circular Letter LG(P)1497 from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government directs that no public service posts, however arising, may be filled by recruitment, promotion nor payment of an allowance for the performance of duties at a higher grade. This direction also applies to temporary positions."

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

"I am proposing that Leitrim County Council make provision for the employment of temporary outdoor road staff over the summer period, to ensure that essential road works and repairs are carried out, and that the proposed one third cut in the allowable travel miles, does not apply to workers and supervisors in essential services of water, sewage, housing and roads."

***Report by County Manager, County Manager***

"As the councillor will be aware the formulation of the budget for 2009 was a very difficult task, with every element of expenditure critically assessed and hard choices had to be made to produce a balanced budget. This involved expenditure cuts in all budget areas, including a reduction of €500,000 in local road maintenance. The reduction in travelling expenses across the board is only one of a number of measures necessary to insure that Leitrim County Council can keep within its budget.

The employment of additional outdoor staff is entirely dependant on the funding available to this Council, at this point in time additional outdoor staff can not be accommodated within the existing budget and developments nationally may make the position even more uncertain.

Furthermore, Circular Letter LG(P)1497 from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government directs that no public service posts, however arising, may be filled by recruitment, promotion nor payment of an allowance for the performance of duties at a higher grade. This direction also applies to temporary positions."

This motion was discussed in detail in conjunction with Councillor O'Rourke's motion above, in relation to temporary staff appointments.

Councillor O'Rourke stated that this was not the reply he was hoping for. He stated that there are a multitude of small works that could be undertaken which would require small expenditure in terms of materials or other supports and yet would benefit the area immensely and provide valuable employment.

Councillor Kenny also expressed his disappointment that Leitrim County Council cannot take on any temporary outdoor staff this year. He stated that the amount of work to be done is the same as last year but the Department of Finance have imposed a ban on all recruitment. He stated that if this country is going to improve we need to be able to create the maximum number of jobs possible. He suggested that a letter should issue to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government outlining that there is a lot of essential road works and repairs to be carried out and more staff will be required to undertake these essential works.

Ms Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that Circular LG(P) 1497 dated 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in relation to the Implementation of Savings Measures on Public Service Numbers, a copy of which has been circulated to the members in Meetings Correspondence, states that "with effect from the date of the circular to end 2010 no public service post, however arising, may be filled by recruitment, promotion nor payment of an allowance for the performance of duties at a higher grade. Therefore when vacancies arise Departments/agencies etc must reallocate or reorganize work or staff accordingly. Any exceptions to this principle, which will arise in very limited circumstances only, require the prior sanction of the Minister for Finance. The decision also applies to temporary appointments on a fixed-term basis and to the renewal of such contracts."

Councillor Mulligan queried whether the recently advertised Sports Co-ordinator position was impacted by this Circular. Ms. Maguire confirmed that this position is affected. Councillor Guckian queried if it impacts on the Summer Student Scheme. Ms. Maguire advised that there is no provision in the Budget for Summer Students in 2009.

**09/197**

**6/4/09**

**Tourism Development in Leitrim**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to focus more on tourism development in Leitrim and particularly in North Leitrim. I believe we can create more jobs in Tourism."

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

"Leitrim County Council has maintained and continues to prioritise the development of tourism as a key economic driver for the County. The Council has developed and are actively working on the implementation of a development policy in this regard. In addition there is continuous efforts to attract funding to the county examples being the 2007 and 2008 infrastructural program funded primarily by Failte Ireland and also efforts secure funding through the Interreg IV program. Marketing of the county is ongoing in partnership with Failte Ireland. New initiatives have also been developed the most recent being the recently launched Sean MacDiarmada Summer School for June 2009."

Councillor McDermott stated that the Council must be as proactive as possible in relation to tourism development.

**Part II - Questions.**

**09/198**

**6/4/09**

**Local Road from Rosdoowaun-Tamlaghavally**

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

"At the April meeting of Leitrim County Council I will again ask Mr John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure, to put in place a programme of works in the

current year, to improve the view at the Junction on the Carrick-Mohill road at Laheenamona, of local road from Rosdoowaun-Tamlaghtavally LS-7483-0. It is extremely dangerous for the local community coming out onto the R201 with a limited view back towards Carrick and they are concerned and fearful for their safety, and they claim that it is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs there."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The works program for the current year has been agreed at this stage. The junction in question will be inspected and with a view to preparing design proposals should funding become available in future years."

09/199

6/4/09

**Status of Housing Estates**

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services to give me an update of the completing of estates (housing) in the Manorhamilton Engineering area with regard to tarmacing of roadways, footpaths, public lighting, raised manhole covers, sewage, and open spaces; I seek the names of the management companies - developer arrangements for maintenance and servicing of these estates. This could also include the removal of telephone/electricity poles adjoining and in the estates?"

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

"Status of Housing Estates

There are 51 private housing estates in the Manorhamilton area. These are set out in a table which will be made available at the meeting

Of the 51 estates in this electoral, there are 6 currently involved in the Taking in Charge process. Of these, one is currently being taken in charge, one is awaiting the completion of minor works prior to taking in charge and 4 have requests for further information outstanding

Of the remaining 45 estates, where no application for taking in charge has been made, 29 were granted planning permission before 2004, i.e. their original permission would now have expired. [Six however were granted later permissions for amendments or variations to the original permission since 2004]. Sixteen permissions, for estate developments in this area, have yet to expire.

The exact status of each housing estate in most cases is not known as a full assessment of each estate is normally done on foot of a Taking in Charge application or if the deadline for enforcement action to be taken is nearing.

**Maintenance Arrangements**

The planning permissions granted for housing developments contain a condition that the developer put in place management arrangements for the maintenance and upkeep of the estate until such time as the estate is taken in charge. In compliance with this condition some developers set up management companies, but most developers submit proposals that the development company will fulfil this function until the estate is taken in charge.

The Planning Department does not have the details of the management companies

etc in the majority of cases, as the developments are often sold on to a building company.

Thus, if the development is not in the Council's charge, then the development owner is ultimately responsible for the maintenance of the estate, which he can either do himself or set up a management company to maintain the estate."

**09/200**

**6/4/09**     **Construct a wall on the seaside of the coast Road from Tullaghan Village to the Church alongside the footpath**

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

"I will ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure and the District Senior Executive Engineer if it is proposed to construct a wall on the seaside of the coast road from Tullaghan village to the church alongside the footpath?"

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

"The footpath in question, together with new decorative public lighting was put in place by the Council in 2007 as part of the Tullaghan Village Improvement Scheme. It is acknowledged by the local community that this work has greatly enhanced the village.

The loose stone wall behind the footpath comprises the roadside boundary of the relevant land and residential property owners, who have legal ownership of it. It extends over 370 metres in length and its reconstruction would be completely outside the remit of the council, unless land was being purchased for road widening - which is not in contemplation. In any event, the cost of building stone walls is prohibitive and no funding whatever is likely to become available for such work. There is a FAS Scheme working in the Village at present and we have requested their supervisor to include a tidy - up of the existing wall in their work programme, if possible."

**09/201**

**6/4/09**     **Road Repairs at High Street, Ballinamore and Castlefore**

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council when they intend to carry out road repairs at High Street, Ballinamore and Castlefore in Fenagh."

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

"Work on High Street Ballinamore was carried out on Tuesday 31st March, 2009  
A specific improvement grant has been obtained for the Castlefore/Kilmacsherwell section of the R209. Work is planned to commence on this specific improvement grant in August. ."

**09/202**

**6/4/09**     **Signage at Corrowallen Post Office**

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council why the large signs indicating "bad bend" at Corrowallen Post Office have not been erected as was promised months ago."

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

"The signs requested will be erected within the next three weeks."

**09/203**

**6/4/09**

**Re-Surfacing on the road to Hartley**

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

"To ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure when will re-surfacing be carried out on the road to Hartley outside of the Observer offices, as it is in an appalling condition."

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

"The sections of road at Hartley have been repaired."

**09/204**

**6/4/09**

**Group Water Schemes**

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

"Will the County Manager please advise the Council as to which Group Water Schemes within the County cannot proceed with approved refurbishment because of the inadequate funding allocated by the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government and outline what steps are being taken by the Council to ensure these very necessary works can proceed as quickly as possible?"

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

"Leitrim County Council received a total Block Grant Allocation of €4,525,000 for the various measures under the Rural Water Programme for 2009. This is circa 69% of last year's Block Grant Allocation. The allocation is insufficient to meet the commitments presently under construction and Leitrim County Council are in ongoing discussions with the department in an effort to make up the this deficit as a matter of urgency. No new commitments can be interred into at this stage until the above deficit has been addressed."

**09/205**

**6/4/09**

**Community & Voluntary and Sports Partnership Grants Scheme 2009**

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

"Will the County Manager please advise the Council as to when grants will be paid to approved applicants under the Community & Voluntary Grants Scheme and the Sports Partnership Grants Scheme 2009?"

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

"Applications received under the Community and Voluntary Sector Grant Scheme 2009 have been assessed and recommendations on allocation of grants are before the April Council meeting for approval. Shortly thereafter Letters of Offer will issue to the successful applicants."

The Sports Partnership Grants Scheme which recently closed for applications is a matter for the County Leitrim Sports Partnership to progress."

09/206

6/4/09

**Muhanagh Cross**

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

"Has Leitrim County Council looked into some way of slowing down the traffic on the road from Mahanagh cross via Joe McLoughlins?"

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

"The road from Mahanagh cross to Leitrim via Joe Mc Loughlin's is part of the R280. The maximum allowable speed limit on this section of road is 80km/hr.No reports of excessive speeding on this road has been reported to the council. Enforcement of speed limits is a matter for the Garda authorities and will be referred to the local Garda station."

09/207

6/4/09

**Road Repairs from Letterfine to Courdery**

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

"The road from Lettefine up to Courdery is in a bad state again as I said would happen with method that has being used. Could this Council please repair this in a manner that they will not have to come back in two months again?"

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

"There are a number of areas along this road where surface water from private property is gaining access to the public road and causing potholes to develop. The council will meet with the owners of the properties with a view to having the problems rectified without having to use the powers the council have under " The Roads Act". Permanent solutions to these potholes can only be achieved when the surface water problems are rectified."

09/208

6/4/09 **Road re-surfacing from Croan's Bridge to Tawnylea and Greaghmaglough Roads**

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

"When is it proposed to carry out much needed road re-surfacing from Croan's Bridge to Tawnylea and also on the Greaghmaglough Roads."

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

"The LP 4246 road from Crowns bridge to Tawnylea and poor sections of road in the Greaghmaglough area have been included for improvement works in the 2009 Dromahair Programme of Works. These scheme will commence during the summer period."

09/209

6/4/09

**Children's Playground in Dromahair**

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

"What is the current position regarding the provision of a children's playground in Dromahair and site selection for same."

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

"The provision of an equipped playground in Dromahair is contained in the Play and Recreation Policy 2009 - 2013 currently before the Council. This is subject to the availability of funding and a suitable site. The funding that has enabled Leitrim County Council to develop a series of new playgrounds throughout the county in the last four years or so is no longer available. When funding becomes available again we will pursue the provision of the facility."

**09/210**

**6/4/09      Solor Powered Lighting**

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

"At the April Meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask Mr John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure to have discussions with Sustainable Energy Ireland about the possibility of providing Solar Powered Lighting as a pilot project on the Old Bog Road in Dromod."

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

"The possibilities of providing solar lighting at this location will be investigated and possible funding sources identified if possible."

**09/211**

**6/4/09      Road Repairs**

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

"I ask the District Engineer when will, the council carry out essential repairs on the roadway leading from Corrawallen P.O. to McCabes house at Cloonboyher which is in a very poor condition."

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

"We have programmed to carry out a road maintenance grant on this section of local road and are hoping to execute these works in July."

**09/212**

**6/4/09      Road way R204-10**

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

"I ask the District Engineer what the council propose to do with the roadway R204-10 at Gortahoosh, Corrawallen P.O. which presently has steep falls either side of the main road together with a series of dangerous bumps which are providing a significant safety risk to passing traffic."

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

"This regional road requires a new road realignment at this location. The only

available funding for this type of work is a Specific Improvement Grant (SIG). It will be considered for a SIG for 2010."

**09/213**

**6/4/09 Foothpath on the Ballinamore Road, Drumshanbo**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to consider provision of a foot path from 'Shane Mc Gettigan Park' to Joe Keane's house on the Ballinamore road, Drumshanbo. This would prove an extra safety measure for children travelling by foot or bicycle to matches and training at the local GAA park in Drumshanbo."

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

"The provision of a footpath at this location along the R208 would involve the construction of a footbridge running parallel to the existing bridge. Extensive funding would be required for a scheme of this nature which is not available in the 2009 programme. The Council will continue to seek funding for this scheme in the coming years."

**09/214**

**6/4/09 Corlough (Drumshanbo) group sewage scheme**

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure what progress if any is there to report on the Corlough (Drumshanbo) group sewage scheme and the upgrade of the Aughagrana group water scheme?"

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

"In the case of Corlough Group Sewerage Scheme we intend to seek Tenders shortly, and thereafter seek Clar funding. As regards the Aghagrana Group Water Scheme, we are acquiring a site for the booster station but funding for the actual scheme refurbishment is not available, in 2009 at least."

**09/215**

**6/4/09 World Rally Championship**

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

"What efforts have been made by the Organisers of the Rally Ireland to insure all damage to property was repaired."

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

"We presume that this enquiry relates to the World Rally Championship held in January last. From the enquiries we have made, the organisers made all reasonable efforts to contact any aggrieved land owners and actually supplied fencing materials in situations where repairs to fences were required. They also organised a litter pick to remove any litter disposed of on roadsides by the Rally followers. The Rally relies on the ongoing support and good will of the public to ensure its survival in the future and will make every effort to retain that support."

09/216

6/4/09

**Public Lighting on the Leitrim Road**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council when the lighting on the Leitrim road will be complete."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The ESB have informed me that completion of the lights on the Leitrim Road is scheduled for week commencing 6th April 2009."

09/217

6/4/09

**Footpath from Lisnagot to St Mary's Cemetery**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council what is the update concerning the development of the footpath from Lisnagot to St Mary's Cemetery."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"It will be necessary to prepare a properly costed design for improvements in the general Lisnagot Area. Development works will then be prioritised, with the initial focus being on connecting up Lisnagot with the town and the section referred to from Lisnagot to St Mary's Cemetery could then be considered subject to the availability of funding."

09/218

6/4/09

**Road Repairs at Lisgorman leading to Bird's Bridge**

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to carry out repairs on the road at Lisgorman leading to Bird's Bridge as a matter of urgency as this road is in very poor condition."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The road in question will be inspected in the near future to establish the extent of repairs required. Subject to the availability of sufficient funding, the appropriate remedial works will be carried out."

09/219

6/4/09

**Road Restoration from Keshcarrigan to Mohill**

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

"The road from Keshcarrigan to Mohill is deteriorating rapidly, can repair work be carried out to this road and what restoration work is due to be carried out on this road in 2009?"

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"It is proposed to undertake re-surfacing works on sections of this road in the current year."

**09/220**

**6/4/09**

**Sholemore cross on the R201**

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

"May I have an update on the proposed work due to be carried out at Sholemore cross on the R201."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Negotiations are on going with the land owner to acquire the necessary portion of land to enable the necessary improvement works to be carried out."

**09/221**

**6/4/09**

**Cancer Centre in Sligo**

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

"I call on this Council to again call on the Minister for Health to reconsider the decision as to have the Cancer Centre transferred to Galway and leave well done alone in Sligo which 100% of the public wants."

**09/222**

**6/4/09**

**Road Reparis from Keenans in Slivenakilla, Ballinaglera road to Aughnasheelin**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council when does it intend to have the road from Keenans in Slivenakilla, Ballinaglera road to Aughnasheelin repaired that was damaged during the rally which they paid for."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Routine maintenance has been and will continue to be carried out on this section of road subject to funding been made available. No funding was received from the Rally organisation to carry out repairs."

**09/223**

**6/4/09**

**Fearnaught-Moheraven Road**

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

"At the April meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Directors of Services, Infrastructure if the report requested at the February meeting of the council regarding the concerns raised by residents existing from the Fearnaught-Moheraven Road and residents entering and exiting the old N4 to Dromod, has been received from the

designers of the Dromod Rooskey Bypass. If this report has been received, have the council entered into discussions with the NRA to address same."

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

"We have been in discussion with our representatives on the scheme again recently to obtain a report from the designers regarding these junctions. We will be bringing this matter to the attention of the NRA once we have reviewed the report."

**09/224**

**6/4/09 Signage in the Harbour Area of Drumsna**

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

"At the April meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask the Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services, to ensure that the appropriate signage is erected in the harbor area of Drumsna to address dog fouling in this amenity area. I would also ask that the appropriate dog litter bins would be installed as per the Council's Litter Management Plan 2008-2011."

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

"Current budget restrictions prevent the provision of the requested dog litter bins on a universal basis but such signage can be considered at locations where it is considered to be warranted. This is one such location where need for signage will be investigated further and if considered necessary, signage will be provided. What is really required at this stage is a major attitudinal change by dog owners who should ensure that dog waste is collected and removed to an appropriate location. It might be worth considering the introduction of the suggested dog litter bin facility on a pilot basis in a location where there is substantial evidence of dog fouling. The Drumsna Harbor area was checked out during the week and no evidence of dog fouling was found."

**09/225**

**6/4/09 Bridge at Gulladoo**

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

"When will the bridge at Gulladoo which is a joint project with Longford County Council be put in place given that the precast bridge is already purchased with the labour content of the project the only part outstanding."

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

"The precast units have been purchased and the installation will be carried out once the most advantageous water levels are reached."

**09/226**

**6/4/09 Road Repairs in the townland of Clonboyher**

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

"When will the necessary work be carried out on the road leading from Corrawallen PO to the townland of Clonboyher. The road is listed for works this year as it is in urgent need of repair."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"We have programmed to carry out a road maintenance grant on this section of local road and are hoping to execute these works in June/July."

**09/227**

**6/4/09 Reinstatement works in Kiltyclogher**

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

"At the April Council meeting I will ask when will the streets in Kiltyclogher be reinstated. They are very dangerous especially for senior citizens. I raised this issue last June. This work is urgent."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The Council is in the process of obtaining quotations at present for the necessary street reinstatement works in Kiltyclogher and the other villages affected by the Towns & Villages sewerage and upgrading of watermains schemes. It is our intention to have the remedial work completed in time for the Summer season."

**09/228**

**6/4/09**

**Flooding**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council if any progress has been made regarding the severe flooding that happened in North Leitrim and especially Glenfarne last summer. The O.P.W. were to be invited to a Council meeting. I am asking the Council to explore ways to see if the big river in Glenfarne can be cleaned out to prevent serious flooding in the future."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The Council's Engineering staff had a meeting with OPW officials in recent months to establish the causes of the flooding and identify suitable remedial measures which might assist in preventing a recurrence. The officials advised that other agencies such as Coillte and fishery clubs had a substantial role in helping with the cleaning of the Glenfarne River. However, it was quite clear that they would not have the funding to become involved in such work, as no drainage district exists in Glenfarne for which they have responsibility."

**09/229**

**6/4/09**

**Traffic Calming Measures at Edentinney**

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

"I am asking the Director of Services, Infrastructure to provide traffic calming measures at Edentinney around Beirnes filling station and a centre of road turning lane, for traffic turning to the right towards Drumshanbo from the Ballinamore direction."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"These works are not programmed or budgeted for in 2009. The works requested can be considered for the 2010 Low Cost Scheme."

09/230

6/4/09

**Traffic Calming measures at Lahard, Ballinamore**

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

"I am asking the Director of Services, Infrastructure when will the promised traffic calming measures be completed at Lahard, Ballinamore."

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

"We will endeavour to construct a pedestrian crossing at the doctors surgery in Lahard. We also hope to construct a left and right turning lane at the Lahard housing estate, subject to local land agreements."

This concluded the business of the meeting at 9.30 pm.

**Francis Gilmartin**  
Cathaoirleach

**Aideen McGovern**  
Meetings Administrator

**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009**