

**Minutes of Council Meeting held by Leitrim County Council
In the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on
Monday 11th May 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 John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure
- Ms Katrina Murphy, Head of Finance
- Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Housing & Corporate Services
- Mr Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer
- Mr Terry McGovern, Senior Executive Engineer
- Mr Michael Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer
- Mr Gabriel Miney, Senior Executive Engineer
- Mr Pdraig MacShera, Senior Executive Engineer
- Mr Darragh O'Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer
- Ms Carmelita, Caslin, Senior Executive Officer
- Mr Vincent Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer
- Mr Michael Gunning, I.S. Project Leader
- Mr Paul Kirkpatrick, Community & Enterprise Development Officer
- Ms. Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator

Venice Biennale

At the outset of the meeting Councillor Francis Gilmartin, Leas Cathaoirleach on behalf of the members and staff of Leitrim County Council, conveyed his best wishes to Caoimhin Corrigan, Arts Officer in his role as Commissioner for Ireland at the Venice Biennale which opens on June 5th and runs for six months. Councillor Gilmartin said that this was a great opportunity and honour for Caoimhin and for Leitrim and he wished him every success.

Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that the Venice Biennale is Europe's biggest International Arts Exhibition. She stated that this is a fantastic opportunity for Leitrim Arts and will also significantly increase the county's profile. She stated that the Council is very lucky to have someone of Caoimhin's calibre on its staff.

Councillor Damian Brennan re-echoed the comments made and stated that this appointment is a fitting recognition of Caoimhin's ability and commitment and is a great honour for him and for the County.

This was supported by all the members.

Retirement of Councillor Jim Joe Shortt and Councillor Aodh Flynn

The Leas Cathaoirleach, Councillor Francis Gilmartin paid tribute to Councillor Jim Joe Shortt and Councillor Aodh Flynn on their retirement from Leitrim County Council. He outlined that both are long-serving, dedicated and distinguished members of Leitrim County Council having first been elected to the Council in 1979. He outlined that Councillor Shortt had served as Cathaoirleach for four terms during his 30 years as a Member of Leitrim County Council – 1990-1991, 1997-1998, 2002-2003 & 2008-2009 – while Councillor Flynn had served as Cathaoirleach for two terms – 1989-1990 and 1993-1994. He stated that it is unfortunate that Councillor Shortt could not be in attendance at the meeting due to ill health but sent him the best wishes of the Council. He conveyed thanks to both members on behalf of the Members and Staff of Leitrim County Council and wished them good health, happiness and success for the future.

All the members concurred with the good wishes expressed and wished Councillor Shortt a speedy recovery to full health. They paid tribute to the integrity and the ability of both Councillor Flynn and Councillor Shortt and to the great dignity and dedication with which each of them had served the County. They thanked both members for being great colleagues over the years.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager, on her own behalf, and on behalf of the staff of Leitrim County Council, congratulated Councillor Flynn and Councillor Shortt on their retirement and wished them well for the future. She thanked both of them for their unfailing courtesy and business-like approach.

Councillor Gilmartin then made a presentation to Councillor Flynn on behalf of the members and Staff.

Councillor Aodh Flynn thanked the Leas Cathaoirleach, members and staff for the presentation and good wishes. He paid tribute to the various Members and County Managers with whom he had served and outlined that the staff of Leitrim County Council are exceptional. He thanked everyone for the unfailing courtesy, friendliness and support shown to him over the years. He outlined some highlights of his period as an elected member of Leitrim County Council. He outlined that he was very happy to be associated with local politics and that he was the third generation in his family to be involved in politics and that the time had now come for new challenges. He outlined his more recent involvement in the Voluntary Housing sector and stated that he was looking forward to progressing the ongoing Voluntary Housing Project in Dumkeerin. He thanked the Members and staff for many happy years and memories on his own behalf and on behalf of his extended family.

Councillor Tony Ferguson outlined that he had spoken with Councillor Shortt who was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting due to ill health. He outlined that Councillor Shortt had asked him to convey his thanks to the members and staff for all their support and friendship over the years and to also convey his good wishes to each member in the forthcoming local elections.

The members also wished Councillor Michael Colreavy good health, every happiness and success on his recent retirement from the Health Service Executive where he had served for 38 years. Councillor Colreavy thanked the members for their good wishes and stated that he looked forward to working as a full-time public representative.

09/231

11/5/09

Deimhniu Miontuairisci

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

“That the Minutes of the Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras An Chontae on Monday, 6th April 2009, be adopted.”

Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, seconded by Councillor Liam McElgunn AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras An Chontae on Tuesday, 14th April 2009, be adopted.”

09/232

11/5/09

Votes of Sympathy

The members extended a vote of sympathy to the following;

- Mr & Mrs James Kelly, Tawley, Tullaghan on the death of Brendan Kelly.
- Gerard P. Moran, Drumgorman, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim on the death of Michael Moran.
- Saranna, Cathal & Graine Gallagher, Askill, Ballyshannon P.O., Co Leitrim on the death of Pat Gallagher.
- Mr Michael Tymon, Kilboderry, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of Padraig Tymon.
- Carmel Daly, Keadue Road, Leitrim Village, Co Leitrim on the death of Henry Daly.
- McMorrow Family, Largy, Spencer Harbour, Co Leitrim on the death of Johnny McMorrow.

09/233

11/5/09

Local Authority Development

(a) Report from Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services - 09/C/07 - enclosing proposal in accordance with the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That proposal to carry out the upgrading of a section of the Regional Road (R202) re-alignment, strengthening and widening works at Garvagh Td. To Greagh Td., Garvagh and Fenagh, Co Leitrim be approved”.

- (b) Report from County Manager Report - 09/C/06 - enclosing proposal in accordance with the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That proposal to carry out the following works at Mohill Library, Mohill Td., Castle Street, Mohill, Co Leitrim – The development (Phase1) will consist of a proposed new single storey extension (57m²) to the front of the existing library building, together with associated site development works. The new extension will have a large entrance court front on to a new public plaza, this plaza will link the library to Castle Street. This new plaza will be completed as Phase 2 of the proposed development be approved”.

09/234

11/5/09 Taking in Charge of Housing Developments

Report dated 5th May 2009 from Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services recommending the taking in charge of the housing developments at Oaklands, Lisbrack, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim and Sheila Mor’s Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim, in accordance with the provisions of Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

That the taking in charge of services in the following housing developments as per Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 be approved:

- (a) A housing development known as Oaklands at Lisbrack, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim. The development is the subject of planning files ref. No’s P97/13576, P000/440 and P04/925 in the planning register for County Leitrim
- (b) A housing development known as Sheila Mor’s Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim. This development is the subject of Planning files P97/13309 and P00/76 in the planning register for County Leitrim”.

09/235

11/5/09 Declaration of Public Roads

Report dated 31st March 2009 from John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure recommending the declaration of roads in question as public roads in accordance with the provisions of Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 and Article 5 of the Roads Regulations 1994, as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Gerard Reynolds seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the declaration of the following roads as public roads under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 and Article 5 of the Roads Regulations 1994 be approved:

- (a) Road off Local Road LS 5612-0 in the townlands of Clooncoe and Farnaght northwards for a distance of 2,967 metres to the junction of Local Road LP 1053 for a distance of 2,967m.
- (b) Road off Regional Road R282 in the townland of Clooneen, Manorhamilton, at Sheila Mórs estate, north-eastwards for a distance of 83.5m.
- (c) Road off Local Road LP 3413 in the townland of Lisnabrack at Oaklands Manor Estate, northwards for a distance of 737.5 metres”.

09/236

11/5/09 Glenboy Glenfarne Group Water Scheme

Report from John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure recommending that Leitrim County Council, being the Water Services Authority for the area, acquire by agreement the water main in question in accordance with the provisions of the Water Services Act 2007, as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Sean Mc Dermott, seconded by Councillor Tony Ferguson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the acquisition by agreement of the waterworks constructed as part of the Glenboy Glenfarne Group Water Scheme, from Manorhamilton Hospital to the Pump House at Donagh More, in accordance with the provisions of the Water Services Act 2007 be approved.”

09/237

11/5/09 Annual Report 2008

The draft Annual Report 2008 as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 6** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That Leitrim County Council’s Annual Report 2008 be adopted in accordance with Section 221(3) of the Local Government Act 2001.”

09/238

11/5/09 Leitrim County Council Estate Management Plan 2009-2014

Report dated 5th May 2009 from Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services in relation to the Draft Leitrim County Council Estate Management Plan 2009-2014 as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 7** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book. Ms. Quinn outlined that the Draft Plan had been considered by the Housing & Corporate Services SPC and had been recommended to the Corporate Policy Group and the Council for adoption without amendment.

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

“That the Leitrim County Council Estate Management Plan 2009-2014 be adopted”.

09/239

11/5/09 Draft Housing Estate Management Grant Scheme 2009

Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services outlined that this matter had been listed for consideration by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting having been referred by the Housing & Corporate Services SPC. She advised that the Leitrim Residents Network had put forward an alternative scheme in recent days and the Corporate Policy Group had decided to defer consideration of the Draft Scheme to their next meeting to allow for further consideration of the matter.

Proposed by Councillor Tony Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Frank Dolan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That consideration of the Draft Housing Estate Management Grant Scheme 2009 be deferred to the next Council meeting.”

09/240

11/5/09 Revised Roads Programme 2009

The revised Annual Area Roadworks Programme 2009 as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 8** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The revised Programme was noted by the members.

Councillor Bohan raised the issue of the considerable damage being done to our roads by forestry companies extracting huge loads of timber. She stated that we must seek to recover the costs or reduce the size of the loads permitted. She stated that this would be a matter that would have to be addressed by the new Council.

Councillor McGloin outlined that members have given commitments to constituents on the basis of the original approved Roads Programme. He also stated that members are being lobbied by frustrated members of the public in relation to the condition of the roads. He stated that an increased rather than a decreased allocation was required. He highlighted the importance of ensuring that the public are made

aware that the roads funding has been reduced by 30% arising from the supplementary budget at national level, with associated impacts on the Roads Programme throughout the county.

Councillor Stenson agreed with Councillor McGloin. He complimented the Area Engineers and the Director of Services, Infrastructure for stretching the available resources to cover as much of the road network as possible. He stated that the importance of maintaining our road network in the best possible condition could not be overstated.

Councillor Kenny stated that the reduction of €3.6 million on the Leitrim Roads Allocation is proportionally higher than other counties, given that Leitrim has the highest proportion of County Roads in the country. He stated that Leitrim must fight for funding and should write to the Minister seeking some review of the cuts imposed.

Councillor Reynolds sought clarification on how much of the total roads budget has been spent to date and what the position is in relation to retaining staffing levels. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that circa 25% of the restoration improvement grants allocation has been spent to date with variances between electoral areas. He stated that the reduction in funding has significant implications. He outlined that savings are being achieved through the recent re-tendering for materials, machinery etc. He outlined that the revised Roads Programme includes most of the original roads with the length of road involved having been reduced. He advised that the Department are allowing a degree of flexibility which will help the Council to make the best use of the available resources. He outlined that the Road Grants have to be expended by end-November. He outlined that the Council generally tries to retain some own-funding – Local Roads, Development Charges etc – to cover the period to the end of the year. He advised that very close and very careful management of the available resources would be required and that the Council is facing a significant challenge over the coming months.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager advised that it is very difficult at this point to say what the financial position will be. She advised that all areas of expenditure are being reviewed including re-tendering of hired plant, services and materials, energy savings, reviewing processes and procedures with a view to maximising savings. She advised that the objective is to seek to maintain basic pay to cover to the end of the year.

Councillor Bohan acknowledged the efforts being made to achieve savings and complimented the County Manger and the staff on how they are dealing with the budgetary challenges arising.

Councillor Flynn complimented the staff on the work carried out on Main Street in Manorhamilton and asked that the possibility of restricting lorries from going down Main Street be considered.

Councillor McGloin queried the position in relation to the town enhancement funding. Mr. McGuinness confirmed that the allocations under the amenity headings are still available but that much of this funding would be required to fund Council staff carrying out works. He advised that the funding available to community groups is unlikely to be at a level similar to previous years.

Councillor McDermott stated that the shortfall in local roads funding is already having an effect and the public are hugely concerned about the condition of our roads.

Councillor Guckian welcomed the various initiatives being undertaken to achieve savings. She proposed that the Council call on the Minister to revisit the health & safety requirements in relation to road works, some of which are overly onerous, with a view to achieving better value for money without compromising on safety. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Bohan and supported by the members.

Councillor Brennan outlined his disappointment at the reduction in the roads allocation. He stated that our roads are likely to deteriorate quickly and much of the good work of recent years could now be undone. He outlined that the likelihood is that the situation will be worse in 2010. He stated that there is a need for a proper debate on the Roads Programme and the new Council would need to take a close look at the roads network. Councillor Brennan queried whether there is any indication that the Local Improvement Scheme allocation will be increased. Mr. McGuinness advised that there is no indication that there will be any increase in the LIS allocation.

09/241

11/5/09 Service Indicators 2008

Report dated 5th May 2009 from the County Manager in relation to the National Service Indicators 2008 as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 9** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The report as circulated was noted by the members.

09/242

11/5/09 Date of the Annual General Meeting

Ms Aideen Mc Govern, Meetings Administrator outlined that in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001, the Annual Meeting must take place on the 14th Day after Polling Day which is Friday, 17th June 2009.

Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin, seconded by Councillor Martin Kenny AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council will be held on Friday, 17th June 2009 at 12 noon.”

09/243

11/5/09 Local Elections 2009 - Issue of Polling Information Cards

Ms. Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator outlined the requirement for a resolution in relation to the issue of polling information cards to Local electors at the forthcoming Local Elections ie. Electors with the letter ‘L’ opposite their name on the Register of Electors. She advised that Polling Information Cards would be issued to European voters by the European Local Returning Officer.

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

“That polling information cards be issued to Local Electors for the Local Elections to be held on the 5th June 2009”.

09/244

11/5/06 Commitments – Section 138(1) of the Local Government Act 2001

**Proposed by Councillor Gordon Hughes, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

“That Leitrim County Council approve of Local Improvement Scheme No 2859 in the name of Damien Prior, Cleendargan, Ballinamore at the estimated value of €70,688.26”.

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

“That Leitrim County Council approve of Local Improvement Scheme No 2845 in the name of Padraig McManus, Murhaun, Drumshanbo at the estimated value of €74,369.93”.

09/245

11/5/09 Report from Corporate Policy Group

Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services gave an overview of the issues considered by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting:

Strategic Policy Committee Update:

Ms. Quinn outlined that the Corporate Policy Group had considered an update from the Housing & Corporate Services SPC. The report as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 10** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms. Quinn outlined that the Housing & Corporate Services SPC, at their meeting on the 20th April 2009, had considered the Draft Estate Management Plan 2009-2014 and the Draft Housing Estate Management Grant Scheme. Both items were listed on the agenda for consideration at the Council meeting.

Items for Council Meeting

The Corporate Policy Group had also considered an overview of items for the Council Meeting and in particular the Draft Estate Management Plan 2009-2014, the Draft Housing Estate Management Grant Scheme 2009 and the revised Roads Programme 2009.

This update was noted by the members.

09/246

11/5/09 Correspondence

1. Letter dated 3rd April 2009 from Roscommon County Council in relation to a notice of motion tabled at their March monthly meeting in relation to creating a unified force in having the Mid Shannon Corridor Tourism Infrastructure Investment scheme extended to cover the entire Shannon River.
2. Letter dated 3rd April 2009 from the Department of Health & Children in relation to the Childcare Subvention Scheme.
3. Letter dated 8th April 2009 from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in relation to the Rural Social Scheme.

Councillor Ellis acknowledged the reply and the replies at No 8 and No 9 below. He stated however that people are willing to go out and work and that it is demoralising for these people that there are no schemes available to facilitate them in getting back to work even for one or two days a week. He proposed that a letter issue to the Taoiseach and to the Departments of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and Enterprise, Trade and Employment calling on them to act immediately on this issue and set up some kind of a scheme to get people back to work.

This was supported by all the members.

Councillor Brennan outlined that the whole area of apprenticeships has particularly suffered as a result of the current economic environment and he proposed that a letter issue to FÁS calling on them to take on apprentices who have been let go from their employment in advance of their apprenticeship being completed, in order to allow them to complete their apprenticeship.

This was supported by all the members.

4. Letter dated 17th April 2009 from the Department of Finance in relation to a resolution of Leitrim County Council regarding the banking system.
5. Letter dated 22nd April 2009 from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to a motion passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to An Bord Pleanála.
6. Letter dated 22nd April 2009 from ESB in relation to ESB security Deposit requirements for new customers.
7. Letter dated 28th April 2009 from the Minister for Communication, Energy and Natural Resources in relation to the removal of the ESB security deposit.
8. Letter dated 29th April 2009 from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment in relation to the provision of extra place on the Rural Social and the Community Employment Scheme to facilitate people who have become unemployed.
9. Letter dated 29th April 2009 from the Tánaiste and Office of the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment in relation to the provision of extra place on the Rural Social and the Community Employment Scheme to facilitate people who have become unemployed.

10. Circular F.19/09 dated 7th April 2009 in relation to the implementation of provisions contained in the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999, as amended.
11. Polling Day Order in relation to the closing date for supplements to Postal and Special Voters List for the European Parliament Elections on Friday 5th June.
12. Circular RLR 08/2009 dated 14th April 2009 in relation to the revised Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations 2009.
13. Circular RLR 09/2009 from the Department of Transport in relation to revised Regional and Local Roads Investment Programme: Contractual Commitments.
14. NRA Circular 07/2009 from the National Roads Authority in relation to the National Roads Programme – Contractual Commitments.
15. Letter dated 6th May 2009 from the Office of the Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science in relation to the bus route for the Gortletteragh/Bornacoola area.
16. Letter dated 5th May 2009 from the Road Safety Authority in relation to Election Posters and Road Traffic Signs.
17. Letter dated 6th May 2009 from the Minister for Transport in relation to the increase in school bus fares.
18. Circular HGS 1/09 dated 7th May 2009 in relation to the 2009 Capital Allocations for Disabled Persons and Essential Repairs Grant Schemes and Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a disability.
19. Circular N6/2009 dated 30 April 2009 from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to Social Housing Investment Programme Allocation for 2009.

Congratulations

Councillor McTernan congratulated and paid tribute to St. Patrick's Dromahaire Football Team who got through to the final in the RTE Celebrity Banisteoir Competition. He proposed that a civic reception be held for the team in recognition of their achievement. Councillor Bohan stated that this was a fantastic achievement for the Dromahaire Team and huge credit was due to all involved. The members joined in congratulating the Dromahaire Team and their Celebrity Bainisteoir, Catherine Lynch from Mohill.

Opening of the Town Park

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager informed the members that the Official Opening of the Carrick Town Park is scheduled to take place on Monday, 25th May 2009 with Minister Michael Finneran, T.D. performing the opening. She advised that formal notification and details would issue to each member in due course.

09/247
11/5/09

Conferences

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

That Leitrim County Council approves of the following

- Attendance of Councillor Aodh Flynn at the Annual Conference of the Association of County & City Councils in Kilkenny on the 2nd April to 3rd April 2009.
- Attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin and Councillor Frank Dolan at the Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council meeting in the City North Hotel, Gormanstown, Co Meath.
- Attendance of Councillor Gordon Hughes at the “Public Relations and the Media” training seminar for Councillors at the Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal on the 3rd to 5th April 2009.
- Attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the Irish Public Bodies Annual General Meeting on the 13th May 2009 in Dublin.

09/248

11/5/09 Comhairle Na n’Óg

Councillor Gilmartin welcomed representatives of the Leitrim Comhairle Na n’Óg to the Council Chamber. He introduced Daniel Stenson from Drumkeerin, Dara Dunne Lambe from Kiltyclogher and Niamh Flynn from Manorhamilton. Daniel, Dara and Niamh in turn gave an overview of the activities of the Youth Council, their involvement as Leitrim representatives to Dáil na n’Óg and what the Comhairle hopes to do over the coming year. The representatives thanked the members for approving the establishment of a Youth Council and outlined that they were looking forward to the appointment of a co-ordinator. They thanked the Members for the opportunity to address the meeting. The acting Cathaoirleach and the members congratulated Daniel, Dara and Niamh on their impressive achievements and wished them well and outlined that the future of the county is in good hands.

09/249

11/5/09 Deputation from Leitrim Executive IFA

Mr Michael McGovern, Chairman of the County Leitrim IFA Executive gave a presentation to the members on the environmental measures recently introduced in relation to the Nitrates Directive and additional farm inspections. He stated that this new regime is a total waste of taxpayers’ money and is contrary to what the IFA had previously agreed with the then Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr. Dick Roche. He outlined the very substantial investment by farmers in upgrading their farms to comply with the Nitrates Directive. He advised that farmers are not afraid of another inspection but it is unacceptable to them that they should be levied with another layer of inspectorate. He outlined that farmers are totally opposed to any pollution but they want a system which is fair and equitable. He outlined that the Nitrates Action Plan can deliver but it must be given a chance to filter through the system. He outlined that a reduction of approximately 50% in

phosphates has been achieved since the early 80's and a 22% reduction in nitrogen usage on farms. He outlined that there have also been reductions in livestock numbers. He advised that a framework is in place which will and should deliver major improvements in water quality – he stated that 2.5 years is not a reasonable period to allow for an evaluation of the impact of the measures being implemented. He called on the members to allow the Nitrates Regulations an opportunity to work before passing a verdict and asked for their support in rejecting the most recent Directive. He also asked that the River Basin Management Plans be put on hold until such time as we have a view of how successful the measures which were signed up to some 2.5 years ago have been.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager advised that clarification is awaited from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to this matter and it is understood that discussions are ongoing in this regard with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

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

Part 1 – Notices of Motions

09/250

11/5/09

Farms Inspections

It was agreed that Notice of Motion No. 26 in the name of Councillor Gerry Dolan would be taken first as it relates to the Farm Inspection issue.

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

"I call on this Council to reject the proposal by Minister Gormley giving powers to members of this council to carry out inspections on farms as its just another form of Cross Compliance to incur more hardship on farmers."

Councillor Gerry Dolan stated that this is another form of cross-compliance for farmers which is a considerable source of concern. He stated that farmers already do everything possible to comply with a whole range of legislation.

Councillor Stenson supported the motion and stated that the matter is one of huge concern. He stated that he understands that the Directive has been overturned and that the extra inspection will not now proceed.

Councillor O'Rourke outlined that he had no hesitation in supporting the motion. He stated that it would be wasteful for any local authority to engage in such inspections which represent a duplication of a system already in place. He stated that record investment has taken place in the farming industry and record compliance has already been achieved.

Councillor Brennan supported the motion and stated that he understood that the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry are consulting on the issue. He stated that one system of inspections is adequate and local authorities do not have the staff or

resources to carry out such additional inspections. He stated that farming is the mainstay of the economy and has already faced savage cuts and he stated that the Council should also call on the Minister to reverse the cuts in agriculture.

Councillor Colreavy supported the motion. He stated that the Directive is ludicrous and makes no sense. He stated that the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry have the expertise in this field and that it would be extraordinary that the Council would have to carry out this secondary inspection.

Councillor Bohan also supported the motion. She advised that the Fianna Fáil Councillors had lobbied the Minister for Agriculture in relation to this matter and her understanding was that the proposal will be changed. She advised that she had today spoken with Minister Smith and he had confirmed that the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government are consulting with a view to eliminating any duplication and minimizing any inspections. She assured the IFA of her full support and outlined that she hoped that a common sense approach would be adopted in relation to the matter.

All of the members supported the motion.

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

"That Leitrim County Council reject the proposal by Minister Gormley giving powers to members of this council to carry out inspections on farms as its just another from of Cross Compliance to incur more hardship on farmers."

09/251

11/5/09

One Way System in Dromahair

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

"1(a) I am requested that Leitrim County Council scrap the proposed one way system in Dromahair as it isn't feasible.

(b) I am requested that the Backline be resurfaced, the provision of property street markings and signs put in place.

(c) When completed, consideration given to the placing of raised islands, where the need arises.

(d) That Leitrim County Council work closely with the residents and business people to find a satisfactory solution.

(e) Where the pipes and proposed lighting is to be placed at the Chapel - that it be moved back so that it wont be interfering with private property."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"When we were preparing the design for the alterations to the traffic flow in Dromahair, we examined the recommendations in the Dromahair Village Urban Framework Plan which was adopted by Leitrim County Council at the Council Meeting on 10th July 2006. This plan identified the following

- A major cause for concern outlined in the plan was speeding along the Back-line
- In the plan, the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the village were outlined with a major weakness again being identified as speeding along the Back-line;
- A requirement for a footpath or a shared surface for pedestrians was also

identified in the plan

- The requirement for traffic calming on the Back-line was also mentioned.

We also had received representations to improve the safety of the junction of Market street and the Back-line, especially with respect to the sight distance when coming from Market street onto the Back-line.

Some other issues that caused us concern and that we wished to address in the design were as follows:-

- Poor sight distance at junction for Larkfield Lawns and road from Moran's Lane;
- Poor Parking facilities at the RC Church;
- Congestion on the Back-line near the shop

Design

In order to achieve the objective of providing a footpath / pathway, it became clear that there was not enough width to include a pathway, whilst maintaining both two way traffic and the parking. Thus, the only option that we felt was available, (if we were to provide a safe pedestrian footway along the Back-line), was to have a one-way traffic system.

The other advantage of a one-way traffic system was that by utilizing such a system, we could also address the other issues namely the poor visibility at Market Street junction, the congestion near the shop, the poor sight distance at the junction of Larkfield Lawns and Moran's lane, and we could regularize the parking on the lane near the RC church.

First Public Consultation and First Public Meeting:-

The initial design incorporating a footpath and one-way system was advertised for Part 8 Public Consultation, and the District Engineer met local residents at a publically convened meeting to discuss. There was a lot of feedback both at this meeting and to the Planning department under the Part 8 application regarding this initial design. In order to address these concerns, it was decided to withdraw the Part 8 application and to redesign the system, while trying to address all of the issues raised.

Submissions Received

We examined the submissions received and the main areas of concern were as follows:-

- 1) The Bollards, blocking through access on the Back-line;
- 2) Elimination of two-way traffic at the side of the Parochial house;
- 3) One-way traffic from corner shop all the way to the side of Breffni house;
- 4) The provision of a footpath instead of a safe zone;
- 5) Soft Landscaping

Second Public Meeting and Second Public Consultation

The revised design was completed incorporating all of the above alterations and a public meeting was convened in Abbey hotel in Dromahair on Tuesday evening, 30th September 2008, to outline the revised proposals.

All present at the meeting agreed that the revised design was very acceptable and the council was complemented on the proposals. The outcome of the meeting was that this design should be lodged for Part 8 Public Consultation.

A Part 8 application was then lodged and no submissions were received. This Part 8

was approved at the December meeting of Leitrim County Council.

The proposed works are what Leitrim County Council feel are the best solution from a road safety point of view for this location. We cannot recommend not proceeding with the one way system. We have had two public meetings with the community in Dromahaire but we are willing to deal with any localised issues directly with the individuals involved."

Councillor McTernan acknowledged the response received. He outlined however that while there had been two public consultation meetings the business people did not realize the extent of the change involved. He outlined that the local Sergeant also has difficulties in relation to traffic management. He stated that the only way forward is to have a further public meeting which would be well advertised.

Councillor Bohan outlined that despite the fact that there was a significant amount of consultation there appears to be particular issues in relation to the proposed works and further consultation seems to be required. She stated that safety must be the critical consideration.

Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure stated that the works as proposed are by far the best option in relation to safety, particularly at junctions and for pedestrians. He stated that the proposal is the best engineering solution to the problems that have been clearly identified. He outlined that he did not see much benefit in a further round of public consultation but outlined that he would be quite happy to talk to individuals about particular problems.

Councillor McTernan stated that meetings with individuals would not solve the problems and a public meeting was the only way that all issues would be addressed.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager asked Councillor McTernan to guarantee that all the relevant parties would be in attendance if a further meeting were to be organized. She outlined that significant time has been spent in relation to this matter. She advised that a suitable date will be arranged for one further meeting. She advised that this is the final consultation in relation to these works and she also cautioned that the Council will not be able to solve everyone's individual, and in some instances conflicting, issues.

Councillor McTernan assured the Manager that all concerned parties would be present at such a meeting.

09/252

11/5/09 Effect of Reduction in Funding

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

"To ask the County Manager to outline the reduction in funding the Council has been informed of by the Government after the recent supplementary budget. The Departments of the Council that have had funding reduced. The effect on employment and services in all directorates, and where the reductions are being applied. With the introduction of the latest voluntary redundancy scheme what is the likely take-up within the Council, and when will the scheme become operative. And

what options are being considered to deal with the reduction in funding."

Report by County Manager

"Leitrim County Council have been advised of a €3.5m reduction in the Roads Allocation for 2009. Cognisance of this reduction has been taken in the revision of the Annual Roadworks Programme. The Social Housing Investment Programme allocation has been advised at €6.9m however this should be adequate to meet current commitments in 2009. While notification has not yet been received of the revised Local Government Fund Allocation for 2009, it is anticipated that there will be a reduction on the amount previously notified. In the meantime, all areas of non-pay expenditure are currently being examined with a view to maximising savings including revised quotations for plant hire and materials and services, tendering energy supplies and reviewing process and procedures to achieve further savings.

It is understood that a circular on the incentivised early retirement scheme for Local Authorities will issue in the coming days. This will be brought to the attention of all staff. The level of take-up will not be known until after the details have been circulated and applications received."

Councillor Reynolds stated that the Council has not previously been in such a perilous situation in relation to funding. He asked if notification of the revised Local Government Fund allocation had been received. He outlined that the Carrick Tidy Towns Committee is most concerned at the cuts in the weekend street cleaning services. He also queried the delay in relation to the Voluntary Redundancy Scheme. He outlined that there was huge concern among staff in relation to the position and outlined that he assumed that some emergency plans are being put in place.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager advised that no notification has been received to date in relation to the anticipated reduction in the Local Government Fund allocation for 2009. She advised that all areas of non-essential expenditure were being examined with a view to maximizing savings. She advised that services are being kept at a basic level and non-essential spend has been curtailed until details of the exact financial position are available. She advised that details of the Early Retirement Scheme are expected to be received in the coming days. She advised that a meeting has been scheduled at management level with the unions to discuss how to go forward. Ms. Maguire advised that the budgetary process had involved implementing maximum cuts without impinging on service delivery. She advised that further cuts will impinge on services. She advised that every option will have to be considered if we cannot manage within our allocation. She advised that until such time as we know the actual 2009 allocation nothing can be either ruled in or out.

Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that the weekend street cleaning service has been suspended in the context of a ban on overtime. He advised that all other options were being considered with a view to reinstating the service.

Councillor Hughes raised an issue in relation to a reduction in fees to some Fire Service staff. Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services advised that this is an Industrial Relations matter and cannot be discussed.

Councillor Guckian outlined her disappointment at the withdrawal of community grant funding. She advised that members should have been advised in relation to this matter. She also expressed disappointment in relation to the suspension of the Floral

Pride competition. She suggested that the members should form a committee and apply for funding to run this important competition, with the Council acting as a consulting body.

09/253

11/5/09 Reverse cut-backs on schemes which are Labour Intensive

It was agreed that Motion No 19 in the name of Councillor Tony Ferguson and Motion No 30 in the name of Councillor Damian Brennan would be taken together as they relate to similar matters.

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to support a call to Government Departments to review the reduction in Social Services to the public where reasonable amounts of money in National terms make a huge impact in the areas of Housing Grant Aid for Disabled, Essential Repairs and Housing Aid for Elderly. This can be done by reducing the Council's contribution and getting much better value in the current economic climate."

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Damian Brennan;

"That we the Members of Leitrim County Council call on the Government to reverse the cut-backs on schemes which are labour-intensive, such as, the Grants to renovate houses for Older People and those who are Disabled, Road Grants and Local Improvement Scheme Grants."

Councillor Ferguson stated that his motion is self-explanatory and called on the support of the members.

Councillor Brennan stated that better value for money can now be achieved as thousands of construction workers and apprentices are out of work. He stated that unemployment is one of the most important current issues and he called on the Government to reverse the cut-backs on schemes which are labour-intensive, such as the Housing Grants and the Local Improvement Scheme Grants. He also sought clarification on the impact of the recently announced Capital Allocations for Housing Grants.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services confirmed that there has been no change in the position in relation to Housing Grants – the Council is constrained by the available own-resources and this limits what can be paid in 2009. She advised that recoupment claims made by the Council in late 2008 to the value of approximately €250,000, and which were paid by the Department in 2009, form part of the Council's 2009 allocation.

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Government Departments to review the reduction in Social Services to the public where reasonable amounts of money in

National terms make a huge impact in the areas of Housing Grant Aid for Disabled, Essential Repairs and Housing Aid for Elderly. This can be done by reducing the Council's contribution and getting much better value in the current economic climate.

That Leitrim County Council call on the Government to reverse the cut-backs on schemes which are labour-intensive, such as, the Grants to renovate houses for Older People and those who are Disabled, Road Grants and Local Improvement Scheme Grants".

09/254

11/5/09 Funding for preparatory survey/design work

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

"That Leitrim County Council request the Minister and Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government to provide funding for preparatory survey/design work/costings etc on roads, water, sewage and housing works for those schemes which cannot proceed to full tender because of inadequate funding at this time. Completion of the preparatory work would at least ensure the schemes are ready to proceed to on-site work as soon as Government funding for those purposes becomes available"

Proposed by Councillor Michael Colreavy, seconded by Councillor Damian Brennan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That Leitrim County Council request the Minister and Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government to provide funding for preparatory survey/design work/costings etc on roads, water, sewage and housing works for those schemes which cannot proceed to full tender because of inadequate funding at this time. Completion of the preparatory work would at least ensure the schemes are ready to proceed to on-site work as soon as Government funding for those purposes becomes available"

09/255

11/5/09 South Leitrim Water Scheme

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council keep in continued negotiations with the contractors who are involved with the up-grading of the South Leitrim Water Scheme so as this scheme will be finished on time before the summer. As we are all aware there are alot of houses in the Fenagh, Gortvagh Cloone and Aughavas areas who can be without water in dry weather."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The upgrade of the South Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme currently under way involves the replacement of two sections of pipelines with significantly larger pipe diameters. The first and most critical section, Mong to Kilnagross is completed and has already significantly improved the supply of water through the South Leitrim Water Supply scheme. On the section from Stuck to Drumboy, there still remains

approx 1.5 km to be completed. The Senior Engineer and the Resident engineering staff are involved in almost daily discussions with the Contractor, with a view to having this latter section complete. Progress to date on this section is not acceptable and the council are reviewing all avenues open to them to expedite the completion of the works."

09/256

11/5/09 **Kiltoghert Graveyard**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council when will the extension to Kiltoghert Graveyard be completed, most of the work has been done at this stage, yet its not possible to use it as a burial ground as there are a number of minor jobs to be finished, this work is now ongoing for a number of years, and would not take huge sums of money to complete."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Substantial work has already been carried out on the extension to Kiltoghert Grave Yard. Leitrim County Council are happy to meet with representatives from the local community to discuss how best to finalise the work at this location. Funding may be available under the Community Grave Yard scheme."

09/257

11/5/09 **New relief Road at Tully, Ballinamore**

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

"I ask the District Engineer when will the development works and landscaping be completed alongside the new relief road at Tully, Ballinamore (at junction with main Carrigallen road) which is presently in a very poor state of repair and when will an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing be installed at this location as previously agreed. Can I also ask what is the up-to-date position regarding the installation of a new roundabout at High Street linking the relief road with the main Enniskillen/Killeshandra and Mohill regional roads as this is presently posing a significant danger to merging traffic and pedestrians alike."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Landscaping works will be completed at this section of the Ballinamore Relief Road shortly. As previously agreed an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing will also be provided at this location. The Design Office is currently working on proposals for traffic management in Ballinamore Town which will take into account the new junction at High Street and our proposals for the Ballinamore Bridge. This report will be available in July."

Councillor Hughes sought assurances that the development works would be completed by the 24th May 2009 in advance of a launch on that date. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure outlined that the pipeline has to be tested but that the area will be left in an acceptable condition.

09/258

11/5/09 Urban Framework Plan for the villages of Dromod and Rooskey

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

"I ask the County Manager, what is the up to date position in relation to the Urban Framework Plan for the Villages of Dromod and Rooskey. Have discussions taken place with the communities in both villages in relation to the preparation of the plan."

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

"The Planning Department initiated the preparation of the Village Design Statements through the following Consultation:

- Public notices were prepared which informed the public of the Council's intention to prepare village design statements for both Carrigallen and Dromod/Roosky. The notice invited submissions/observations to be made between the 3rd of Oct. and the 28th of Nov. 08.
- Information leaflets were prepared, placed on display and distributed. Two no. newspaper notices were put into the Observer (one in Sept. 08 and a reminder one in Nov. 08) notifying the public of the Council's intention to prepare village design statements for all locations, inviting submissions from the public. Notices were also included in the district notes of the local newspapers.
- Letters re the proposals were issued to relevant community groups in each location.

A total of two no. submissions only were received. Both came from individuals and related to Dromod/Roosky, no submissions came from Carrigallen. No telephone calls or emails expressing interest in becoming involved were received by the Planning Department.

As the response from both areas was very disappointing the question arises as to whether there is sufficient community/public interest in both areas as required to prepare the VDS'S. As outlined on the Heritage Council's website "Producing a Village Design Statement provides local people with an opportunity to work together to make a positive contribution to the enhancement and future development of their village. It encourages community spirit by bringing the local community together and is recognition of local peoples' knowledge and understanding of where they live." The participation of community groups, individuals and other interested parties is crucial if VDS's are to be successful as Local Authorities act purely as facilitators.

The public notices issued stated that "Workshops to facilitate public participation in the making of the Statements will be held at each of the centres. Further public notices will be given indicating the locations, dates and times of these workshops". These workshops have not, to date, been held, due to the lack of interest shown. The Council has been seeking to identify funding for those projects, and in light of the current scarcity of funding for such purposes, the Council would need to be satisfied that there would be sufficient interest and buy-in from the local communities if it were to proceed with those projects."

Councillor McGowan requested that a meeting be set up in relation to progressing the Dromod/Rooskey Village Design Statement.

09/259

11/5/09 Resurfacing

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

"Could this Council please resurface the road from the graveyard in Drumshanbo down by Murhaun and Lavagh as it is in a very poor condition and the Irish Wheelchair Bus has to use this road twice a week."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"There is a road grant on this road this year and the work is programmed for late summer however local repairs will be carried out in the interim."

09/260

11/5/09 Local Improvement Schemes

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

"At the May Council meeting I will ask Leitrim County Council to request Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Eamon O' Cuiv to make funding available through the Clar Programme, so that more local improvement schemes can be done. I am aware of the huge backlog of laneways to be done in rural Leitrim. This year's allocation of money from the department will not go very far."

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

"That Leitrim County Council request Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Eamon O' Cuiv to make funding available through the Clar Programme, so that more local improvement schemes can be done. I am aware of the huge backlog of laneways to be done in rural Leitrim. This year's allocation of money from the department will not go very far."

Councillor McDermott queried if there is a system in place whereby a genuine laneway where there is a lot of traffic could be prioritised. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that the policy, as adopted by the Council, is that schemes are dealt with in chronological order.

09/261

11/5/09 Taking in Charge

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

"That this Council take in charge immediately Oaklands, Rockingham and Cluain Si housing estates, Carrick on Shannon, as promised, and investigate the possibility of taking in charge Shannon Grove and Cluain Ard housing estates."

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

"The following is the up to date on the estates referred to in the motion:

Oaklands

This estate is on agenda for this meeting to be taken in charge

Rockingham

The developer has twice been sent letters requesting that a Taking in Charge Application Form be completed and submitted so as to commence the process. To date there has been no response. As 7 years for enforcement action is approaching (11/09/09) the Planning Office inspected this development to identify outstanding works. A further letter was sent on the 06/04/09 giving the developer 3 months to address issues highlighted and a response is awaited. The Planning Office intends to proceed to an enforcement notice, in the event of no satisfactory response being received within the time frame referred to above. There is an issue regarding the taking in charge as this estate does not access directly onto a public road in the charge of the Council as a short section of road exists between the estate entrance and the nearest public road which is non-public. It will be necessary to have this section declared a public road in advance of the taking in charge, and this is being dealt with. The Planning Office will seek to ensure that the development is completed to a proper standard within the time frames set out under the Planning Acts, so that the estate will be ready for taking in charge.

Cluain Si

A Taking in Charge Application has been submitted in respect of Cluain Sí. The application is under consideration and further information has been requested and is awaited.

Shannon Grove

A Taking in Charge application form was sent to the developer on 04/11/08 – no application has been made to date. The Council is concerned that outstanding works remain incomplete in this estate and that the developer has not carried out works which he indicated he would do. Enforcement action is about to be initiated.

Cluain Ard

A Taking in Charge application has been submitted in respect of Cluain Ard. The application is being processed and further information was sought and is awaited.

Where no application is made by the developer to have an estate declared completed and taken in charge, the Planning Authority will proceed to enforcement action to ensure the proper completion of any outstanding works so that at the appropriate time, { after seven year from the expiry of the permission] should residents request that the estate be taken in charge, that the Council will be in a position to do so."

09/262
11/5/09

ESB dedicated helpline for customers

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

"I propose that this Council call on the ESB to provide a proper customer care service to consumers and a dedicated helpline."

Councillor Bohan stated that the level of service and information provided to customers by the ESB is totally unsatisfactory, particularly for older people, and must

be addressed.

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the ESB to provide a proper customer care service to consumers and a dedicated helpline.

09/263

11/5/09 Hill Road, Drumshanbo

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

"I call on the Director of Services for Transportation to outline priorities for the future upgrading of the Hill Road, Drumshanbo to include the provision of a safety upgrading of the road at Hyland's house, the tarring of the road and repairs at Naomh Phadraig Housing Estate and the footpath below that estate and finally I call on the Council to outline what measures it would propose to widen the junction where the hill road meets the town especially at the bridge which is extremely dangerous for pedestrians. I would like some form of safety report on this junction to include recommendations from the Council's road design department.

As I have stated before the majority of residents in the town use this road and these dangerous points must form part of the Council's priorities for Drumshanbo going forward."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The design office will carry out an inspection of the locations referred to and a detailed report on the road condition at these locations will be prepared. All options to improve the current position will be assessed and potential funding sources identified. If warranted improvement works could be carried out under a low cost safety scheme in 2010."

09/264

11/5/09 Upgrading of the remaining exchanges in Leitrim

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

"At the May Meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask for the support of the members in calling on Eircom to prioritize the upgrading of the remaining exchanges in Leitrim. At the Corporate Policy Group meeting of the Council in September 2007, an Eircom representative advised that the Drumsna Exchange would be upgraded by the end of 2008. The Eircom website now advises that this exchange will not be upgraded until the end of 2009. The absence of broadband facilities in rural villages and surrounding areas is a critical problem for people working at home, students studying and businesses and is not acceptable in the modern day."

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on Eircom to prioritize the upgrading of the

remaining exchanges in Leitrim. At the Corporate Policy Group meeting of the Council in September 2007, an Eircom representative advised that the Drumsna Exchange would be upgraded by the end of 2008. The Eircom website now advises that this exchange will not be upgraded until the end of 2009. The absence of broadband facilities in rural villages and surrounding areas is a critical problem for people working at home, students studying and businesses and is not acceptable in the modern day."

09/265

11/5/09 Installation of Hydro Electric Generating Units at Sewage Treatment Works

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council install hydro electric generating units at sewage treatment works in the county. This has been done by at least one other local authority with great success and saved huge amounts in electricity costs. It is both the environmentally and economically responsible way forward, to save money and set the sustainable example."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"A detailed analysis is currently under way to identify ways of reducing the energy bill of Leitrim County Council and all type of alternative energy sources, suppliers and tariffs will be considered as part of this process."

09/266

11/5/09 Carrigallen Mohill Road (R201)

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

"I call upon Leitrim County Council to re-surface a stretch of the Carrigallen Mohill Road (R201) from the vocational school to North of the Carrigallen GAA grounds as the existing surface seems to offer poor road holding to vehicles with an ever increasing amount of accidents on this section of road."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"This section of Road along the R201 is programmed to be surfaced in third week in June. These works can only be carried out in good dry weather, therefore this commencement date is weather dependant."

Part II - Questions.

09/267

11/5/09 Killenummery, Killovoggy and Killarogue

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McTernan;

"That monies received from the E.S.B. for road damage, (where E.S.B. lines went across) be spent on those particular roads in the Killenummery, Killovoggy and

Killarogue areas."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Money received from the ESB for the repair of roads in the Dromahair Area as a result of pylon construction will be used to carry out repairs on roads that were damaged as direct result of the construction of these power lines. Some repair work has already been carried out, the remainder of work will be carried out when weather permits."

09/268

11/5/09 **Waste Water Treatment Plan in Dromahair and Killarogue**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McTernan;

"To enquire as to the start up date for new waste water treatment plant in Dromahair and Killarogue."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Both waste water treatment plants are part of the Leitrim Town and Village Sewerage Scheme and are programmed to start as follows: Killarogue is June 09, and Dromahaire is July 09."

09/269

11/5/09 **Road Safety Measures**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"I will ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to review the safety measures on the approach to Manorhamilton on the Carrick road at Ross where there are two estates on either side of the road and a school nearby - There is need for Traffic Calming measures and signposting in consultation with the local residents; can this be done as soon as possible?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The location in question is on Regional Route R280 on the Southern approach to Manorhamilton. Following requests from residents of the new LCC housing estates, the 50 km/hr speed limits were moved out in recent times to cover both the entrances to those estates and a new private housing development not yet complete. A new HRA surface was also laid , with comprehensive traffic management road markings comprising left turn filter lanes into the housing estates and a right turn lane for the junction with Ross Lane which provides access to the Comprehensive School. Parking restrictions have also been put in place on both sides of Whittakers Bridge to provide for increased traffic safety at the peak hours morning and evening when children are brought to and from the School. There is no history of road traffic accidents which would indicate a urgent need for any further traffic calming measures in this particular area, and no funding has been provided by the Dept.of Transport for such a scheme. However, we will monitor traffic speeds, carry out traffic counts and consult with the Garda Authorities in relation to any concerns arising from this exercise, which is a pre-requisite to any application to the Department for funding."

09/270

11/5/09 **Public Lightings**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"Why is it taking so long to replace bulbs in Public Lighting? Many are in darkness for very long periods. Have we an Energy Officer dedicated to good practice on the staff of the Council?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"We have a contract with ESB Contracts to patrol and maintain, including replace bulbs in our public lighting. To date we have not experienced any particular delay in the replacement of bulbs by the ESB in respect of the existing public lighting systems in the Manorhamilton Area, although the position around the rest of the county is not as good. We find that most complaints arise from residents in the recently constructed private housing developments which have not yet been taken over by the Council and where the responsible developers are no longer attending to the maintenance of the public lighting in their estates. Unfortunately there is nothing we can do in such situations."

09/271

11/5/09

Footpath Surface

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"Can I get an indication as to when the footpath surface will be completed out to Johnny Wynne's at Carrick-na-brack, Drumshanbo?

This will be used extensively by locals and in particular tourists over the next few months so I urge completion to compliment the already fine job completed at the nearby roundabout and the water tower."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Due to the reduction in the Discretionary Improvement Grant allocation, following the recent budget there is insufficient funding to seal this footpath surface at this time. The matter will be reviewed if funding can be sourced from any alternative source."

09/272

11/5/09

MacDiarmada Summer School

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Michael Colreavy;

"Will Leitrim County Council request the Office of Public Works (Dromahair Office) to make available the articles removed for safe-keeping from the family homestead of Seán Mac Diarmada at Corranmore, Kiltyclogher for public display during the Mac Diarmada Summer School planned for 19th to 21st June 2009?"

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"This matter will be investigated further. The Council would be interested in maximising the use of any memorabilia relating to Sean Mac Diarmada that exists and if possible, making it available as part of the Mac Diarmada Summer School planned for June 2009."

09/273

11/5/09

Water Scheme

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Michael Colreavy;

"When will houses be connected to the improved water scheme covering

Mullies/Brackerymore/Brackerybeg/Falcarragh?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"In Relation to the Mullies / Brackery Group Water Scheme there is approx 2km of pipeline to be constructed. Once complete and tested each individual householder will be written to by Leitrim County Council and requested to connect to this Public Water supply under section 42 of the 2007 Water Services Act. A connection point is left at each homeowners boundary. This Contract is expected to be complete during the middle third of 2009."

09/274

11/5/09

Re-surfacing

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Caillian Ellis;

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to carry out immediate works on the road from Fenagh to Keshcarrigan in the Lemonish/Castlefore area as the surface on this section of the road is in a deplorable condition."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Preparatory works has commenced on this section of the R209 at Castlefore. Pavement construction is due to commence next week."

09/275

11/5/09

Completion works for Leitrim Village

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"What is the details of the further completion works that are required for Leitrim Village and can I ask the Director of Services for a timetable for same? Finally can I get assurances that the footpath leading to the Community Park will be completed within the time frame for these present works?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Proposed works in Leitrim Village for 2009 include the following; The installation of 3 No Pedestrian crossing located adjacent to the National School, Creche, and Filling Station. The construction of a footpath from the Post Office to the Church (this will be subject to agreement with landowners). The completion of traffic calming measures at the Keadue road junction with the R280. The construction of build outs on the Church road junction with the R280. The installation of public lighting, kerbing and an unsealed footpath along the R280 from the Village to the Junction with Road No LT33902 to Community Park (approx length 700m). These works will commence in early July and be completed in late October 2009"

09/276

11/5/09

Ramps at Shannagh

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"As has been acknowledged at a previous meeting excellent work was carried out on the road from Shannagh to Main Street. May I request that the final three ramps at the Shannagh end be now removed and one ramp left there albeit with a less severe incline."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"We will deal with the issue of the remaining ramps when further works are being undertaken on the road in question."

09/277

11/5/09

Taking in Charge of Housing Developments

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"For the past number of years we have discussed the Taking in Charge of housing developments, and the complex legal issues involved here, and with an increasing number of developers now defaulting on their responsibility, and as some have already been declared bankrupt, is this Council in a position to use whatever bond may be in place and commence completion of unfinished works."

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

"The Council requires the developer to complete the permitted works in accordance with the terms of the grant of planning permission and it normally expects that the developer will apply to have the estate taken in charge within seven years of the expiry of the planning permission. Failing the making of such a request, the estate must automatically be taken in charge by the local authority unless it has commenced enforcement procedures within that seven year period. In such circumstances the Council would itself have to assume responsibility for completion of all unfinished services. It would then use whatever bond or cash deposit that is in place, which, with the passage of time, would likely be insufficient to cover the costs involved. It is for this reason that the Planning Authority strongly encourages developers to complete the works and to make application for taking in charge, which can be done following inspection and identification of outstanding works and the satisfactory rectification of same. The Planning Authority will take enforcement procedures within that period to ensure satisfactory completion if the developer is not seen to be co-operating. Furthermore, where development contributions remain unpaid, this process will go so far as to get a Court Order against the developer or the development if there is a likelihood of the developer becoming bankrupt, going into receivership etc. This should assist in ensuring that all or part of the outstanding monies are collected. In cases where developers become bankrupt, the bonds or cash deposits will be used to complete unfinished services within estates."

09/278

11/5/09

Sewage Scheme Extension

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;

"I ask the District Engineer when will the sewage scheme extension out as far as the Sean O'Heslin's G.A.A. Park in Ballinamore be completed as the works at the club grounds are nearing completion."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"This work at this location is being carried out under an agreement with a developer. Leitrim County Council will liaise with the GAA and the developer with a view to expediting matters."

09/279

11/5/09

Roadway at Kiltymooden, Ballinamore

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;

"I ask the District Engineer when will the council resurface the roadway at Kiltymooden, Ballinamore which is in a very poor state of repair in order to compliment the good work done to date on the stone wall and road widening at this location."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Due to the very significant reduction in the funding available to Leitrim County Council for road works in general, we do not have funding at present to carry out this necessary work, but the council will investigate other funding avenues with the residents in the hope to resolve the problem."

09/280

11/5/09 Improvements at Clooneagh Crossroads, in Bornacoola

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"At the May meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure, what is the up to date position with regard to carrying out improvements at Clooneagh Crossroads, in Bornacoola in the interest of public safety.

There have been a number of serious accidents at the cross over the past couple of years, which is also a pick up point for the school buses, and there is genuine concern among the local community for their safety."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Following previously reported incidents at the junction in question improved lining and signage were put in place.

Further improvements to the junction in question are proposed in the current years works programme."

09/281

11/5/09 Drumcong Church

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"Where is the extra light for Drumcong Church?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The ESB have been contacted again in relation to this light, and the councillor will be informed of progress."

09/282

11/5/09 Sewerage works in Drumcong

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"When will the sewerage be complete in Drumcong?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Drumcong sewage treatment plant has commenced and will be completed by the end of this year."

09/283
11/5/09

Furnace Hill, Drumshanbo

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;

"I ask this Council to have a 'No Through Road' declared across the Furnace Hill in Drumshanbo - passing by the school gate only to be used by locals and school business, as cars come from Drumshanbo and avoid the roundabout and cross the Furnace Hill at high speed which leaves it very dangerous to locals and school goers."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"It would not be considered appropriate to declare this road as a no through road due to the volume of traffic using this road. The speed limit along this road is 50 km/hr, and discussion will be held with the local Gardai in relation to enforcing the speed limit."

09/284
11/5/09

Speed Limit

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;

"To have the speed limit reduced from 80kph to 30kph on the Kilclare Road from the phone box to Declan Beirne's house, as its a built up area and with alot of children walking and playing on this road."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"This location along the R209 will be accessed and the extension of the the speed here will be considered as part of the County wide speed limit review taking place later this year."

09/285
11/5/09

Gortnaderrary, Kiltyclogher

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I will ask Leitrim County Council if it would be possible to erect a sign on the R281 roadway in the town land of Gortnaderrary, Kiltyclogher. There is a serious dip on the road coming from the Rossinver side. There are three house entries on the road at this dangerous point, one of them being a Bed and Breakfast."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The location in question will be assessed by the Road design staff and a report supplied to the councillor. It has however to be pointed out that the very significant reduction in the funding available to Leitrim County Council will severely limit our potential to respond to request such as this."

09/286
11/5/09

Crash barrier along the N16

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I ask the District Engineer, what is the time-scale of work to replace the crash barrier

along the N16 that has been badly damaged on a bad bend in the townland of Cornacloy, Glenfarne? This is a serious issue as there is a dwelling house at this point"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The crash barrier at the house in question will be replaced before the end of the month."

09/287

11/5/09 **Stop Sign**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Liam McElgunn;

"To ask that this Council erect a "Stop" sign at the house of Pat Joe Doonan, Kiltoghert and that the adjoining road to Efferinagh be re-surfaced."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The junction in question will be examined and appropriate improvements undertaken subject to the availability of funding."

09/288

11/5/09 **Pathway from Aura Centre and Glencarrig to Summerhill**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Liam McElgunn;

"To ask when the connecting pathway from Aura Centre and Glencarrig to Summerhill, Carrick-on-Shannon, will be black-topped."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Surfacing of the pathway in question was completed week ending friday 8th May."

09/289

11/5/09 **Kiltoghert Cemetery**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Reynolds;

"To ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure what plans the Council has to complete works at Kiltoghert Cemetery; when will the works commence and what is the timeframe for completion of these works."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Substantial work has already been carried out on the extension to Kiltoghert Grave Yard. Leitrim County Council are happy to meet with representatives from the local community to discuss how best to finalise the work at this location. Funding may be available under the Community Grave Yard Scheme."

09/290

11/5/09 **Carrick-on-Shannon Sewerage Scheme**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Reynolds;

"To ask the Director of Services,Infrastructure when it is expected to start works on the Carrick on Shannon Sewerage Scheme"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The commencement date is down as the beginning of this month , the hand-over period is 5 weeks so work should commence on the ground in mid-June."

09/291

11/5/09 Ardlougher/Tents Road

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"That the Council carry out repairs to the Ardlougher/Tents Road including bridge repairs as soon as possible."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"This road and bridge will be assessed shortly and routine maintenance work carried out in the coming weeks"

09/292

11/5/09 Cornacloy G.W.S

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"That Leitrim County Council enter into discussion immediately with the Cornacloy G.W.S. for the purpose of refurbishing the remainder of the scheme."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The rural water section of Leitrim County Council will meet with this group water scheme with a view to advancing the refurbishing of the scheme."

09/293

11/5/09 Lime Kiln at Farnaught

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"I ask Mr John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure when is it planned to secure and tidy the area around the Lime Kiln at Farnaught, by providing a timber rail fence and gate at this most historical Kiln, and one of the few that is left intact in the Country. It is extremely dangerous for local people and tourists alike who call to see the Kiln. The work in question was to have been carried out over the past number of years."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Grant assistance for the improvement work was secured by Leitrim County Council some years ago - unfortunately no matching funding could be found to avail of this grant. Safety concerns will be investigated and appropriate actions taken."

09/294

11/5/09 Sewage Scheme

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Caillian Ellis;

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to extend the sewage scheme on the Swanlinbar road as far as Sean O'Heslin's G.A.A. Park to facilitate the football pitch and the houses adjacent to it and can the County Council explain what is causing the strong odour at the bottom of the Town at the canal and if so is anything being done about

it."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The extension of the sewer to the GAA grounds is presently under way as part of other developments along this road. This work will facilitate the connection of these houses and the GAA ground to the public sewer.

The issue of the occasional strong odour near the canal in Ballinamore has been under investigation for some time. One potential area which may be causing this problem has been identified and the council are working with the property owners representative to rectify this problem."

09/295

11/5/09

Old telephone Kiosks

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;

"At the May meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services to seek a meeting with Eircom regarding the possible usage of the old telephone Kiosks. Leitrim currently has a large number of voluntary groups who have trained in CPR and in the use of Defibrillators to provide a fast response in the case of cardiac arrest within their own communities. Many of these 'Heart Safe' Communities have a number of defibrillators which they have purchased by fund-raising and are currently in the process of appropriately locating same. Locating defibrillators in the rural areas, where groups are trained in their usage, is proving to be somewhat of a challenge and at a recent meeting of the Drumsna HeartSafe committee I suggested that the old telephone kiosks could be an ideal housing for the equipment."

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

"This suggestion will be taken up with Eircom."

09/296

11/5/09

Kiltoghert Graveyard

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;

"At the May meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure, to meet with members of the Kiltoghert Graveyard Committee, with a view to resolving outstanding issues and developing a programme of management and maintenance going forward."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Substantial work has already been carried out on the extension to Kiltoghert Grave Yard. Leitrim County Council are happy to meet with representatives from the local community to discuss how best to finalise the work at this location. Funding may be available under the Community Grave Yard scheme."

09/297

11/5/09

Bridges

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Martin Kenny;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure when can work be done on bridges in the Ballinamore engineering area that have been damaged mainly with parapet walls

fallen in and are in dangerous condition. The bridges in question include the bridge between Boeshill and Drumcullion on the Gardice road, on the golf links road Ballinamore, Castleroggey-Stradermot Bridge on the Aughnasheelin road, the wall along the main Mohill road at the Grange beside the Cloone River, at Drumdarkan, Cloone beside Vincent Doogans and several others."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The current budget allows us funding for the construction of the new Gulladoo Bridge, which will take place in July this year. There is no further funding available for bridge rehabilitation."

09/298

11/5/09

Road LS 55970

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

"When will the necessary repairs be carried out to the roadside drainage on Road LS 55970 in the townland of Drumkeelwick - the road is frequently flooded following heavy rain."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The road in question has been inspected and works will be carried out to alleviate the flooding problems referred to.

However, poor farming practices along this road has exacerbated this drainage problem. We will issue notices to these farmers under the Roads Act 1993."

09/299

11/5/09

Road resurfacing on the R204

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

"When will resurfacing of the R204 in the townland of Drumcannon, (Carrigallen to Ballinamore) Road be carried out. Excellent work has been done here in drainage and making safe the bad bend but resurfacing is urgent."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Works has commence Tuesday 5th May. There will be local diversions in place to accommodate the works."

In concluding the meeting Councillor Gilmartin thanked the County Manager, the Staff and the Members for all their help throughout the year and for their support through his recent illness. He also thanked the media for their continued coverage of Council activities and events.

Councillor McGloin, Councillor Bohan, Councillor Stenson and Councillor Kenny on behalf of their respective political groupings paid tribute to Councillor Gilmartin and complimented him on how well he had performed in taking on the role of Cathaoirelach in the absence of Councillor Shortt owing to illness. They also thanked the County Manager and the staff for all their help and courtesy throughout the tenure of the current Council.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager in turn thanked the members for their support and co-operation and wished all those going forward well in the forthcoming elections. She stated that Councillor Gilmartin had excelled in the role of both Cathaoirelach and Leas Cathaoirleach through a particularly difficult time both personally and for the Council.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 9.05 pm.

Cllr Thomas Mulligan
Cathaoirleach

Aideen McGovern
Meetings Administrator

Date: 6th July 2009