

Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Monday 2nd November 2009 at 5.30 pm

Members Present:

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

And Councillor Thomas Mulligan, Cathaoirleach presiding

Apologies: McTernan, John

Officials Present:

Ms. J. Maguire, County Manager
Mr Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services
Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community & Enterprise
Ms Katrina Murphy, Head of Finance
Mr John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure
Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Housing & Corporate Services
Mr William Lowe, Senior Engineer
Mr Brian Kenny, Senior Engineer
Mr Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer
Ms Vivienne Egan, Senior Executive Planner
Mr Darragh O'Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr Vincent Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer
Mr Michael Gunning, IS Project Leader
Ms Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator

09/535
2/11/09

Deimhniu Miontuairisci

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

"That the Minutes of the Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras An Chontae on Monday, 5th October 2009, be adopted."

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Votes of Sympathy

The members extended a vote of sympathy to the following;

- o Mrs Doherty, Garadice, Keshcarrigan, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Michael Doherty.

- Michael McGovern, Kilmore, Carrigmackeegan, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim on the death of Jack McGovern.
- Brendan Prendergast, 12 Hyde Terrace, Mohill, Co Leitrim on the death of Val Prendergast.
- Roisin Sexton Smith, Glenanmore, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim on the death of Breege Oates.
- Miss Marie Murray, Snugbunna, Ballyconnell, Co Cavan on the death of Gerard Glancy.
- The Family of the Late Rose Greene, Lower Main Street, Mohill, Co Leitrim on the death of Rose Greene.
- Mrs Teresa Prior & Family, Ballymacgovern, Co Cavan on the death of Pat McGarty.
- Jeriamh & Collette Coulter, Aughnagallop, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim on the death of William Coulter.
- John & Helen Cullen, Dristernan, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim on the death of Mary Cullen.
- Rita Fergus & Family, Buckode, Kinlough, Co Leitrim on the death of Hugh Fergus.
- Sarah McGloin & Family, Keeloges, Kinlough P.O., Co Leitrim on the death of Pat McGloin.
- Pat Mawn, Corrorvan, Blacklion, Co Cavan and Fr Sean Mawn, P.P., Ballinagleara, Co Leitrim on the death of Lucy Mawn.
- Family of the late Katie McTiernan, Pearse Road, Sligo on the death of Katie McTiernan.
- Packie & Mary Lee, Lisnagroath, Manorhamilton on the death of Lal Lee.
- Mrs Breege Maguire, Kiltyfea, Aughavas, Co Leitrim on the death of Patsy Maguire.
- Bernard Reynolds, Gulladoo, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of Breege Reynolds.
- The Family of the Late Joe McManus, Anskert, Corrageeha, Mohill on the death of Joe McManus.
- Gerry & Mary Clancy, Augharrow, Tullaghan and Mr Martin Feely, Mooneengaugagh, Glenade, Co Leitrim on the death of Katie Feely.
- Rita Heaney, Drumgowna, Annaghmore, Cattan and Pauline McGrath, Aghamore, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Mrs Dunleavy.
- Mary Ann Mulvey, Corlough, Drumshanbo on the death of Packie Joe Dolan.

09/537

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

(i) Report dated 31st August 2009 from John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure as circulated to each member appear as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That abandonment of section of Regional Road R.201 at Shoalmore, Mohill be approved”.

(ii) Report dated 31st August 2009 from John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure as circulated to each member appear as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That extinguishment of public right of way over section of Regional Road R.201 at Shoalmore and Killamaun, Mohill be approved”.

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2/11/09 Adoption of Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2009-2014

Report dated 27th October 2009 from Jackie Maguire, County Manager as circulated to each member appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms. Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator outlined that, having been approved to go to public consultation by the Council at its meeting on 7th September 2009, the Leitrim County Council Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme was placed on public display on 18th September 2009. The Draft Scheme was made available on the Council's website and in hard copy from the Corporate Services Section. The Scheme was also circulated directly to the sectoral organizations/representatives involved in the previous SPC's. Comments, submissions or observations on the Draft SPC Scheme were invited from the public by 4pm on Monday 19th October 2009. A total of five formal submissions were received in relation to the Draft SPC Scheme and the detail of the submissions, which is outlined in the report as circulated to the members, was considered by the Corporate Policy Group at a special meeting convened for that purpose on the 19th October 2009. She outlined that, having considered the submissions received, the Corporate Policy Group is recommending the Draft SPC Scheme to the Council for adoption without amendment.

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

“That the Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2009-2014 be adopted without amendment”.

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Audit Report for 2008

The Audit Report on the accounts of Leitrim County Council for the year ended 31st December 2008, as circulated to each member, appears as **Appendix 4** to the minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that the Audit report has been qualified in respect of a number of accounting transactions that technically do not comply with the provisions of the Code of Practice and Accounting regulations. She advised that the report also contains an emphasis of matter paragraph in relation to the provision for bad debts. She advised that her response to these matters is outlined in the report and these technical issues with the Accounting Code of Practice have been taken up with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

The Audit Report for 2008 was noted by the members.

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Provision for the election of Leitrim County Vocational Education Committee members

Report dated 27th October 2009 from Aideen McGovern, Senior Executive Officer, Housing & Corporate Services, as circulated to each member, appears as **Appendix 5** to the minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book

Ms. McGovern advised that an advert is being placed in this week's edition of the Leitrim Observer inviting nominations from bodies representative of the relevant specified groups/interests by Wednesday, 25th November 2009. She advised that, following receipt of nominations, a consultation meeting will be organised with the VEC members elected by the local authority, parents and VEC staff respectively. She outlined that the regulations provide that the appointments by Leitrim County Council can be made only at the next scheduled meeting of the local authority following the holding of this consultation meeting. She outlined that it is proposed that this matter would be listed on the agenda for consideration at the December Council meeting.

This was noted by the members.

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Corporate Policy Group Report

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

SPC Scheme

Ms. McGovern confirmed that a special meeting of the Corporate Policy Group had been convened, on 19th October 2009, to consider the submissions received in relation to the Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2009-2014. She advised that, following consideration of the submissions received, the Corporate Policy Group had recommended the Draft SPC Scheme to the Council for adoption without amendment. This matter was listed separately on the agenda for consideration at this Council meeting.

Budget 2010

Ms. McGovern confirmed that the Corporate Policy Group had considered an update in relation to the preparation of Budget 2010. She advised that the recommendation from the Corporate Policy Group is that a Preliminary Budget Meeting be held in December – Monday 21st December - with the Statutory Budget Meeting to take place in January 2010, within the prescribed timeframes. Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager clarified that the 21 day statutory timeframe within which the Budget must be adopted commences from the date of the Statutory Budget meeting and not the proposed preliminary meeting.

This was noted and agreed by the members.

Items for Council Meeting

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

This was noted by the members.

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Meeting Correspondence

1. Letter from the Minister for Health & Children dated 5th October 2009 acknowledging letter received from Leitrim County Council seeking clarification on a dedicated stroke unit in Sligo General Hospital.
2. Letter from the Department of Transport dated 9th October 2009 in relation to regional and local road grants.
3. Letter dated 15th October 2009 from the Department of Social and Family Affairs in regard to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council concerning funding for Family Resource Centres.
4. Letter dated 21st October 2009 from the Office of the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform acknowledging correspondence from Leitrim County Council in regard to the re-opening of courthouse facilities at Ballinamore, Co Leitrim.
5. Letter dated 23rd October 2009 from the Health Service Executive in relation to the Retention of Cancer Centre and Stroke Unit at Sligo General Hospital.
6. Letter dated 23rd October 2009 from the Office of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs acknowledging receipt of correspondence from Leitrim County Council in regard to the publication of the National Carer's strategy.
7. Letter dated 28th October 2009 from the Office of the Minister for Health & Children in regard to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the centralisation of Medical Cards.
8. Letter dated 28th October 2009 from the Office of the Minister of Transport regarding the Rural Transport Programme.
9. Letter dated 28th October 2009 from the National Cancer Screening Service regarding the provision of BreastCheck – The National Breast Screening Programme to women living in Co Leitrim.
10. Letter dated 29th October 2009 from the Office of the Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science in relation to school transport charges.
11. Letter dated 23rd October 2009 from the Office of the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in regard to a motion passed by Leitrim County Council regarding a blanket ban on turf cutting by farmers.
12. Letter dated 29th October 2009 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Science in regard to the provisions of the Higher Education Grants Scheme.
13. Letter dated 29th October 2009 from the Minister for Transport regarding the Western Rail Corridor.
14. Letter dated 30th October 2009 from the Office of the Minister of Finance regarding Carbon Tax.

15. Circular letter LG 20/09 dated 13th October 2009 in relation to Local Government Act 2001 – Section 19 – casual vacancies.
16. Information Note dated 21st October 2009 on the study of the Regional Transport Corridor by Roughan & O'Donovan – AECOM Alliance Consulting Engineers.
17. Circular Letter LG 18/09 dated 1st October 2009 in relation to the Attendance at Conferences and Seminars etc by Councillors.
18. Circular letter LG 19/09 dated 13th October 2009 in relation to the preparation of Corporate Plans 2010–2014.

The following issues were also raised under Meeting Correspondence;

Iarnród Éireann Plaques

Councillor Sinead Guckian proposed that Leitrim County Council issue a letter to Iarnród Éireann, on behalf of the local community of Drumsna, requesting that at least one of the two plaques from the old railway bridge across the Shannon, which is currently being replaced, would be made available to the local community for public display within Drumsna. She outlined that the Drumsna Development Association have started a campaign to have the plaques, which have historical significance, remain in Drumsna and she called for the support of the Council in this regard.

This was unanimously supported by the members.

Extension of Duration of Planning Permission

Councillor Gilmartin referred to an item raised at the October Council meeting in relation to the extension of duration of planning permissions. He outlined that an amendment to the Planning Bill, which is currently progressing through the Oireachtas, will allow for any planning permission to be extended.

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Vote of Congratulations

Councillor Caillian Ellis extended a vote of congratulations to Donal Wrynn on winning the World under 15 One Wall Handball Championship in Portland, Oregon U.S.A. recently. He proposed that a presentation be made to Mr. Wrynn on his achievement at the next Council meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Caillin Ellis, seconded by Councillor Gordon Hughes AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That a presentation be made to Mr. Donal Wrynn on winning the World under 15 one Wall handball Championship in Portland, Oregon U.S.A., at the next meeting of Leitrim County Council.”

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

- Glencar-Manorhamilton GAA Club on winning the Co. Leitrim GAA Senior League Championship.

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Conferences

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

That Leitrim County Council approves of the following:

- o Attendance of Cllr Caillian Ellis and Cllr Sean McGowan at Nuclear Free Local Authorities All Ireland Forum in Wicklow on the 16th October 2009.
- o Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott at a River Basin meeting on the 23rd July 2008 in Sligo.
- o Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott at an ICBAN meeting on the 17th September 2008 in Lifford, Co Donegal.
- o Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott at an ICBAN meeting on the 22nd October 2008 in Dungannon.
- o Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott at a River Basin meeting on the 5th November 2008 in Cavan.
- o Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott at an ICBAN Board meeting in the Westville Hotel, Enniskillen on the 10th December 2008.
- o Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott at an ICBAN Board meeting in Cavan on the 21st January 2009.
- o Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott at an ICBAN meeting in Enniskillen on the 18th February 2009.
- o Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott at a River Basin meeting on the 11th March 2009 in Ballybay, Co Monaghan.
- o Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott at an ICBAN meeting on the 25th March 2009 in Carrick-on-Shannon.
- o Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott at an ICBAN meeting on the 29th April 2009 in Cookestown Council.
- o Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott at an ICBAN meeting on the 20th May 2009 in Sligo.
- o Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott at an ICBAN meeting on the 1st July 2009 in Dungannon.

- o Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott at an ICBAN meeting on the 16th September 2009 in Lifford.
- o Attendance of Councillor Gerard Reynolds at the Local Government Seminar in Limerick on the 25th & 26th September 2009.

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

“That the attendance of Cllr Mary Bohan and Councillor Tony Ferguson at the LAMA Annual Winter Seminar in Limerick on the 6th to 7th November 2009 be approved”.

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

“That the attendance of Cllr Tony Ferguson and Cllr Sean McGowan at the “Promoting Partnership in Tourism” in Clare on the 26th to 28th November 2009 be approved”.

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Presentation from Bus Éireann

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mulligan welcomed Mr. Rory Leahy, Regional Manager, Bus Éireann to the meeting. He outlined that the invitation to attend the Council meeting had arisen on foot of a motion relating to the proposed removal of bus services in the Ballinamore/Carrigallen area. He outlined that the Council is also concerned in relation to the removal of services from by-passed towns and villages and he invited Mr. Leahy to outline Bus Éireann’s position in this regard.

Mr. Leahy thanked the members for the invitation to address the meeting. He outlined that Bus Éireann finds itself in a very difficult situation with the company facing a projected loss of up to €25m in 2009 compared to €9m in 2008. He outlined that Public Service Obligation (PSO) payment to Bus Éireann for 2009 was retained at the 2008 level of €46m but the Fuel Duty Rebate has been stopped and revenues across services have suffered. He outlined that demand for bus services generally has reduced with less people working, less non-nationals in the country etc. He outlined that from a position of year-on-year growth the company now finds itself in the position where its revenues have dropped. He stated that, as a commercial semi-state company, Bus Éireann has an obligation to address the situation.

Mr. Leahy outlined that discussions are currently ongoing in relation to a cost-recovery plan, which would see approximately 320 redundancies out of a staff of 1,700 nationally. He outlined that the company is also looking at reducing the bus fleet from 700 to circa 550/560. He outlined that each reduction affects people and the impact of the proposed cuts will be felt country-wide.

Mr. Leahy outlined that Leitrim is administered as part of the North-west region with Sligo, Mayo and Donegal. He advised that Bus Éireann operates services on nine routes which pass through County Leitrim. He outlined that the company is looking at routes which are not paying their way - principally routes with low numbers utilising the service – with a view

to reducing the frequency or reducing the route networks while preserving as many jobs as possible. In relation to the Carrigallen area he outlined that there are a number of services operating. He outlined that they are looking at tailoring these services with a view to making them more viable while minimising the impact. He outlined that these services are currently operated from own-resources which is costly. He advised that other sources are being considered to provide the service such as sub-contractors or using school bus services etc.

Mr. Leahy also outlined that the Sligo-Dublin line is also being looked at with a reduction in frequency from the current 6 services a day in each direction being considered.

Mr. Leahy then invited questions from the Members. He outlined however that he could not be more specific about any proposed changes as the company is still in discussions with staff regarding the proposals, with the Labour Court also involved.

The Members thanked Mr. Leahy for his presentation and raised a range of issues and questions including the following:

- Whether consideration had been given to using smaller buses rather than cutting services to disadvantaged areas. Also consideration of a smaller bus on the Dublin Sligo route rather than a reduction in frequency
- When it is expected a decision will be made in relation to the Ballinamore / Carrigallen service
- Issue in relation to lack of frequency of bus service servicing Ballinamore impacting on uptake of service
- Possible consideration of a daily return bus service from Ballinamore to Fenagh to Keshcarrigan to Drumshanbo to Carrick on Shannon
- Potential for daily bus service between Manorhamilton and Sligo
- Obligation to provide services in disadvantaged areas must be maintained
- Extent to which cutbacks have been made at management rather than 'front-line' level
- Potential for Friday and Sunday evening service to ferry people from the Ballinamore catchment to and from the train station in Carrick
- Assurance that reductions in services are proportionate across the country
- Any proposals for reductions in other services servicing the county?
- Assurances that buses will continue to come into the by-passed villages of Dromod & Rooskey for pick-ups
- Clarification on whether free-pass passengers are factored into passenger number figures
- Requirement for bus shelter on Sligo-Manorhamilton road outside Manorhamilton
- If services were removed from Ballinamore town it would be the only town in the county without a transport link to either the county town or the capital
- Impact of Sligo-Dublin rail service upgrading
- Where Ulster Bus are also providing a service who is responsible for the maintenance of bus shelters?

In response to the queries and issues raised, Mr. Leahy confirmed that Bus Éireann is looking at using smaller buses on some routes. He outlined however that the staffing costs remain and larger buses generally provide better value for money. In relation to the Carrigallen service he outlined that the company is looking at reorganising the service and targeting the route at where people are travelling rather than withdrawing the service. In relation to the Sligo Dublin route he advised that the service will possibly be reduced from 6 to 4 services in each direction daily. He advised that there are no other proposals in

relation to any other services in the County at this time. He outlined that negotiations with staff are at an advanced stage and that it is envisaged that the matter will be concluded within weeks. He outlined that from the company point of view implementation of the cost-cutting measures is urgent.

Mr. Leahy acknowledged the issue in relation to the need for daily services. He outlined however that the problem has been in relation to volumes of passengers. He outlined that the company is trying to make the best use of the money available and must seek to reduce costs. He confirmed that the cut-backs will be across all grades of staff. He also confirmed that all of the proposals put forward by the members will be taken into consideration.

In relation to the suggestion for a train-link service Mr. Leahy advised that something similar had been tried previously with very limited success. He outlined that the issue is getting enough people to use such a service. He confirmed that the upgrading of the Sligo-Dublin railway line and service had impacted on Bus Éireann passenger numbers, with certain towns having held up better than others. He reiterated that the impact of the cost-cutting measures will be felt across the country and the reductions will be proportionate. Mr. Leahy advised that there are no proposals to remove the pick-up service from Dromod or Rooskey. He advised that the decision to terminate the service into Drumsna and Jamestown was as a result of lack of uptake of the service. He advised that proposals in relation to a bus stop on the Drumsna By-Pass were abandoned for safety reasons. He confirmed that full passenger numbers are taken into account including free-pass passengers in informing decisions on the viability of a particular service. In relation to the bus-shelter at Manorhamilton Mr. Leahy outlined that he understood there may be an issue in relation to the space available at the roadside. He also confirmed that Bus Éireann would not be responsible for a bus shelter which is serviced by Ulster Bus only.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mulligan again thanked Mr. Leahy for attending the meeting and clarifying the position in relation to the various issues raised.

Part 1 Notices of Motions

09/546

2/11/09 Consultation with Councillors

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

"Leitrim County Council calls for consultation with Councillors prior to Government introducing expenditure cuts / service reductions in the context of the current economic crisis. Councillors are in a position to understand and communicate the very real impact of cutbacks before damaging choices are made."

Councillor Colreavy stated that the Government is focused solely on the need for financial savings. He stated that in a democracy decisions should be made in the full knowledge of the impact of those decisions. He stated that Councillors are best placed to understand and communicate the very real impact of cutbacks, given their local knowledge and experience. He suggested that a sub-committee of LAMA (Local Authority Members Association) or a similar structure should be established and this group could identify

areas which would or wouldn't have negative impacts. He stated that this is something that should be considered by Government with a view to putting such a consultation structure in place over the coming months.

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

"That Leitrim County Council calls for consultation with Councillors prior to Government introducing expenditure cuts / service reductions in the context of the current economic crisis. Councillors are in a position to understand and communicate the very real impact of cutbacks before damaging choices are made".

09/547

2/11/09

Taking in charge of housing developments

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

"May I have the present update on the timescale as to when it may be possible to take in-charge, or the reasons why it may not be possible to take in-charge, the following housing developments -Shannagh Grove and Slieve View in Mohill and also The Marymount complex, Rockingham, Shannon Grove, Dun Ri, and Cluin Si in Carrick-on-Shannon."

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

"The following is the position in relation to each of the estates referred to in the Notice of Motion;-

Shannagh Grove, Mohill - The roads serving the 13 houses in Phase 1 and Phase 2 of this estate have been declared public, but have not been taken in charge. There are 14 houses in Phase 3. No application has been made for the taking in charge of any of the estate. The Council is aware that there are substantial works that remain to be completed prior to taking in charge. There are ongoing discussions with the developer with a view to assisting and encouraging him to make an application. The taking in charge process cannot commence until an application is received.

Slieve View, Shannagh, Mohill - The developer has applied to have this estate taken in charge and he is currently carrying out work that were highlighted by the Council in the post-application inspection, to bring it to an acceptable standard for taking in charge. It should be ready to be taken in charge in late 2009 or early in 2010.

Marymount, Carrick on Shannon - Substantial works have been completed by the developer on his own behalf and on behalf of other developers within the overall development. A meeting was held with the developer within the past week and all outstanding works were identified and it is anticipated that these will be commenced immediately and that the developer should be in a position to apply for taking in charge before the end of the current year. This process should be complete in early 2010.

Rockingham, Carrick on Shannon - Enforcement action was initiated against the developer in relation to completion of outstanding works with a deadline for completion by 30th Oct 2009. Follow up inspections will be carried out and legal proceedings will be issued if works have not been completed.

Shannon Grove, Carrick-on-Shannon - No taking in charge application has been lodged. No application for taking in charge has been lodged. Substantial works are required to bring this estate up to taking in charge standard. No application has been lodged to date.

Dún Rí, Carrick on Shannon - No application for taking in charge has been lodged to date.

Cluain Sí, Carrick on Shannon - An application for taking in charge has been submitted. As

the information submitted was incomplete, additional information has been sought and a response is awaited. The Council is continuing to pursue the developer for the outstanding information."

Councillor Stenson thanked the Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services for the comprehensive reply. He outlined that the progress in relation to some of the developments is welcome. He stated that this is an ongoing issue for residents and he requested that every effort continue to be made to ensure progress in this area.

Councillor Reynolds supported the motion. He queried the situation in relation to developments where the developers have gone into liquidation and the role of the local authority in relation to taking in charge these developments. He stated that he was aware of two particular cases where the estates have been completed but the developer has gone into receivership. He queried whether the residents can request that these estates be taken in charge.

Mr. Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services confirmed that the Council is pursuing such cases. He outlined that there is a Bond/Cash Deposit in place in most cases and these may have to be drawn down to complete any outstanding works etc. He confirmed that the residents can apply to have the estate taken in charge.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that there are a lot of unknowns given the current climate. She stated that the Council would have to take a pragmatic approach and look at each case individually. She confirmed that the Council will try and work with the residents in the estates concerned.

Councillor McCartin supported the motion and stated that a co-ordinated approach is required in relation to dealing with the issue. He queried when the survey of housing developments in the County would be completed and suggested that a special meeting should be convened to consider a co-ordinated approach to this entire issue.

Mr. Martin Dolan confirmed that this study is well advanced and that a full report should be available within the next month.

09/548

2/11/09 Licensing and inspection of septic tanks and waste water treatment systems

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

"I call on the County Manager or the Director of Services for Infrastructure to provide if possible clarification to the members on the proposal in the revised programme for Government for "the introduction of a scheme for the licensing and inspection of septic tanks and waste water treatment systems". It is important that the implications of this proposal be discussed thoroughly and its implications for the people of this County made known."

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

"While there is reference to this matter in the revised Programme for Government and it has subsequently been mentioned in the media, The Department of the Environment,

Heritage and Local Government has not yet issued any information in relation to the proposal."

Councillor Enda McGloin noted that the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has not contacted local authorities with details of the proposal. He outlined however that there was an article in recent days in a national newspaper indicating that, on foot of an EU Directive, a licence fee for septic tanks of €80-€100 is to be imposed with possible fines in relation to non-performing septic tanks. He stated that people may have to purchase and install new treatment systems with very significant associated costs. He stated that, if this is to be introduced, the EU, through the Government, will have to look at some form of financial intervention or grant aid scheme. He stated that the proposals have serious implications for rural householders and Members need to be proactive. He called on the Government Partners to bring this issue to the attention of Government.

Councillor Ward supported the motion and highlighted issues with the operation of newer treatment systems. Councillor Gerry Dolan also supported the motion and agreed that newer systems have been giving problems.

Councillor Kilrane also supported the motion and outlined that it is difficult to have clarification in relation to how such a regime would be implemented. He outlined that he understood that an inspection regime is proposed. He outlined that Councillor McGowan had tabled previous motions calling for a grant scheme to be introduced to assist people in upgrading their septic tanks. He stated that people couldn't afford to upgrade existing systems and fully supported the call for grant assistance.

Councillor McGowan stated that he has raised the whole issue of upgrading septic tanks previously. He stated that it is important that treatment systems are serviced on an annual basis. He stated that there are concerns in relation to pollution of our waters and stated that individual householders have a role to play. He fully supported the motion.

Councillor Colreavy stated that there is a need to remind the Department that people living in towns and cities face no charges in relation to sewerage disposal. He stated that the imposition of an inspection regime and charge represents a further disadvantage for people in rural areas. He also stated that there is an issue in relation to lack of information in relation to the proper operation of treatment systems.

Councillor Stenson supported the motion. He stated that this is another cost for living in rural Ireland and a grant scheme must be introduced. Councillor McDermott also supported the motion – he stated that the proposal represents another stealth tax for rural Ireland.

Councillor Enda McGloin proposed that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to ensure, in relation to whatever regime is proposed to be implemented, that grant assistance would be made available to assist people in complying with these new requirements. This was seconded by Councillor Ward and agreed by all the members.

09/549

2/11/09 Parking in Carrick-on-Shannon

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

"I wish to ask the County Manager to suspend parking charges in Carrick on Shannon for the month of December 2009."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"As happened in 2008 parking charges will be suspended on the Car Parks in Carrick on Shannon in the run up to Christmas.

From the 8th. of December Free Parking will apply to the following car parks in Carrick on Shannon and advertisements will be placed in the paper to this effect.

Car parks: The Quays, St.Mary's Close, Parklane, The Dock/Town Park"

Councillor Reynolds thanked the Director of Services, Infrastructure for the reply and stated it will be very welcome news to the business community in the town. He proposed that Leitrim County Council should make a proposal to the Minister for Finance, in advance of the Budget, requesting him to consider the reduction in the rate of VAT to 15% in line with cross-border rates, to allow retailers to survive.

This was seconded by Councillor Ferguson. He outlined however that the VAT issue doesn't apply to food and the Government needs to be approaching wholesalers etc in this regard.

Councillor Stenson welcomed the free parking which he stated was vital to encourage people into the town, He also supported the proposal in relation to the reduction in the VAT rate.

Councillor Guckian supported the motion. She asked that people would not abuse the free parking and outlined the importance of maintaining free-flow in the town centre.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager clarified the locations where free parking is to be available. She outlined that the traffic must be kept flowing through Main Street / Bridge Street.

Councillor Reynolds stated that he would have liked to see free parking throughout the town.

***09/550
2/11/09***

Ballinamore Garda Station

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

"I seek the support of my fellow Councillors in asking that the Council write to the Garda Chief Superintendent for the Sligo/Leitrim Division, Mr. James Kearins, to clarify if the number of gardaí in Ballinamore station is to be restored to 4 No. Gardai and 1 No. Sergeant and if so when will this occur. Until the recent past the number of Gardai based in Ballinamore has been at this level, however there is now only 1 No. Garda Sergeant and 1 No. Garda which is a totally unacceptable number of garda personnel to be asked to police such a large catchment area."

Councillor Hughes called on the support of the members in relation to his motion. He

further requested that the situation be addressed before the New Year.

Councillor O'Rourke supported the motion and outlined that he had contacted the Superintendent in this regard recently. Councillor McCartin stated that Mr. Kearns had confirmed at the recent meeting of the Joint Policing Committee that he had been assured that the Garda Station in Ballinamore would be restored to four Gardaí and one Sergeant.

Councillor Ellis also supported the motion.

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

"That the Council write to the Garda Chief Superintendent for the Sligo/Leitrim Division, Mr. James Kearns, to clarify if the number of gardaí in Ballinamore station is to be restored to 4 No. Gardai and 1 No. Sergeant and if so when will this occur. Until the recent past the number of Gardai based in Ballinamore has been at this level, however there is now only 1 No. Garda Sergeant and 1 No. Garda which is a totally unacceptable number of garda personnel to be asked to police such a large catchment area."

***09/551
2/11/09***

Community Development Projects

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Thomas Mulligan outlined that there were a number of Motions in relation to the issue of Community Development Projects – Motion Number's 15, 16, 20, and 24 on the agenda for this Council meeting. He suggested that all of the motions would be considered together. This was agreed by the members

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

"That this Council support the retention of all the Community Development Projects. These projects provide vital services in local communities and are currently under very serious threat of closure by January 2010."

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development what extra services and supports they will put in place to assist Community/Voluntary Groups throughout the county, as these are coming under pressure with the threat of withdrawal of funding and other resources in the present Economic situation."

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

"The Community and Enterprise Staff will continue to advise community and voluntary groups on the options available to them currently similiarly as has been the case in the past. Unfortunately, the resources available for community cultural and enterprise development within the council will constrict in accordance with the economic conditions prevailing at the moment."

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to write to the Minister for Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs Eamon O' Cuiv for clarification regarding future funding for The North Leitrim Womens Centre in Manorhamilton. There has been rumours in recent months that funding would be withdrawn and the centre may have to close. The centre has provided services and supports for women for the past 21 years in the North Leitrim area."

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Minister Mr Eamon O'Cuiv T.D. to continue to support Lough Allen Community Development Project in Drumkeerin and to provide adequate funding for same."

Councillor Siobhan McGloin stated that she has first hand knowledge of how CDP's impact on communities as she is employed by a CDP. She stated that there are 180 CDP's nationally facilitating some 21,950 days of volunteer work in local communities. She stated that there are 3 Projects in Leitrim – Community Connections, North Leitrim Womens Support Group and Lough Allen CDP. She stated that volunteerism must be supported. She stated that CDP's have already taken a cut of 12% in 2009 and that talk of cutting 60% will effectively wipe out half the CDP's nationally. She stated that the model is very much a bottom up approach. She outlined that CDP's have not been consulted in relation to the proposals and the Centre for Effectiveness has simply been tasked with deciding which CDP's are viable or otherwise.

Councillor Ferguson stated that his motion deals with the problem which has arisen. He stated that with facilities being taken away the Council has an important role to play in filling the gap. He stated that there is tremendous back-up capacity within local authorities and that he believes that there is an opportunity, in the rationalization as proposed, for statutory bodies to assist and take a role in the provision of these facilities.

Councillor Sean McDermott stated that there is huge concern in relation to the future of the North Leitrim Womens Centre. He queried why something that is working so well should be taken away. He stated that this is a very serious issue and we must ensure that these centres are kept open.

Councillor Bohan stated that the county has always had a great tradition of committees working in a voluntary capacity. She stated that the CDP's have put a necessary structure on this work and provided essential back-up and administrative service and support. She stated that the CDP's facilitate efficiencies. She acknowledged that all services are likely to be cut in some way and while the CDP's may have to be rationalized they must be retained in some format. She stated that it is important that statutory agencies, CDP's and voluntary agencies work more closely together to secure maximum resources and achieve value for money. She stated that the existing structures should be left in place.

Councillor Colreavy highlighted the very damaging impact that closures of the CDP's would have. He stated that every €1 spent saves the State approximately €10 and the withdrawal of funding makes no sense economically.

Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that an urgent letter would issue to Minister O'Cuiv in relation to the threat to the future of the Community Development Projects outlining the very valuable positive impact that the CDP's have had on the wider

communities in which they operate and stating that the closure of any of the three CDP's in Leitrim would have a very damaging impact and must not be allowed to happen. The members also requested that it be outlined that the closure of these projects would be wrong both on social justice grounds and economically.

The Members also asked that the importance of the retention of Family Resource Centres which provide very valuable services to families be highlighted.

09/552

2/11/09

Gowlan Bridge

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure as to when it is intended to have the Gowlan Bridge, Drumkeerin repaired and the road re-opened."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The reconstruction of the collapsed bridge at Gowlaunrevagh, Drumkerran known locally as Mc Kenna's bridge will be included for consideration in the 2010 Works Programme and subject to funding being available."

Councillor Gerry Dolan stated that he has been contacted by a number of people in relation to this matter. He outlined that he understood that funding had been allocated for these works. He stated that people are being impacted by the detours in place.

Councillor Bohan supported the motion.

09/553

2/11/09

Signage Scheme

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure what is the situation regarding the signage scheme "Welcome to Leitrim". Signs of this nature are badly needed at the Sligo/Leitrim border on the roads R286, R278, N.16 and Lake Road, Glencar. The signs on those roads at the moment are in very poor condition."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"This scheme is finished and there is no further funding available. There is a sign on the N16 entry to Leitrim which is in good condition. The lake road LP 4146-0 has also a sign similar to the N16 and is a relatively new sign and is in good condition. However as part of the work at Glencar Amenity, the issue of signage will be reviewed and improved."

Councillor Frank Dolan stated that north Leitrim had not got a fair share of this signage. He stated the existing signs couldn't be classed as good condition. He stated that it was essential to have good signage to promote tourism in the area and that he expected that something would be done in relation to the sign on the R286 and if possible on the other roads.

Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure confirmed that the issue with the signs at Glencar will be addressed. In relation to the other locations he stated that he would have to see if funding could be sourced.

Councillor McCartin supported the motion, particularly in relation to signage on the roads in the vicinity of Parkes Castle, which has been part of the World Rally route.

09/554

2/11/09 *Twinning of Carrigallen with the City of New Orleans*

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

"I call upon Leitrim County Council to initiate arrangements for the twinning of Carrigallen with the City of New Orleans given the historical connection that exists between the two places regarding the Margaret of New Orleans Story. Already a number of visiting groups from New Orleans have been received in Carrigallen by a local committee and huge potential exists to expand the numbers coming here given the level of interest there is in the story. The twinning of the two places would give the type of official recognition required to raise the profile of the project even further, and with plans afoot to make a film on the subject with the obvious commercial spin off for our local economy, no time should be lost in commencing arrangements."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"In general twinning arrangements are initiated and developed by local community groups and it is considered that the initiation of twinning arrangements between Carrigallen and New Orleans should be community driven. While the Council may not in a position to provide funding for this proposal in the current climate, the Council are willing to engage with the local community group to consider how the project could be advanced."

Councillor O'Rourke acknowledged the response. He outlined that the local community are anxious to put the connection between the two communities on a formal footing and suggested that an exchange of correspondence between the Council and City Hall in New Orleans would give credence to the proposal. He stated that the local community would not be found wanting in relation to progressing the initiative.

Councillor Ellis and Councillor Reynolds supported the motion.

09/555

2/11/09 *Tax proposal on Agricultural Land acquired under CPO*

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

"Leitrim County Council calls on the Ministers for both Finance and Environment to clarify the reasoning behind a tax proposal of 80% on Agricultural Land acquired under the compulsory purchase scheme. This proposal will have a serious impact on landowners, in particular farmers who's land would be acquired under this scheme to facilitate road developments. Currently, under the NAMA proposals, it is viewed by some commentators that this unjustified attack on ordinary farmers and landowners is a real possibility and needs to be amended."

Councillor Ward stated that the proposed 80% tax on agricultural land acquired under the compulsory purchase scheme will have an extraordinary effect on farmers. He stated that selling for development is a different scenario and the proposals are worse than landlordism.

Councillor Stenson supported the motion.

Councillor Guckian outlined that she understood that the tax will only apply to lands which will be subject to future rezoning. She outlined that she understood that the matter will be listed clearly after the second debate on the NAMA legislation.

Councillor Reynolds accepted that the proposal has been amended but stated that 80% tax on any capital gains is totally prohibitive and is absolutely unacceptable.

Proposed by Councillor John Ward, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND RESOLVED;

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Ministers for both Finance and Environment to clarify the reasoning behind a tax proposal of 80% on Agricultural Land acquired under the compulsory purchase scheme. This proposal will have a serious impact on landowners, in particular farmers who's land would be acquired under this scheme to facilitate road developments. Currently, under the NAMA proposals, it is viewed by some commentators that this unjustified attack on ordinary farmers and landowners is a real possibility and needs to be amended".

09/556

2/11/09 Extend distance on Mast Applications

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

"I call on this Council to extend the now 500 metres distance from dwellings, schools etc on mast applications to 1 Km as they have already done in Kerry and are going to do in Donegal and as there is no proof that they are safe to be close to."

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

"Section 2.10.06 of the current Leitrim County Development Plan 2009-2015 which was adopted in February 2009 relates to Telecommunications. It states that only as a last resort should free standing masts be located within or in the immediate surrounds of smaller towns or villages, within a residential area, near schools or be within 500 metres of private rural dwellings. In larger towns, communications companies are advised to locate masts in industrial estates. The Plan also requires telecommunications companies to co-locate masts. 500 metres distance has been considered to allay any health concerns whilst at the same time meeting the reasonable requirement to provide a comprehensive telecommunications network. Any change to the distance stipulation in the County Development Plan would have to be made by means of a Variation to the Plan. The Council is at liberty to make a Variation in accordance with Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, if it so wishes and the process is subject to a public consultation process."

Councillor Gilmartin outlined his serious concerns in relation to An Bord Pleanala – he stated that they will nit-pick anything they can out of our County Development Plan to stop single house permissions while at the same time ignoring the provisions of the County Development Plan in relation to larger developments such as masts etc. He stated that there is no value in placing a 1km restriction in the County Development Plan as An Bord Pleanala will allow permissions. He proposed that a letter issue to the Minister asking that he put a specific distance requirement in law for masts or alternatively guarantee that they are safe, due to concern in relation to masts being located close to dwellings etc. He suggested that we should explain our concern in relation to An Bord Pleanala not adhering to the 500m restriction in the County Development Plan and ask that the Minister make an order in this regard.

Councillor Gerry Dolan seconded the motion.

Councillor Mary Bohan outlined that she understood that masts have already been erected on Garda Stations, ESB sub-stations etc, in the vicinity of schools and houses.

Councillor Reynolds stated that he had a concern in relation to the motion. He outlined that this matter had been the subject of a long and detailed debate on foot of which the current provisions were incorporated into the County Development Plan at that time. He stated that masts have saved lives in terms of communications and accessibility and they are an essential part of the infrastructure of the county. He stated that wi-fi masts are going to be introduced. He stated that we have been looking for broadband services and the cheapest way to provide this will be wi-fi. He stated he was willing to go with 500m but stated that we cannot have a fundamental policy against masts as they are very necessary. He outlined that he fully understood where Councillor Gilmartin is coming from but broadband is absolutely essential for the county.

Councillor Enda McGloin sought clarification as to whether the erection of an antenna on an existing structure by a phone company is exempted development or not. Mr. Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services outlined that he understood that such a development would require planning permission but he advised that there can be certain exemptions.

Councillor Kilrane stated that he was familiar with the particular case concerning Councillor Gilmartin and he stated that this is in an area where broadband is already available.

Councillor Kenny stated that he fully concurred that broadband is needed but stated that fibre-optic cable is the best option. Councillor Siobhán McGloin outlined that ESBI had wrapped fibre optic cable around all the power lines in North Leitrim.

09/557

2/11/09 Rynn River

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

"To again ask Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services Community & Enterprise has he had any success in discussions with Waterways Ireland, Longford County Council and the other relevant agencies with regard to preparing a plan for the opening up of the Rynn River to cruiser traffic from Lough Rynn to the river Shannon at Clonart. As I have stated

on many occasions the opening of the river to cruiser traffic has enormous tourism potential and would be a tremendous boost to the town of Mohill and the parishes of Bornacoola and Gortletteragh."

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

"The outcome of previous discussions indicated clearly that the opening of the Rynn River to cruiser traffic was not a priority at that time. However, the matter will again be raised with the relevant organisations."

Councillor McGowan acknowledged the reply. He outlined that he would be keeping this matter on the agenda as we need to ensure that when the Ulster Canal is complete, Lough Rynn to Clonart would get priority.

Councillor Mulligan and Councillor Stenson supported the motion.

**09/558
2/11/09**

R209 in the Townland of Drumlaheen

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council seek funding for the removal of the bend on the R209 in the townland of Drumlaheen and also at Castlefore."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Leitrim County Council have included the R209 in it's submission to the NRA for a Restoration Grant in 2010. This funding is programmed to be spent in the townland of Gubroe. We will, however, endeavour to carry out surface dressing in this area pending funding availability."

Councillor Ellis welcomed the reply received.

**09/559
2/11/09**

Long Term Leasing Scheme

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

"That Leitrim County Council seek an amendment to the Long Term Leasing Scheme recently announced by the Minister for Housing, as follows:

- 1) That the minimum term for the lease be reduced from 10 years to 5 years
- 2) That the 5 year and 10 year leases contain a provision for a buy out option which can be activated by the Local Authority.
- 3) That the 5 year Term contain a right on behalf of the Local Authority to renew the Lease for a further 5 year term provided adequate and reasonable notice is given.
- 4) That the minimum number of units each supplier must have available under the scheme be reduced from 5 to 3 units."

Councillor Kilrane stated that the changes proposed in relation to the Long Term Leasing Scheme reflect the fact that Leitrim has smaller developments. He also stated that 10-20 year leases are too restrictive and there should be more flexibility in this regard. He stated that a buy-out option for the local authority or the tenant should be incorporated into the Scheme. He also stated that the Home Bond / Guarantee requirement should be reviewed.

He stated that the scheme is contentious and existing residents in developments will have to be brought on board. He urged the members to support the motion.

Councillor Bohan supported the motion and stated that some of the issues had previously been discussed.

Councillor Stenson also supported the motion. He stated that the scheme is extremely contentious and there will be difficulties in developments where it is being implemented.

Councillor Colreavy also supported the motion. He suggested that the motion be amended at point 2. to include that the buy-out option could be activated by either the local authority or the tenant.

Councillor Kilrane stated that this was an oversight in the wording of his motion and he was happy that this amendment be included.

Proposed by Councillor Gerry Kilrane, seconded by Councillor Michael Colreavy AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That Leitrim County Council seek an amendment to the Long Term Leasing Scheme recently announced by the Minister for Housing, as follows:

- 1) That the minimum term for the lease be reduced from 10 years to 5 years
- 2) That the 5 year and 10 year leases contain a provision for a buy out option which can be activated by the Local Authority or the tenant.
- 3) That the 5 year Term contain a right on behalf of the Local Authority or tenant to renew the Lease for a further 5 year term provided adequate and reasonable notice is given.
- 4) That the minimum number of units each supplier must have available under the scheme be reduced from 5 to 3 units."

Part II - Questions.

09/560
2/11/09

Recycling Centre at Manorhamilton

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Michael Colreavy;

"Will the Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services meet with local Councillors in relation to plans for the operation of the excellent Recycling Centre at Manorhamilton?"

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

"The Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services will arrange to meet with the Elected Members from the Manorhamilton Electoral Area to provide a briefing on the future operation of the Manorhamilton Civic Amenity Centre."

09/561
2/11/09

Dog Excrement

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Michael Colreavy;

"Can the Council do anything more to deal with the problem of dog excrement on footpaths of our towns and villages? The current policies, observation and enforcement procedures are simply not working"

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

"The Council will, through its Environmental Awareness role, promote a heightened awareness by those in charge of dogs to ensure that dog excrement will be removed by them."

09/562

2/11/09

Public Light

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"At the November meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask Mr. John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure, to look at the possibility of providing 1 (one) public light outside the entrance gate at St Anne's Church of Ireland, Annaduff."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Given the present difficult financial position it is most unlikely that any additional public lighting will be carried out in 2010, but the matter can be included for consideration in the preparation of the 2010 Works programme."

09/563

2/11/09

Junction on the Carrick-Mohill road at Laheenamona, of local road from Rosdoowaun-Tamlaghtavally LS-7483-0

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"At the November Meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask Mr John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure what is the up to date position, with regard to putting in place a programme of works to improve the view at the Junction on the Carrick-Mohill road at Laheenamona, of local road from Rosdoowaun-Tamlaghtavally LS-7483-0. Has the Council had any discussions with relevant landowner, has any design work been done in relation to re-locating the junction? It is extremely dangerous for the local community coming out onto the R201 with a limited view back towards Carrick and they are concerned and fearful for their safety."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"A Preliminary survey of the location has been undertaken. It would appear that significant re-alignment works are needed in order to achieve a safe access conforming to current design standards. A detailed design will be prepared in order to progress the matter. Any proposed work at this location would of course be subject to funding being available."

09/564

2/11/09 Upgrade and strengthen the Road from Keshcarrigan to Funshinagh cross

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to make a special request for funding to

upgrade and strengthen the Road from Keshcarrigan to Funshinagh cross, to be included in the 2010 roads programme."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The road in question can be included for consideration in the preparation of the 2010 road works programme."

09/565

2/11/09 Dromod/Rooskey By-pass

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"There are still a number of unfinished works yet to be completed on the Dromod/Rooskey By-pass. The time has come to do this work, otherwise I request the Council to complete this work with whatever funds retained to carry out unfinished work."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The contractor is still responsible for carrying out any unfinished works. There is a meeting with the contractor planned for the 27th Nov when we will discuss all outstanding works."

09/566

2/11/09 LS 7404-1 Kiltynashinnagh Road Kilclare

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"I refer to the road LS 7404-1 Kiltynashinnagh Road Kilclare. Despite numerous representations this road is in serious bad condition. Can I get a clear commitment to get this road repaired without delay as numerous vehicles have been damaged."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The road in question will be inspected and if necessary the patching unit will carry out necessary repairs"

09/567

2/11/09 T junction at Gala/Laird House Drumshanbo

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure when is it proposed to commence work at the T junction at Gala/Laird House Drumshanbo? The road surface here is poor and numerous people have had 'near ones' coming out too far to avoid the pothole and small water services point 'sticking up' from the ground. Work here needs to be a priority for safety sake."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"It is proposed to commence the works at this junction in early November as set out in the 2009 Dromahair Programme Area Programme under the Low Cost Safety Scheme allocation ."

09/568
2/11/09

Erection of bollards from the first entrance to Pairc Sean McDiarmada

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Reynolds;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure if he would consider the erection of bollards from the first entrance to Pairc Sean McDiarmada to the second entrance, as presently cars and heavy vehicles park there and it prevents residents from accessing their properties."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The roads engineering staff will examine the matter with a view to resolving the issue - the provision of bollards can be considered."

09/569

2/11/09 **Resurfacing Works**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;

"I ask the District Engineer when will the resurfacing work be carried out beside Lily McGovern's house at Tully, Ballinamore as this has been outstanding for a significant period of time."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"It is envisaged that the works referred to will be completed by end of November."

09/570

2/11/09 **Roundabout in Ballinamore**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;

"I ask the District Engineer when will the proposed roundabout be installed in Ballinamore at the busy junction of High Street with the new inner relief road as it is was my understanding that this was due to be built in conjunction with the opening of this road."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"This work has been included for funding under the Specific Improvement Grants for 2010"

09/571

2/11/09 **Hedge Cutting Programme**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Siobhan McGloin;

"That this council extend the hedge cutting programme to all local roads in the Manorhamilton area."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The cutting of hedges along public roads are the responsibility of landowners which comes under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993. Advertisements regards Hedge cutting were placed in the Leitrim Observer in the past few weeks advising Landowners of their responsibility to cut hedges."

09/572
2/11/09

Cullionboy/Glenade House stretch of road R280 and the Brackerbeg stretch on the Rossinver Road and the Ballymore stretch on the Kinlough Rossinver Road

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to confirm the inclusion of Cullionboy/Glenade House stretch of road R280 and the Brackerbeg stretch on the Rossinver Road and the Ballymore stretch on the Kinlough Rossinver Road in the recent submissions to the N.R.A. for funding in 2010?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Leitrim County Council have applied for a Specific Improvement Grant for the Cullionboy/Glenade House section of road on the R280. The section of R282 at Brackerybeg is also included for an Specific Improvement Grant. The Restoration Improvement Grant programme for 2010 includes a section of road on the R281 at Ballymore."

09/573

2/11/09 **Green Field Area**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"Will the Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services confirm that the area of lands on the coastal side of the road from Tullaghan House to the Drowes Bridge on the old N.15 will be kept a green field area free from buildings?"

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

"The area in question is listed as one of 29 no. Protected Views and Prospects in the current Leitrim County Development Plan 2009-2015. It is the policy of the Plan-Policy 7.14- "to protect these views from intrusive development and enhance them by the removal of dereliction and eyesores". It is also listed as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and an Area of High Visual Amenity. Policy 7.12a and Policy 7.12b of the County Development Plan impose restrictions in relation amount of and categories of development that may take place in such areas and they require the highest standard of design for any such permitted development. In general, development would be discouraged at this location."

09/574

2/11/09 **Laragan Cross to Greaghnaullion. Drumshanbo**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;

"To have the road from Laragan Cross to Greaghnaullion, Drumshanbo repaired as a matter of urgency."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Road No LP 3302 will be assessed and considered for inclusion in the 2010 Road Works Programme subject to priority. In the short term routine maintenance will be carried out."

09/575
2/11/09 Gortnanure, Aughacashel Road

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;

"To have repair works carried out on the Gortnanure, Aughacashel Road."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The road in question will be inspected shortly. Any repairs required will be carried out before the end of the year."

09/576
2/11/09 Kilroosk, Mullies, Manorhamilton

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;

"I will ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure when will local road at Kilroosk, Mullies, Manorhamilton be re-instated following the damage done by the water contractor."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The road in question is LT 21282-0. This road was damaged by the upgrade of the Mullies/Brackery GWS. The contractor is responsible for the maintenance of this road for one year after the Consultant Engineer issues a Cert of substantial completion for this project. However the Contractor has not being issued with this Certificate and therefore is still responsible for the maintenance of this road and all roads damaged by the scheme. The issue of road reinstatement will be taken up with the contractor as a matter of urgency."

09/577
2/11/09 Resurfacing works

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

"I ask when will Leitrim County Council carry out surfacing on the Bredagh Road leading onto Main Street, Carrigallen at St Patrick's Terrace. The area requiring repair is relatively small but never the less is dangerous in its present condition and will be even more so in frosty conditions."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Leitrim County Council has included a road restoration grant for the town of Carrigallen in the 2010 submission to the National Roads Authority. Subject to funding being available, this will allow for the repair, and upgrade of the existing street pavement within the town environs."

09/578
2/11/09 Greagh Cross

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

"I ask when Leitrim County Council will proceed with the works for safety at Greagh Cross

- the initial start has contributed some way to alleviating the danger at the cross but further works need to be undertaken in order to make the junction safe."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"A low cost safety grant will be expended at Greagh Cross in November. These works will consist of advance warning (traffic calming) signage and anti-skid surfacing."

09/579

2/11/09

Star Fort Amenity Area

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"At the November meeting I will ask Leitrim County Council when will the work be finished on the walkway at the Star Fort amenity area in Manorhamilton. I am aware that a lot of older people walk this pathway."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"This project was completed in 2008. A budget of €100,000 was provided and is now closed. There was a variety of works carried out on this scheme as follows:

- * Provision of natural stone wall along church lane
- * Rehabilitation of cobbled drainage channel
- * Construction of 2.4m wide gravel path along perimeter walls.
- * Construction of brick-paved plaza to provide leisure area with seating & picnic tables.
- * Provision of 10 No traditional Victorian Lanterns along perimeter walls.

The footpaths have a gravel finish with decorative stone in some areas and the remainder of paths have a gravel finish.

Further improvements to this valuable amenity in Manorhamilton may be possible in the future if funding sources can be identified and may involve the council and the local community working together."

09/580

2/11/09

Rossinver

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I call upon Leitrim County Council to look once again at the possibility of providing footpaths and extra public lighting in the village of Rossinver as the evenings are now dark and there are parts of the village that has no public lighting at all."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"There is no funding available for such works. Works of this nature can be considered under the 2010 Roads Programme."

09/581

2/11/09 Junction on the R280 with local road known as Gafneys cross

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Siobhan McGloin;

"That this Council carry out major repairs to the junction on the R280 with local road known as Gafneys cross. Since the R280 was raised due to resurfacing it has become extremely difficult to exit the local road safely."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The road in question is LS 6102-0. There is a steep gradient on this local road access approach at the junction to the R280. Substantial Funding will be required to carry out road works in this area. This would have to be considered for a Specific Improvement Scheme Grant when funding would become available. In the recent past line marking in the form of rumble strips or speed control bars and also "Caution - Concealed Junction Ahead" signs on on both R280 approaches has been constructed to alert road users."

09/582
2/11/09

Housing Development in Drumcong

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John Ward;

"I ask the Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services, what is the position with the housing development in Drumcong? At present, there are people awaiting these houses as they are living in very poor conditions."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"Notification on the allocation of the 10 new dwellings in Naomh Bride, Drumcong, Co. Leitrim issued Thursday 29th October, 2009. Pre-tenancy meetings will be arranged on confirmation of acceptance of the offers."

09/583
2/11/09

Rumble Strips

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John Ward;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure, to put in place a series of rumble strips at Aughameeney Hill. This is intended to reduce speed by traffic, as there are a large number of residents living here with children playing in the area."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Leitrim County Council are aware of the concerns of bcal people in this area regarding speeding vehicles. Additional warning signs have recently been erected, hedge-cutting has been undertaken and the assistance of local Gardai has been sought in addressing those concerns.

It is considered that rumble strips are not an appropriate measure in this area, principally because of the issue of noise associated with such measure."

09/584
2/11/09

Stanley Cookers

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"Why will Stanley not replace cookers which are not working properly for everyday cooking. I understand that there are 3 local authority houses where this problem has been ongoing for some 12 months. Let Stanley forget their thermometer tests and try and cook a turkey or chicken in them!"

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"Stanley has investigated any problems which have arisen with this type of Stanley Unit. There appears to be ongoing problems for one tenant and a further on-site meeting has been arranged with Stanley in the coming week to seek to bring the matter to a

conclusion."

09/585
2/11/09

Road No LP3390-0 Church Rd Leitrim Village

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"Why was the hole outside of Seamus Regan's, Leitrim Village not repaired as it is a health and safety issue?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Temporary repairs have been carried out on road No LP3390-0 (Church Rd Leitrim Village). It is proposed to overlaid the section of road from the junction with the R280 at Leitrim bridge to the entrance of lock 17 in the first week of November."

09/586
2/11/09

Speed limit Signs

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Caillian Ellis;

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to erect signs for speed limit of 50 kph at St Mary's Church, Foxfield as there is a Pre-School and After-School held in the Community Centre which means there is considerable traffic on this stretch of road."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The matter of a speed limit at this location can be considered as part of an over all review of speed limits in the county due to be carried out in the new year."

09/587
2/11/09

"Red Lane" in the townland of Bohey

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Kilrane;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure, that the road known as the "Red Lane" in the townland of Bohey be immediately attended to. The road appears to have subsided on one side and water is pooling on the road and onto the adjoining landowners property. This particular road was used as an alternative route when the main Mohill – Drumlish road was closed for completion of the water pipeline and this unprecedented amount of traffic included heavy vehicles which undoubtedly contributed to the problem."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The road in question is local road number LT-16274-0 and does indeed require some improvement works. It has been included in the draft programme for consideration in 2010. Unfortunately there are no funds remaining to undertake works in the current year."

This concluded the business of the meeting at 7.30 pm

SIGNED: Cllr Thomas Mulligan
Cathaoirleach

IGNED: Aideen McGovern
Meetings Administrator

DATE: 7th December 2009