

**Minutes of Council Meeting held by Leitrim County Council  
In the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

**Members Present**

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

*And Councillor Jim Joe Shortt, Cathaoirleach presiding*

**Apologies:** Brennan, Damian

**Officials Present:**

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager  
Mr Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services  
Mr. J. Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community and Enterprise Development  
Mr John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure  
Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Housing & Corporate Services  
Mr Brian Kenny, Senior Engineer  
Mr Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer  
Mr Michael Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr Gabriel Miney, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr Padraic MacShera, A/Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr Darragh O'Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms Carmelita Caslin, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr Vincent Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr Shane McTernan, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr Sean O'Suilleabhain, County Librarian  
Ms Gabrielle Flynn, Senior Executive Librarian  
Ms. A. McGovern, Meetings Administrator

**09/02**

**12/01/09**

**Deimhniu Miontuairisci**

***Proposed by Councillor Gerard Reynolds seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan and unanimously resolved;***

“That the Minutes of the Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras An Chontae on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008, be adopted.”

***Proposed by Councillor Gerry Reynolds seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan and unanimously resolved;***

“That the Minutes of the Budget Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras An Chontae on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2008, be adopted.”

**09/03**

**12/1/09 Votes of Sympathy**

The members extended a vote of sympathy to the following;

- Margaret & Edward Williams & Family, Derrylustia, Drumkeerin on the death of John Williams.
- Mrs Bridie Doran, Sheifield, Leitrim P.O, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of John Joe Burke.
- Mr Seamus Gallagher, Drumcolligan, Eslin Bridge, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of John Gallagher.
- Mrs Noreen Gorham, Clooncarne, Bornacoola on the death of Martin Gorham.
- John McPartland & Family, Cashelnadrea, Garrison, Co Fermanagh on the death of Mary Anne McPartland.
- Nuala Melanophy & Family, Freevagh, Cashelnadrea, Garrison, Co Fermanagh on the death of Kathleen Melanophy.
- Gerry & Betty McGinley, Carrick Road, Manorhamilton on the death of Elizabeth McDonagh.
- John & Margaret Keon, Belleek Road, Ballyshannon, Do Donegal on the death of Mary Cecilia Clancy.
- Mrs Nora Foster & Family, Tawley, Tullaghan, Co Leitrim on the death of Paul Foster.
- Orla & Eamon Daly, Drumshanbo on the death of Mrs Peyton.
- Seamus McManus, Bredagh, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of John Jack McManus.
- Charlie McCormack, Dromore, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim on the death of Thomas Galligan.
- Sean McGovern, The Grange, Cloone, Co Leitrim on the death of Mrs Bridie McGovern.
- Mitchell Family, Ballyglass, Manorhamilton on the death of Pat Mitchell.
- Mr John McGloin, Loughmarron, Glenade on the death of Peter McGloin.
- Peter McGloin, Shesnaun, Glenade on the death of Packie McGloin.
- Mr Liam Higgins, Laheenamona, Mohill on the death of Mrs Eileen Higgins.
- Councillor Gerard Reynolds & Family, 21 Cnoc Na Si, Attirory, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Mary Savage.
- Pdraig MacShera, 7 Hillstreet Grove, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim on the death of Veronica MacShera.
- Mr Michael Mulvihill, Brockagh Lower, Glenfarne on the death of Martin Mulvihill.
- Annie Ferguson, Hollymount, Ballinaglera on the death of Patrick Reynolds

Councillor Mary Bohan paid tribute to the emergency services who had attended at the scene of the tragic accident which claimed the life of John Williams, RIP at Christmas. She also conveyed her best wishes to Ms McVeigh who is recovering from injuries received in the accident.

09/04

12/1/09

## Annual Progress Report on Corporate Plan

Report dated 6<sup>th</sup> January 2009 from County Manager, as circulated to the members, outlined Leitrim County Council's progress in relation to the Corporate Plan 2004-2009 and appears as **Appendix 1** to the minutes of this meeting.

The report as circulated was noted by the members.

Arising from the report Councillor Gerard Reynolds queried what the feedback had been on the DVD promoting Leitrim and in relation to the participation by Leitrim County Council in the Look West promotional initiative of the Western Development Commission. He welcomed the development of further third level courses under the Leitrim Third Level Initiative and suggested that the establishment of a 3<sup>d</sup> level Institute in the county should be pursued into the future. He acknowledged the positive impact of the Leitrim Roots / Taste of Leitrim Festival Initiative. He queried the location of the 3 Angling Projects and sought an update on the position in relation to the Carrick By-Pass and the Carrick on Shannon footbridge. He also queried when it is envisaged the Towns & Villages Sewerage Scheme will commence and which location will be first and when the contract for Carrick on Shannon is likely to be signed. He outlined the need for access to services in Carrick on Shannon on foot of the Engineering Area realignment. He also outlined the need for a focus on the availability of Broadband in the county. Councillor Reynolds complimented the staff on the Playgrounds Programme, the Arts Programme and the implementation of the Contact Management System and also welcomed the proposed development of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers. He also concurred with the comments as outlined in the report in relation to payroll savings and the importance of flexibility.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager advised that the Leitrim promotional DVD had been very well received and that it is intended to have it running live in Áras an Chontae and on the newly revamped portal website [www.leitrim.ie](http://www.leitrim.ie) which is to be launched shortly. In relation to the Look West initiative she confirmed that a number of enquiries are being followed through.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development outlined that the angling project locations were at Butlers marina on the Shannon, Lough McHugh and Gulladoo Lake. He also outlined the significant work undertaken in relation to Broadband provision in the county.

Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that the proposed footbridge for Carrick on Shannon will be going to Part VIII Public Consultation shortly. In relation to the Carrick By-Pass he advised that approval has been obtained in relation to the appointment of Consultants and the NRA allocation in this regard is awaited in order to proceed with the appointment. He outlined that a meeting has been scheduled with the Contractor for the Leitrim Towns and Villages Sewerage Schemes which will be starting shortly. He advised that work will be commencing at a number of different locations. He also advised that the Carrick-on-Shannon contract is scheduled to be signed on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and the members will be notified in this regard.

Councillor Colreavy queried the position in relation to CCTV in Manorhamilton. Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development confirmed that this project is being progressed by the local Community Group. He advised that the group need to progress aspects of the initiative through the Joint Policing Committee which is currently being established.

Councillor Guckian welcomed the update in relation to the Carrick-on-Shannon pedestrian bridge and the progress on the provision of a playground for Drumsna. She thanked Mr. Joseph Gihooly, Director of Services, Community, Cultural and Enterprise Development and Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure and their respective staff for their assistance in relation to the provision of broadband in the Annaduff/Drumsna area.

Councillor Flynn queried the position in relation to the provision of a new Fire Station in Manorhamilton and also in relation to the development of the Courthouse in Manorhamilton. He also outlined the importance of the provision of a footbridge at Castle Street, Manorhamilton. Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager advised that the development of the Courthouse is a matter for the Department of Justice. She confirmed that the Fire Station for Manorhamilton is progressing. Mr. Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services confirmed that agreement has been reached in relation to the land acquisition and the matter is being progressed.

Councillor McElgunn outlined the importance of the urgent provision of the footbridge in Carrick-on-Shannon. He thanked the Manager and Staff for the provision of the New Town Park in Carrick-on-Shannon and asked that the development of a new library facility for the town be progressed as quickly as possible.

**09/05**

**12/1/2009**

**Annual Report on Capital Programme**

Report dated 6<sup>th</sup> January 2008 from County Manager, as circulated to the members, provided an update on the planned capital programme for the forthcoming three years and appears as **Appendix 2** to the minutes of this meeting.

The report as circulated was noted by the members.

Councillor McGloin queried whether house purchases would form part of the Housing Capital Programme for 2009. Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services confirmed that the issue of house purchases would be considered in the context of the Housing Allocation and the housing needs identified.

**09/06**

**12/1/09 Section 183 of Local Government Act 2001**

Report from Administrative Officer, Housing, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2008 as circulated to each member appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That the disposal of land described hereunder for a sum of €127 to Breffni Community Development Company Ltd., Breffni Crescent, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim

**Registered Owner**

**Description of Land**

Leitrim County Council

Portion of land in the townland of Townspark Td., Carrick-on- Shannon, Co. Leitrim (0.628 hectares)

The Council originally disposed of 0.603 hectares to the Townspark Association in order that they could erect a purpose built Community Development Building. Breffni Community Development Company Ltd. then requested an additional portion of land be transferred in order to provide them with a recreational area. The total area to be disposed of is 0.628 Hectares as outlined on dwg 220/963.L.R

**Conditions:**

1. Breffni Community Development Company Ltd. will be responsible for all the legal costs involved in the transaction.
2. The disposal of the portion of land is conditional that the land would be retained for recreational use only
3. The land is not suitable for additional development of housing
4. Revoke Section 83 & Section 88 Notice dated 30<sup>th</sup> May 2000 (Notice to Dispose of 0.603 hectares to Townspark Residents Association), approved by the Members at the Council Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2000

In accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Notice of Intention to dispose of land dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2008 circulated to each member, be approved”.

**09/07**

**12/1/09**

**Draft Library Development Plan 2009-2013 in accordance with Section 78 of the Local Government Act 2001**

The Draft Library Development Plan 2009-2013 dated 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009 as circulated to the members, appears as **Appendix 4** to the minutes of this meeting.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager introduced Mr. Aidan Walsh of Aidan Walsh Consultancy who was to take the members through an overview of the Plan. She outlined that the Draft Plan had been presented to and considered by the Library Committee and the Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development Strategic Policy Committee and was now being presented to the Council for approval to proceed to public display.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Jim Joe Shortt welcomed Mr. Walsh to the meeting. Mr. Walsh gave an overview of the Draft Library Development Plan 2009-2013, and the consultations undertaken, following which questions were invited from the members.

The Members thanked Mr. Walsh for his presentation. They also complimented Mr. Sean O’Suilleabhain, County Librarian, Ms. Gabrielle Flynn, Senior Executive

Librarian and the staff of the Library Service for the excellent service provided within the county.

Councillor Hughes noted that a Mobile Library vehicle would be fully funded but queried the cost of running such a service on an annual basis and whether any funding would be available in this regard. Mr. Walsh advised that the estimated cost of operating a mobile library facility would be in the region of €70,000 to €80,000. He advised that there is no funding available towards operational costs but that there would be some funding available towards stocking such a service. Councillor Hughes requested that the provision of a mobile library service be examined further.

Councillor Reynolds queried the cost of the Plan if it were to be fully implemented. He also queried whether the new Library facility for Carrick on Shannon would be on the existing site or at a new location. He also suggested that consideration should be given to the use of components of the Mobile Cinema as a Mobile Library.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development advised that the cost of the provision of a new Library in Carrick on Shannon would be in the region of €3 million. He advised that Approval in Principle has been applied for in this regard and it would be hoped that 75% funding would be secured. He advised that tentative discussions have taken place in relation to various sites but the matter cannot be progressed until Approval in Principle is obtained from the Department. He advised that a suitable location for the Dromahaire Library is being actively pursued but that Departmental funding is unlikely to be forthcoming. He advised that the works to Mohill Library have to be funded by the Council. He advised that these works should be proceeding to the Part VIII Public Consultation process in the coming weeks.

Councillor McElgunn welcomed the proposals in relation to Carrick on Shannon and also the proposals in relation to a Mobile Library Service which he stated was very important in the context of social inclusion. Councillor Stenson also supported the Mobile Library concept and outlined that the refurbishment works to Mohill Library are essential. This was supported by Councillor McGowan.

Councillor Bohan welcomed the Plan but expressed disappointment that there was no reference in the plan to the provision of a library service in Drumkeerin. She outlined that she had brought up this issue on a number of occasions and that there is a substantial second level college in Drumkeerin and no library service. She outlined that she was very disappointed that that no effort had been made to resolve the matter and that she was not aware of any consultation or discussion which had taken place locally. She acknowledged that it is not possible to provide a Branch Library in every town and village but highlighted that library facilities have been provided in Kinlough and Kiltyclogher which would be similar to Drumkeerin. She outlined that she was considering proposing an amendment to the Draft Plan in relation to this matter and queried whether any consideration had been given to the provision of a Branch Library facility in Drumkeerin.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services outlined that the terms of Reference for the development of the Plan was an evaluation of the mobile service or addition to the branch network and this was a central aspect of the development of the Plan. He outlined the cost implications of the development of additional fixed branches. Mr. Sean O'Suilleabhain, County Librarian advised that Drumkeerin had made a very good case in the context of the schools etc. He outlined that he was very much

aware of the need for a service but advised that a Mobile Service is the proposed option to provide that service in locations like Drumkeerin, Cloone, Dromod etc. He outlined that a number of locations could be served by a single vehicle and this is the preferred, most cost-effective and convenient option having considered the matter very carefully.

Councillor McDermott outlined that the Library Service is a fantastic service which is not fully appreciated. He welcomed the proposal for the provision of a mobile service to serve areas of the county which do not have convenient access to a branch library.

Councillor Flynn welcomed the Plan and stated that a mobile service would be a welcome expansion of the existing services. He queried whether consideration could be given to bulk-lending of books to Active Age and other groups. He also queried whether consideration should be given to seeking donations of used books from the public. Mr. Sean O'Suilleabhain, County Librarian confirmed that block loans can be made to schools or any groups.

Councillor Reynolds reiterated that the adaptation of the Mobile Cinema truck should be considered in the context of the provision of a Mobile Library service. He outlined that this might be a more cost effective solution. This was supported by Councillor McElgunn.

Councillor Ferguson recalled the efforts of former members who had fought so hard to maintain the level of book stocks in our libraries and stressed the importance of maintaining adequate stock levels.

***Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Michael Colrevay AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That the Draft Leitrim County Library Development Plan 2009-2013 be approved to proceed to public display in accordance with the provisions of Section 78 of the Local Government Act 2001”

**09/08**

**12/1/09     Draft Leitrim Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013**

The Managers Report on the submissions received in relation to the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 dated 9<sup>th</sup> January 2009 as circulated to the members, appears as **Appendix 5** to the minutes of this meeting.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager advised that details of the one submission received together with the proposed comments/response were considered by the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee at their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009. The Committee unanimously endorsed the proposed response and recommended the Draft Programme to the Council for adoption without modification.

Councillor Guckian complimented Mary Quinn, Director of Services, and Linda Flanagan, Senior Social Worker on the development of the Programme, which had been done in conjunction with the Traveller community and which is endorsed by them. Councillor Reynolds queried whether there were outstanding works to be completed at the Rosebank redevelopment in Carrick on Shannon. He also queried

whether there are proposals for the development of further halting site accommodation.

Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services advised that a detailed assessment of needs was carried out as part of the development of the Traveller Accommodation Programme. She advised that the expressed preference is for housing accommodation and this will be accommodated through our own Housing Programme and through the RAS Scheme. She also confirmed that there are some further works to be completed at Rosebank in advance of the official opening of the scheme which is due to be rescheduled. She further advised that the Housing Section will be working closely with the residents in relation to the ongoing maintenance of the development.

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

“That the Leitrim Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 be adopted”.

**09/09**

**12/1/09 Nomination of members to the Leitrim Joint Policing Committee**

***Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Aodh Flynn AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That the following Members of Leitrim County Council be nominated to the Leitrim Joint Policing Committee:

Councillor Mary Bohan  
Councillor Frank Dolan  
Councillor Aodh Flynn  
Councillor Francie Gilmartin  
Councillor Sinead Guckian  
Councillor Gordon Hughes  
Councillor Martin Kenny  
Councillor Enda McGloin  
Councillor Sean McGowan  
Councillor John McTernan  
Councillor Thomas Mulligan  
Councillor Paddy O'Rourke  
Councillor Enda Stenson

And that Councillor Mary Bohan be nominated as Chairperson of the Leitrim Joint Policing Committee and Councillor Enda McGloin be nominated as Vice-Chairperson of the Leitrim Joint Policing Committee.”

Councillor Colreavy requested that the issue of CCTV for Manorhamilton be listed on the agenda for the first meeting of the Joint Policing Committee.

**09/10**

**12/1/09 Draft Leitrim County Development Plan 2009-2015**

It was agreed that a Special Council meeting would be convened on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 5pm in Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon to consider the Managers Report on submissions received in relation to the Material Alterations to the Draft Leitrim County Development Plan 2009-2015.

Mr. Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services confirmed that the Retail Strategy would be circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

**09/11**

**12/1/09 Draft Road Works Scheme 2009**

It was agreed by the members to hold the Manorhamilton and Dromahaire Area Roads Meeting on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 5.00pm in the Health Service Executive offices in Manorhamilton.

It was agreed by the members to hold the Carrick-on-Shannon and Ballinamore Area Roads meeting at 5.00pm on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009 in the Council Chamber, Áras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon. It was further agreed that if the Roads Allocation is notified earlier that this meeting could be brought forward to Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 5.00pm.

**09/12**

**12/1/09 Report from Corporate Policy Group**

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

The Corporate Policy Group considered updates from two SPC meetings which took place since the December Corporate Policy Group meeting.

**Strategic Policy Committee Reports**

□ **Transportation SPC**

A meeting of the Transportation SPC took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008 and considered updates on the Carrick on Shannon Parking Byelaws and the Taxi Byelaws. The SPC also received an overview of the Winter Maintenance Programme. The report from the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 6** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

□ **Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development SPC**

A meeting of the Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development SPC took place on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008 and considered an update on the implementation of the Council's Arts Plan. The SPC also considered and agreed the Terms of Reference for the Lough Allen Catchment Plan Implementation Group. The SPC had also joined with the Library Committee to consider the Draft Library Development Plan. The report from the Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development Strategic Policy

Committee as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 7** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

### **Draft County Development Plan**

The Corporate Policy Group had considered an update in relation to the Draft County Development Plan and had agreed that a Special Council meeting should be held to consider the Managers Report on the submissions received in relation to the Material Alterations to the Draft Plan.

### **Items for Council Meeting**

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

This update was noted by the members.

Councillor Guckian outlined that it had been proposed that the Transportation SPC would consider the development of a policy in relation to 'Children at Play' signage and she requested that this be addressed early in the New Year. This was supported by Councillor McGowan. Councillor Stenson, as Chairperson of the Transportation SPC, confirmed that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the SPC.

Councillor Stenson complimented Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer on his overview on the Winter Maintenance Programme which had been very informative.

**09/13**

### **12/1/09 Correspondence**

The following correspondence was circulated to the members:

1. Letter from the Office of the Minister for Education and Science dated 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008 in relation to the budget measures relating to education.
2. Letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> December 2008 from the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in relation to the Budget 2009.
3. Letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> December 2008 from the Department of Finance regarding the cutbacks in the agricultural budget for 2009.
4. Letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> November 2008 from the Health Service Executive in relation to the Regionalised Health Services Board.
5. Letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008 from the Office of the Minister for Health and Children in relation to the staff and services at the HSE headquarters in Manorbhamilton.

Councillor McGloin expressed anger at the quality of the responses being received from the Ministers' Office on foot of issues raised by Members in relation to health issues and stated that it is a waste of time writing to the Minister.

6. Letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008 from Denis Naughten TD in relation to the HSE services in Manorbhamilton.

7. Letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008 from the Tánaiste and Office of the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment in relation replacement industry in Carrick-on-Shannon.

Councillor Kenny referred to the correspondence received from Minister Mary Coughlan and stated that there needs to be an entire re-think in relation to the approach being adopted. He stated that it is the responsibility of Government to take action appropriate to the situation which exists.

Councillor Kenny also referred to the difference in the quality of the responses received from the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Minister for Education and Science in relation to the Budget cuts although he acknowledged that both reflected the same negative response. He outlined however that Members should be getting a better level of response from Ministers.

8. Letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008 from the Chief Superintendent of the office of the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána in relation to the re-alignment of policing divisions in Leitrim.

Councillor Gilmartin stated that the realignment of the policing divisions is wrong and has destroyed the structure that was in place and was working well. He asked that the matter of the refurbishment of Keshcarrigan Garda Station be raised once again with An Garda Síochána.

9. Letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008 from the Director of Services, Roscommon County Council with responsibility for Roads and Transportation in relation to the R280 in County Roscommon –Carrick-on-Shannon Bridge.

10. Notice dated 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009 from the Ethics Registrar notifying each elected member to prepare and furnish an annual declaration to the Ethics Registrar no later than the last day of February 2009.

11. Letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> December 2008 from the Department of Transport in relation to the amended guidelines for the application of special speed limits issued by the Minister pursuant to Section 9(9) of the Road Traffic Act 2004.

12. Letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> January 2009 from the Department of Health & Children in relation to the supervised residential unit at Bankhouse, Manorhamilton.

Councillor Colreavy referred to the letters which had issued to Mr. Brendan Drumm & Mr. Pat Dolan of the HSE in relation to Bank House in Manorhamilton, and outlined that the members had not yet received the courtesy of a response. He stated that by the February Council meeting the residents will already have been removed from their home and relocated. He stated that this decision shows a staggering lack of humanity on the part of HSE officials. He asked that the Councillor representatives to the HSE ensure that the matter is on the agenda for the forthcoming HSE meeting. This was supported by Councillor Ferguson.

13. Letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> December 2008 from the Chief Superintendent, An Garda Garda Síochána in relation to the re-alignment of the policing divisions in Leitrim which is taking effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009.

At this point the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Jim Joe Shortt excused himself from the meeting and the Leas Cathaoirleach, Councillor Francie Gilmartin took the Chair.

**09/14**

**12/1/09 Presentation from Waterways Ireland**

Mr. Joe Gillespie, Regional Manager and Mr. Jim Harvey, Head of Structural Engineering with Waterways Ireland gave a presentation to the Council on Waterways Ireland activities in the region, following which they invited questions from the Members.

The Members thanked Mr. Gillespie and Mr. Harvey for their presentation.

Councillor Ellis asked what Waterways Ireland's policy is in relation to the private development of jetties along the Shannon. Councillor McElgunn outlined concerns in relation to Hartley Bridge, Carrick on Shannon and asked if Waterways Ireland has any remit in relation to this bridge. He also asked if Waterways Ireland had been consulted by the NRA in relation to the proposed foot-bridge over the Shannon at the Bridge in Carrick-on-Shannon.

Councillor Guckian asked if there were any proposals for the development/extension of facilities at Drumsna, Jamestown and Dromod which are underdeveloped and have huge potential. She outlined that the County Development Plan advocates the reopening of the navigation channel between Jamestown and Drumsna and asked if there were any proposals in this regard. She also highlighted that Jamestown is not listed on the navigation map on the Waterways Ireland website and asked that Jamestown and Drumsna be included on all maps and promotional materials.

Councillor McGloin raised the issue of toilet facilities at the Acres Lake Amenity Area outside Drumshanbo. He outlined that the Council had had fruitful discussions with Waterways Ireland in relation to this matter. He outlined that he understood that an application to Fáilte Ireland for funding had been unsuccessful and queried what the up to date position is on this very important facility. He also raised the issue of the public berthing facilities at Leitrim Village and queried the up to date position in this regard and whether the facilities will be open to the public in the Summer of 2009. He also queried if Waterways Ireland would be involved on the Task Force for the implementation of the objectives of the Lough Allen Catchment Plan. Finally he asked that all Waterways Ireland promotional material include details of festivals and events in the vicinity of the waterways.

Councillor McGowan acknowledged the excellent work done by Waterways Ireland in the county. He outlined the poor condition of the mooring facilities at Rooskey and outlined that repairs to the existing and additional facilities are required in this location. He also referred to the proposed opening of the Rinn River navigation and outlined that this would be a tremendous boost to the area and should be progressed. This was supported by Councillor Mulligan who suggested that it would

be useful if a representative of Waterways Ireland attended a meeting with the local committee in relation to the proposal.

Councillor Hughes asked what the policy on granting planning permission for private mooring facilities is. He queried what the opening times for the locks on the Shannon Erne waterway are and also requested that festivals such as the Ballinamore Festival be featured in relevant promotional material.

Councillor Bohan paid tribute to the work of Waterways Ireland particularly at Spencer Harbour and Cleighranmore, Ballinaglera. She outlined that the provision of facilities at Lower Annagh, Dowra remains a particular objective of the County Development Plan and asked that Waterways Ireland would do whatever was necessary to proceed with the project. This was supported by Councillor Dolan who also raised the issue of the damaged bridge at Kilclare which is causing a hazard to local people. He outlined that the bridge is too narrow and must be addressed.

Councillor Gilmartin supported Councillor Dolans' comments in relation to the bridge at Kilclare. He stated that if Waterways Ireland wants boat traffic through Kilclare next Summer they must do something to address this bridge. He also referred to Roscarban Bridge which has been damaged and asked that this be repaired to prevent further damage.

Mr. Gillespie and Mr. Harvey responded to the issues raised. Mr. Gillespie advised that he understood that landowners along the waterways had a right to develop moorings. He advised however that they would not be supporting proposals to build jetties on bends in the river etc on safety grounds. He advised that environmental impacts would also have to be taken into account by the Planners. Mr. Gillespie advised that Hartley Bridge comes within the remit of his colleagues in the Northern Shannon region and he would talk to his colleagues in this regard and revert to the members. In relation to the footbridge at Carrick on Shannon Mr. Harvey advised that Waterways Ireland would only have an input from a navigation point of view.

Mr. Gillespie advised that he would bring Councillor Guckian's comments in relation to Jamestown, Drumsna and Dromod and in relation to the reopening of the navigation between Jamestown and Drumsna to his Northern Shannon colleagues for response. He also advised that he would raise the omissions in relation to the map to the attention of the Marketing Department. He advised that he would also take the issue in relation to the condition of the facilities in Rooskey to his northern Shannon colleagues. He undertook to get Mr. Eamonn McMorrow to update Councillor McGloin in relation to Acres Lake. In relation to the berthing facilities in Leitrim Village he advised that this is progressing and the developer is currently working through the various issues.

Mr. Gillespie outlined that he understood that a lot of the festivals etc in the vicinity of the waterways are included in the promotional material. He advised that the opening times on the Locks during the Summer months are from 9.00am to 8.00pm. Councillor Hughes outlined that the lack of flexibility on the opening times had resulted in the local waterbus having to suspend business. Mr. Gillespie outlined that he was familiar with this matter. He outlined that the locks must be manned and it is considered that the hours are adequate. He acknowledged the concerns expressed.

Mr. Gillespie advised that Waterways Ireland are working on the environmental aspect of the proposed development at Dowra and that it is intended to proceed to planning in relation to this development. This was welcomed by Councillor Bohan.

Mr. Jim Harvey advised that Waterways Ireland has met with the Roads Department of Leitrim County Council in relation to Kilclare Bridge. He advised that there are Health & Safety issues involved and a Consultant is on board looking at what has to be done. He advised that Waterways Ireland will be reporting back to the Roads section in relation to this matter. Councillor McGloin highlighted that the width of the bridge is an issue and if the bridge is repaired as is the same problems will arise in the future. He asked that this be borne in mind in relation to the options being considered. Mr. Harvey outlined that Waterways Ireland remit is for navigation and the Council remit relates to traffic. He outlined that the remit of Waterways Ireland extends to maintaining bridges to the standard originally built and where widening is involved this will fall to the Council. He outlined that Waterways Ireland will pay their proportion of bringing the bridge up to standard. He confirmed that the matter would be further discussed with the Roads Department. Councillor Gerry Dolan reiterated the point made by Councillor McGloin that if the bridge is not widened it will be an ongoing problem. Mr. Harvey undertook to refer the matter of the stones gone off Roscarbon Bridge to his colleagues.

The Leas Cathaoirleach, Councillor Gilmartin thanked Mr. Gillespie and Mr. Harvey for their attendance at the meeting and outlined that a joint approach was required in relation to the bridge at Kilclare.

**09/15**

**12/1/09 Conferences**

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

That Leitrim County Council approves of the following

- Attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the reception to honour the Sligo Leitrim Youth Soccer Team in the County Hall in Sligo on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Gordon Hughes at the conference on Homelessness in Ireland held in the City West Hotel, Dublin on the 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the 3<sup>d</sup> National Infrastructure Conference on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008 in Croke Conference Centre, Dublin.
- Attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson and Councillor Sean McGowan at the Western Inter County Railway Committee in Claremorris, Co Mayo on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson and Councillor John McTernan at the Western River Basin Advisory Council meeting held in Oranmore, Co Galway on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

- Attendance of Councillor Paddy O'Rourke at the Local Authority Awards Ceremony in the Crown Plaza Hotel, Dublin on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Paddy O'Rourke at the Sustrans Cross Border Committee meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008 in Lifford, Co Donegal.
- Attendance of Councillor Caillian Ellis at the Border Regional Authority Seminar held on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008 in Monaghan.
- Attendance of Councillor Gordon Hughes at the Training Seminar for Councillors on Homelessness in the City West Hotel, Dublin on the 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Gordon Hughes at the training Seminar for Councillors on Effective Communication for Councillors held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December to 14<sup>th</sup> December 2008 in the Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo.
- Attendance of Councillor Caillian Ellis at the ICBAN meeting in Enniskillen on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008 in Claremorris.
- Attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008 in Athlone.
- Attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin and Councillor Frank Dolan at the Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008 in Cavan.
- Attendance of Councillor Frank Dolan at the Information & Communications Seminar in Bunclody in Wexford on the 21<sup>st</sup> November to 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor John McTernan at the Western River Basin Advisory Council meeting held in Oranmore, Co Galway on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008
- Attendance of Councillor Thomas Mulligan at the Conference on Alcohol & Drug use held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2008 in UCD, Dublin.
- Attendance of Councillor Thomas Mulligan at the Association of County & City Councils Association in Swords on the 6<sup>th</sup> March to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008.
- Attendance of Councillor Enda McGloin at the International Local Government Convention on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in the INEC Conference Centre, Killarney.

***Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Liam McElgunn AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council approves the attendance of Councillor Mary Bohan, Councillor John McTernan and Councillor Enda McGloin at the conference on "Women of 1916" on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009 in Enniscorthy, Co Wexford".

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

"That Leitrim County Council approves the attendance of Councillor Enda McGloin at the UCD Earth Systems Initiative conference on "Women of 1916" on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009 in Enniscorthy, Co Wexford

## **Part 1 – Notices of Motions**

**09/16**

**12/1/09 Fenagh to Castlefore Road**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council immediately improve the surface of the road from Fenagh to Castlefore as it has deteriorated rapidly during the frosty weather."

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

"The R209, Fenagh to Keshcarrigan road is in poor condition and is included on our list of roads submitted to the Department for a specific improvement grant for 2009. To date we have not been informed of the allocations for this year. Temporary maintenance has been carried on the road and continue to be until the major grant works is approved."

Councillor Ellis welcomed the reply and asked that the Council maintain this road on a weekly basis as it has deteriorated significantly. This was supported by Councillor Hughes.

**09/17**

**12/1/09 Townland names to be preserved**

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to call on the Ministers for Local Government and Communications to ensure that in any reform of identification of areas in parishes and counties that the "Townland" names are preserved in full and kept as a very important part of our culture and Heritage. There has been Heritage vandalism in part of the Northern area of the country with road names and numbers introduced to the detriment of the locality. Progress for postal and emergency services can be progressed in an imaginative way and this should be done to preserve what is good in our country."

Councillor Ferguson called for the support of the members in calling on the Ministers for Local Government and Communications to ensure that in any reform of

identification of areas in parishes and counties that the townland names are preserved in full as it is a very important part of our heritage and culture that these be respected.

All of the members supported the motion.

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

"Leitrim County Council calls on the Ministers for Local Government and Communications to ensure that in any reform of identification of areas in parishes and counties that the "Townland" names are preserved in full and kept as a very important part of our culture and Heritage. There has been Heritage vandalism in part of the Northern area of the country with road names and numbers introduced to the detriment of the locality. Progress for postal and emergency services can be progressed in an imaginative way and this should be done to preserve what is good in our country."

**09/18**

**12/1/09 Policy on Sanding**

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

"I want to call on this Council to sort out a policy on sanding the hills, when there is frost. I was not satisfied with the salting of the hills in my area, in recent adverse weather conditions. For example the hill at Jackie Lees, hill at Hubert Murrays, hill at Pat Reynolds, Shanleys hill at Keshcarrigan, Luke Doherty's turn at Letterfine. I feel that with the change of the areas it has affected the personal familiarity of the dangerous points that need to be salted. The previous overseer lived in the area and knew every dangerous point in it. There will have to be sand and manpower directed to all these hills. We don't all live on the N4."

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

"It is Leitrim County Council policy to salt all National and heavily trafficked Regional roads in the county when there is a danger of frost/ice on the roads. Arrangements will be made locally to salt/grit any dangerous locations on Local roads during severe weather conditions."

Councillor Gilmartin outlined that some thirty years ago these hills were being salted. He outlined that in the change of Overseers there had been a loss of local knowledge. He stated that it was essential that we revert to a situation where local problem areas are addressed in frosty conditions.

Councillor McElgunn supported the motion and outlined that he had a question on the agenda in relation to a similar issue. Councillor Gerry Dolan also supported the motion and stated that lack of familiarity with the area results in some black-spots not being addressed.

Councillor McGloin also supported the motion and suggested the provision of wheelie bins of salt/sand at particular problem locations which the local Area Staff could spread as required. Councillor Bohan also supported the motion and said problem

areas must be identified and addressed.

Councillor McTernan also supported the motion and requested that particular attention be given to the main Dromahaire to Sligo routes for people commuting to work. Councillor McDermott stated that the roads in the Manorhamilton Area are well addressed. He suggested however that consideration should be given to the salting of the junctions of side roads leading onto the National Primary routes in light of a fatality which occurred in County Sligo.

Councillor Guckian supported the motion and asked that the Director of Services for Infrastructure contact Roscommon County Council in relation to addressing the section of road between Jamestown and Drumsna, which is in County Roscommon, in icy conditions.

Councillor Gilmartin thanked Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer for responding to a number of specific requests. He outlined however that the public feel aggrieved that they are not receiving a level of service simply because they are not living along a National Primary route.

Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that the Severe Weather Plan had been circulated to members before Christmas. He advised that this outlined the routes which are dealt with by the gritter trucks. He stated that there are time constraints and the priority must be the busiest routes. He advised that there are a number of areas where salt can be left but advised that there simply is not the capacity, physically or financially, to deal with every road and hill. He advised that a total of €80,000 has been spent to date compared to €144,000 for the entire season in 2007/2008. He confirmed that particular problems are responded to but that this cannot be done in the first wave of gritting. He confirmed that there is a list of areas available where salt has been put out and that other particular areas can be looked.

Councillor Gilmartin thanked Mr. McGuinness but stated that it is small comfort to people who have suffered damage as a result of icy roads. He stated that a policy must be developed to deal with problem spots.

**09/19**

**12/1/09 Financial Regulatory System**

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

"Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister for Finance to urgently arrange a specialist, independent audit of all the countries major banks and other financial institutions with a view to identifying unacceptable practices and setting up a regulatory system that protects customers and shareholders. The audit is clearly necessary given the demonstrable failure of the Government's current Financial Regulatory system to deal with serious wrong-doings over the past decade."

Councillor Colreavy stated that if we do not understand how Ireland's financial institutions came so suddenly to a point of virtual collapse we cannot ensure there will be no recurrence. He stated that it is not enough for the Irish Government to say this is a world-wide recession. He outlined that there is little or nothing we can do to

ensure integrity of financial practices in Wall Street and other international stock exchanges and financial institutions but that there is however a compelling need to ensure that the Irish Stock Exchange, Banks, Building Societies and other financial institutions in this country operate legally and with integrity. He stated that recent events demonstrate clearly the failure of this Government's current Financial Regulatory system to deal with serious wrong-doings over the past decade. He stated that he is calling on the members of Leitrim County Council to demand that the Minister for Finance arrange an immediate, independent audit of all the major financial institutions with a view to identifying unacceptable practices and implementing a regulatory system that works.

He stated that the audit should incorporate:

- Identification of the beneficiaries of major loans to establish whether repayment capability was adequately established, and to ascertain whether the approval of unrealistic loans resulted in increased financial benefit to bank directors and / or senior executives
- An investigation of the investment practices of the banks and financial institutions to establish whether adequate checks were made to ensure security of funds; to establish whether investments were made on the basis of fraudulent information; and to establish whether the directors and senior executives of financial institutions gained increased financial benefit from risky investments
- An examination of the extent to which directors and senior executives of banks and financial institutions used the institutions as their personal piggy banks in terms of loans acquisitions; an examination of how those loans were used and an examination of the repayment patterns associated with those loans
- An examination of the adequacy of current commercial accountancy audit procedures and certification, and of current financial regulatory structures and processes in terms of ensuring transparency and integrity of banking practices and of securing and protecting investments

He stated that the Fraud Squad and Criminal Assets Bureau would be ideally placed to carry out the necessary inspection / audit and that unless an investigation such as this is carried out we simply cannot claim there will never be a repetition of the failures of the last decade – we cannot fix what we do not understand. He stated that the results of the independent investigation must be made public to ensure taxpayers and investors can once again put their trust and their funds in banks, building societies and other financial institutions operating in Ireland. Councillor Colreavy stated that if we fail to carry out such an independent, public investigation people will rightly speculate about what is being hidden and who is being protected and will continue to have zero confidence in our financial institutions and in our financial regulatory system.

Councillor Reynolds outlined that he supported a large part of Councillor Colreavy's statement. He outlined that he understood that an independent audit was being undertaken. He stated that he considered that the real issue is the way the financial sector has affected the 'real economy'. He stated that consolidation of the banks is required and that there must be a better regulatory authority. He also stated that the banks have to start lending money again to get the economy back in action.

Councillor Colreavy stated that the public is entitled to know what has been happening and will have no confidence until integrity has been re-established.

Councillor Kenny supported the motion and concurred with Councillor Reynolds'

comments.

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

"That Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister for Finance to urgently arrange a specialist, independent audit of all the countries major banks and other financial institutions with a view to identifying unacceptable practices and setting up a regulatory system that protects customers and shareholders. The audit is clearly necessary given the demonstrable failure of the Government's current Financial Regulatory system to deal with serious wrong-doings over the past decade".

**09/20**

**12/1/09 Re-alignment of the roads at Clooneagh Crossroads in Bornacoola**

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

"At the January meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask Mr John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure to include funding in the 2009 roadwork's programme to carry out re-alignment of the roads 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***

"We had the NRA safety Officer inspect this location and subsequently we made application for funding under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Works on Non National roads to carry out safety improvements to Cloneagh cross-roads in 2009. Subject to this funding being made available, this work will be carried out in the current year."

Councillor McGowan welcomed the response and asked that every effort be made to have the work done in 2009. Councillor Mulligan supported the motion.

**09/21**

**12/1/09 Taking in Charge Policy for Housing Developments**

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

"I call on Leitrim County Council to amend the 'Taking in Charge Policy for Housing developments' to omit section 'M' on general conditions specifically in relation to the paragraph " Applicant shall transfer or convey to Leitrim County Council, all the land contained in the planning permission affected by this policy document" The Council is in effect insisting on owning and controlling public open spaces and are asking residents then to be responsible for their maintenance. Open spaces must and should be owned collectively by the house owners of the estate to include certain rights of way for Leitrim County Council, as the relevant local authority. I further call on Leitrim Council under 'General Conditions, section D, to set 1.5 Million euros (and

no higher for larger estates) as the standard level of indemnity insurance for the Engineering/Architect firm that provides the Certificate with the application for 'taking in charge' of the estate. I believe these changes are necessary to ensure a more practical and expedient approach to the whole area of taking in charge of housing estates in County Leitrim."

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

"The Taking in Charge Policy was adopted by the Council following consideration by the Planning Policy SPC. It is recommended that the General Conditions and Condition 1(m) in particular be referred back to the SPC for consideration and that if any suggested changes emerge, they be brought back to the Council for decision.

In response to the second element of the Motion in relation to point I (d) of the General Conditions of the Council' Taking in Charge document, please note the following; The professional indemnity limits are as specified by the Council's insurers-Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances and the Council is therefore obliged to adhere to their recommendations. There is scope in the Policy to consider each case on its merits."

Councillor McGloin outlined that he had tabled the motion on foot of discussions with developers who are anxious to proceed to get developments taken in charge. He outlined that there are two anomalies in the policy which need to be looked at and called on the support of the members in reviewing the policy in this regard. He noted in relation to Professional Indemnity insurances that individual cases can be looked at on their merits and asked if this meant that exceptions can be made. Mr. Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services advised that IPBMI have issued guidelines and that there is a clause which allows a case to be taken on its merits and this is the approach which will be adopted, depending on individual circumstances. He outlined that the primary objective in relation to open spaces is that the area remains as open space. He outlined that it is proposed that the Taking in charge policy be reviewed through the Planning Policy SPC with a meeting to be scheduled at an early date.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that a number of changes are proposed to the existing policy. She outlined that the aim of the Council is to get as many estates taken in charge as possible.

Councillor McElgunn and Councillor McGowan supported the motion. Councillor Reynolds asked that the matter be progressed with a view to bringing the proposals back to the members at the March Council meeting. This was agreed.

Councillor Colreavy outlined concern that the level of insurance should not be less than what is required to complete the development. The County Manager clarified that the insurance issue related to Professional Indemnity Insurance for the Engineer/Agent certifying the development for the purposes of taking in charge.

Councillor McGloin welcomed the proposed review of the policy and thanked the members for their support.

09/22

12/1/09 Upgrading of Waterworks

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

"What is the position with upgrading of water works, when are those works due to finish and is there finance in place to restore the roads from Kiltoghert to Killnagross, Stuck to Ohill and Ohill to Mohill."

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

"The contract to upgrade the South Leitrim Regional Water Supply in the Killnagross, Ohill area is now due to be completed by the end of April. The Contractor is responsible for carrying out the temporary resurfacing works and Leitrim County Council will be carrying out the final road reinstatement, for which sufficient funding have been provided for under the contract. This work will be carried out in the second quarter of 2009."

09/23

12/1/09 Public Lighting standards and safety railings at the Quay

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

"That this Council erect new public lighting standards and provide safety railings at the Quay, Carrick-on-Shannon. This has often been requested for this area in response to public demand."

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

"The underground ducting for the new public lighting on the Quays have been put in place prior to the cessation of work before Christmas. The decorative lights are on order from the ESB and it is hoped to recommence work in this area in the coming weeks. The safety railing is also on order and shall form part of the overall works at the Quays."

Councillor McElgunn welcomed the response and queried what other works are to be done at this location. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure confirmed that in addition to the public lighting and the decorative railing some surfacing work on the carpark is to be carried out. He further advised that application has been made for further funding to do some additional works if funding can be secured. He advised that the railing, which is strong and sturdy but decorative has been designed in such a way that it will not be impacted by cars. He advised that the railing will not be along the entire Quays area but in the location where cars back in where there was a particular issue.

Councillor Reynolds supported the motion and queried why the works had been delayed as the funding had been provided in the 2008 Roads Programme. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that the works are funded from Development Contributions and these works had been held over to help alleviate funding deficiencies in the current year. He advised that temporary barriers have been put in place.

09/24

12/1/09 **Road Sweeper at Clooneen Estate, Manorhamilton**

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to use the road sweeper at Clooneen Estate, Sligo Road, Manorhamilton on an occasional basis."

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

"It is hoped that the Road sweeper will be able to attend at the street in question on an occasional basis. This cul-de -sac was taken in charge by the Council in recent years. However, the whole question of the level of service Leitrim County Council will be able to give in relation to litter control and street sweeping will have to be reviewed in light of the road grants when announced."

Councillor Frank Dolan welcomed the response.

09/25

12/1/09 **Pedestrian Crossing at National School in Carrigallen**

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

"I call upon Leitrim County Council to erect signage indicating the pedestrian crossing at the National School, Carrigallen. Since the crossing was commissioned in late 2008 it has improved the situation but a significant number of motorists are still driving too fast when approaching the crossing and need to be alerted to its presence for it to be successful."

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

"These signs have been erected."

Councillor O'Rourke welcomed the response.

09/26

12/1/09 **Halt Replacement of Cancer Services**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Taoiseach, Brian Cowan to remove Mary Harney TD from the Ministry of Health and instruct her replacement to halt the implementation of the so called Cancer Strategy, until a full review is carried out, which takes into account the vast gap that would be left in the North-West, if cancer services in Sligo General are closed down."

Councillor Kenny outlined that the issue of cancer services at Sligo General is becoming critical as the March deadline approaches. He stated that pressure must be brought to bear on the Taoiseach in relation to the matter. He stated that a strong statement needed to be made on behalf of the people of Leitrim. Councillor Bohan

stated that the retention of services at Sligo General is a very serious matter which all the members support. She outlined that she understood a meeting has been sought with the Taoiseach in relation to the issue. She outlined that she supported the tenet of the motion but not the call for the Minister to be sacked. She requested that the motion be rephrased to call on the Taoiseach to ensure that cancer services at Sligo General Hospital are retained.

Councillor McGloin stated that this is a Government policy issue and it will not make any difference who is Minister for Health. He stated that the matter needs a change in Government policy. Councillor McTernan supported the motion and outlined that Minister Harney had been less than helpful in relation to the issue. Councillor McGowan, Councillor O'Rourke and Councillor Guckian supported the motion. Councillor Reynolds supported the call in relation to cancer services but stated that this will require a Government decision at this stage. He outlined that assurances had been given that facilities in Galway would improve dramatically and nothing has happened in this regard.

The Leas Cathaoirleach, Councillor Gilmartin outlined that all members support the case in relation to the retention of cancer services. He queried whether the motion was being seconded or modified.

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Taoiseach, Brian Cowan to remove Mary Harney TD from the Ministry of Health and instruct her replacement to halt the implementation of the so called Cancer Strategy, until a full review is carried out, which takes into account the vast gap that would be left in the North-West, if cancer services in Sligo General are closed down."

**09/27**

**12/1/09 St Mary's Park, Glenfarne**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council what progress has been made of late with the N.R.A. regarding the purchase and compensation of St Mary's Park, Glenfarne. Lands have been purchased with the intention of developing a new pitch and dressing rooms, prior to 2005 it has been the intention of the trustees to develop the existing grounds, this was prior to the announcement of the N.R.A. of the preferred route of the new N.16. This decision of the N.R.A. has put the trustees in a position where they have to spend a considerable sum of money in acquiring new land, while at the same time having existing facilities, which cannot be developed. It is not an unreasonable request from the trustees to seek closure on this issue in the near future."

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

"We have had recent correspondence from the Glenfarne/Kiltyclogher GAA Club seeking a meeting to discuss this situation. This request has been forwarded to the NRA and we will meet with the club in the coming weeks. We have not yet received our funding allocations from the NRA for 2009 but it is doubtful if the N16 scheme will receive adequate funding this year to consider purchase of the land in question."

Councillor McDermott outlined the history in relation to this matter. He outlined that Leitrim County Council had bent over backwards to be helpful in relation to the matter but the NRA have behaved unacceptably. He acknowledged the response and stated that some solution must be arrived at.

Councillor Colreavy supported the motion and outlined that he believed that the National Roads Authority have behaved dishonorably in relation to the matter. He stated that it is patently wrong that any Government organization should offer agricultural value of land for a community pitch. He stated there was a question of the integrity of the NRA on this issue.

Councillor Reynolds suggested that mediation should take place through the office of the Minister for Transport. He suggested that a letter should issue to the three Oireachtas Members for the North Leitrim area requesting that they seek a meeting with the Minister to look at ways of alleviating the problem. This was agreed by the members.

**09/28**

**12/1/09 Resurface Road in Dargon**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council resurface the road in Dargon. Coaligrain adjoining the local authority housing development."

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

"This road will be assessed and considered for inclusion in the 2009 Area Programme subject to priority. Routine Maintenance will be carried out until funding becomes available."

Councillor Bohan asked that this maintenance would be carried out as soon as possible.

**09/29**

**12/1/09 Conflict in Gaza**

Councillor Kenny outlined that the Cathaoirleach had granted him permission to raise an emergency motion in relation to the situation in the Gaza strip. This was agreed by the members.

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Israeli Government to allow humanitarian aid to the population of Gaza and open the Borders and implement a cease fire immediately".

This was agreed by the members. It was agreed that a letter would issue to the Israeli Ambassador to Ireland in this regard.

**Proposed by Councillor Martin Kenny, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan  
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Israeli Government to allow humanitarian aid to the population of Gaza and open the Borders and implement a cease fire immediately".

**Part II - Questions.**

**09/30**

**12/1/09 Wall at Kiltymoodan**

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to finish the wall at Kiltymoodan, Ballinamore immediately even if it means putting two tradesmen working on it."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Work recommenced on this wall before Christmas. Unfortunately do to operational difficulties it had to be suspended but it is hoped that work will recommence very soon, and the wall will be completed in the near future."

**09/31**

**12/1/09 Carrick Road, Drumshanbo**

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

"Can I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure when will the reinstatement works take place on the Carrick Road Drumshanbo? Following recent water mains works the road and footpaths are in a terrible condition and work needs to happen as soon as possible. Members were informed last year that €187,000 was identified to be spent at this location."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The work on laying the new watermain out the Carrick road is scheduled to be completed at the end of February. Following the completion of this scheme, works will commence on replacing some defective footpaths and improving the road surface."

**09/32**

**12/1/09 Road Signs**

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

"I will ask that the Director of Services,Infrastructure to put in place a system for ensuring that no road signs are covered by briars or grass etc and I would be pleased to know how this might be carried out?"

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The NRA now carry out all signage maintenance on National Roads. This includes the removal of vegetation. On the Non-National roads, Council staff remain

responsible for this kind of work. This is normally done in conjunction with the verge trimming that takes place in advance of work on grants and during the summer season all significant junction are attended to. Resources would not allow the council attend to every road sign and minor junction."

**09/33**

**12/1/09 Rossinver Community**

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

"I will request the Council to give every assistance to the Rossinver Community in the provision of the new centre and I ask the Director of Services, Community & Enterprise what sources of assistance are presently available for these projects?"

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

"Sports Halls come within the remit of the Sports Capital Programme. This is normally advertised in the middle of January each year and the 2008 scheme offered a level of funding that required as little as 20% matching funds from projects in CLAR areas. When the centre is built both the Leitrim Local Sports Partnership and the FAI Football Development Officer will be happy to work with the local people to develop programmes of activity that will utilize the facility to its fullest."

**09/34**

**12/1/09 Filling of Potholes**

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

"When is this Council going to realise that the method they use for filling potholes is a waste of funding and time, as the personnel have not driven away until the material is out of the pothole again? Until they start using tarmac and sealing around the pothole this problem will persist."

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

"The method used of filling potholes is dependant on the size, depth and condition of the depressions in question plus weather conditions. While the use of macadam is suitable for trench reinstatement and large depressions, a patching unit using bitumen and chips or delay set macadam is more suitable and cost effective for dealing with isolated potholes when carried out correctly. We did have a problem in the Keshcarrigan area before Christmas and this was due to defective material. The Area Engineer immediately contacted the supplier and the supplier suitable compensated the council for the defective material."

**09/35**

**12/1/09 Ballinamore Road out of Keshcarrigan**

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

"I am awaiting a decision from this Council on the barrier that's needed out the Ballinamore road out of Keshcarrigan."

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

"The area office has carried out an assessment of this section of the R209-12 in question, it is proposed to erect delineators along the road margins to improve safety concerns of road users. These delineators will be erected in the coming weeks"

**09/36**

**12/1/09**     **Endoscopy Servies at Our Lady's Hospital**

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

"Will the County Manager ask the Health Services Executive to explain the rationale underlying their recent decision to discontinue Endoscopy services at Our Ladys Hospital, Manorhamilton when there are almost 1,000\* people waiting more than 6 months for surgical treatment at Sligo General Hospital (\*Source: National Treatment Purchase Fund report dated May 2008)"

***Report by Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services & Housing***

"Correspondence will issue to the HSE in this regard."

**09/37**

**12/1/09**     **Grant Aid for Voluntary Community Organisations**

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

"Will the County Manager outline the process and time-scale for Voluntary / Community Organisations to apply for Council grant-aid?"

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

"Each year Leitrim County Council invites community and voluntary organisations to make applications for support under the Community & Voluntary Sector Grants Scheme. Application forms and full particulars for the 2009 Scheme will be available in March 2009 and details including the latest date for receipt of completed application forms for the 2009 scheme will be advertised at that time in the local press. Full particulars will also be available on the Council's Website at [www.leitrimcoco.ie](http://www.leitrimcoco.ie)."

**09/38**

**12/1/09**     **Rooskey Bridge**

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

"To ask Mr John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure, what is the up to date position in relation to the proposed programme of works on Rooskey Bridge, when are the works scheduled to commence, and what timescale is involved for the completion of the work involved."

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

"We are currently awaiting confirmation of funding for this scheme for 2009 from the Department of Transport. If funding is received the construction will start in the Summer with a construction contract of 12 months."

09/39

12/1/09 Directional Signs

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

"To ask Mr Michael Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer what is the delay in the provision of Directional Signs at Fearglass Cross and Clooncumber Cross indicating the following towns, Mohill, Dromod, Rooskey, Drumlish and Newtownforbes. A commitment was given over the past number of years that the signs would be provided."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Directional signs are to be put in place at the Fearglass and Clooncumber junctions on the week starting Monday 12th January"

09/40

12/1/09 Old Narrow Gauge Water Tower, Drumshanbo

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Community and Enterprise and the Director of Services, Infrastructure what plans (if any) they have for the old Narrow gauge water tower located on the 'Mart Road' Drumshanbo?"

This fine stone structure is beside the revamped new road and footpath and is in need of repair etc.. Perhaps funding could be sought from some of the tourism or development bodies to provide a 'viewing tower' or a similar type idea. With the location of this building beside the Ramada Hotel and overlooking Lough Allen I believe that this idea is well worth exploring rather than leaving it derelict!"

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

"An infrastructure assessment of the water tower has been carried out and potential avenues of funding will be explored in this regard. However, in the mean time a process is in place in response to a request received to put in place an interpretation panel at this location to mark the upcoming anniversary of the narrow gauge railway line through Drumshanbo."

09/41

12/1/09 Directional Signs for Effernagh

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

"I ask that two directional signs for Effernagh be erected one at churchpark on the Kiltoghert/Drumsna road and the other at P J Doonans House on the Kiltoghert to Gowel road."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The signs requested were raised previously by a number of councillors and commitments were given that these signs would be ordered and it is hoped have them put in place in the coming month."

09/42

12/1/09 Pedestrian Crossings

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

"I welcome the two pedestrian crossings erected in Mohill, in late 2008, I now ask the Area Engineer, Michael Flynn to examine the R201 crossing at Treamore with a view to improving safety here, this is a very busy junction and safety measures need to be improved here."

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

"When we were completing the detailed design for the access audits in Mohill town centre, we prepared a draft design for this junction, which would improve it's safety. This work will be completed subject to funding becoming available."

09/43

12/1/09 Breffni Heights, Carrick-on-Shannon

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

"To ask that the green area opposite Breffni Heights, Carrick on Shannon, be provided with protective fencing, to prevent accidents to children who may be playing there."

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

"The green area in question will be examined to determine the extent of the potential risk to children playing there. The requirement and effectiveness of protective fencing will also be looked into and all will be subject to the availability of funding"

09/44

12/1/09 Gritting of Roads

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

"To ask that steep hilly surfaces on roadway at Aghameeney and Drummagh, Carrick-on-Shannon, be gritted during frosty conditions, as requested by the newly formed Residents Association there."

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

"It is Leitrim County Councils policy to prioritise the salting/gritting of all National & Regional Roads in the county. Arrangements are made locally to salt/grit any dangerous locations on local roads when requested to do so subject to available funding"

09/45

12/1/09 Signs at Shriff

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

"I ask the Engineering Staff to have a look at the recently erected signs at Shriff Crossroads as one on them may be causing an obstruction."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The signs at the location in question will be examined in the near future to establish if they cause any kind of obstruction."

**09/46**

**12/1/09**     **Routine Repairs**

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

"When will the routine repairs required on roads in Clonboyher at Corawallen along with Road 55832 at Aughakiltubrid and Sonnaghamore be carried out."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Our patching unit will be sent to the area within the coming weeks."

**09/47**

**12/1/09**     **Footpath at Church Street, Carrigallen**

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

"When will the necessary works to complete the footpath at Church Street Carrigallen be commenced."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Currently, we are in discussions with the ESB regarding undergrounding of their services. Once these issues have been finalised the footpath construction can recommence. The roadwork's in this area are complete. There is currently development work adjacent to the proposed footway, which will need to be complete prior to this footway being constructed."

**09/48**

**12/1/09**     **Minor Road Widening**

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

"I am asking the Director of Services can some lay bys be made and minor road widening be carried out along the road from Aughavas through Augharan cross to Corrawaleen as it is very narrow in parts and needs this work badly."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Following a site visit to this local primary road, LP1510, we note that there are a number of areas along this road which act as lay-bys. However, if, in the future, we have road improvement works in the vicinity we will create additional lay-bys along this route."

**09/49**

**12/1/09**     **Restoring roads in Mullies Area**

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

"I ask for a time scale for restoring the roads in the Mullies area, that have been damaged by laying of pipes for the new Water Scheme."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"All roads associated with the Mullies / Brackery GWS will be permanently reinstated when the weather improves. The contractor has given a commitment to maintain all roads which fall under the Mullies/ Brackery project until then."

**09/50**

**12/1/09**    **Public Lighting**

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

"At the January Council meeting I will raise the question of public lighting in Rossinver Village once again. The answer I got to a notice of motion some years ago indicated that public lighting would be provided by Private Housing Development in the village. I fear with the present down turn in the economy, Housing Development might not take place for years, which leave the centre of the village with no public lighting. This situation is very serious especially for older people who are going to the shop from the housing estate down the road."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The shop and public house form a significant part of a larger development granted Planning Permission in recent years. The Conditions attaching included a requirement for public lighting, which has not been provided to date. This matter will be taken up with the developer in question by the Planning Authority."

**09/51**

**12/1/09**    **Courthouse in Drumkeerin**

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

"That Leitrim County Council would again contact the Court Services regarding the old Courthouse in Drumkeerin. I have already proposed this building be leased to the local youth club."

**Report by Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services & Housing**

"On foot of a recent meeting between the County Manager and all of the parties involved, efforts will continue to have the matter concluded with the Courts Service."

**09/52**

**12/1/09**    **Road Repairs**

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

"That repairs be carried out as a matter of urgency on the road from Mc Cauley's, Tullinarogue to O' Rourkes, Cloonmore, Drumkeerin."

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

"A group water scheme extension is currently under construction on this section of road, following its completion final reinstatement of the road surface will take place. In the short term the necessary temporary remedial works will be carried out."

This concluded the business of the meeting at 9.35 pm.

**Jim Joe Shortt**  
Cathaoirleach

**Aideen McGovern**  
Meetings Administrator

**Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009**