

**Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber,
Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Monday 6th July 2009 at 5.30 pm**

Members Present:

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

And Councillor Thomas Mulligan, Cathaoirleach presiding

Officials Present:

Ms Jackie Maguire, County Manager
Mr. Martin Dolan, Director of Services Planning, Environment & Emergency Services
Mr. Shay O'Connor, A/Director of Services, Infrastructure
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate
Mr Ciaran Tracey, Senior Planner
Mr Gabriel Miney, Senior Executive Engineer, Manorhamilton Area
Mr Darragh O'Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer, Ballinamore Area
Ms. Aideen McGovern, Senior Executive Officer

**09/336
6/7/09**

Deimhniu Miontuairisci

***Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor John McTernan
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That the Minutes of the Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras An Chontae on Monday, 11th May 2009, be adopted."

***Proposed by Councillor Francis Gilmartin, seconded by Councillor Martin Kenny
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That the Minutes of the Annual of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras An Chontae on Friday, 19th June 2009, be adopted."

**09/337
06/7/09**

Votes of Sympathy

The members extended a vote of sympathy to the following;

- o Mr & Mrs Sean Mollaghan, Leganamer, Corrigo, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of Patrick Mollaghan.

- The Heslin Family, Gurteen, Corriga, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of Pat Heslin.
- Joanne Branley, Largydonnell, Co Leitrim on the death of Terry McGourty.
- Marie Brennan & Family, Barr Road, Kinlough, Co Leitrim on the death of Geraldine McGrory.
- Molly Lee, Aughavas, Co Leitrim on the death of Charlie Lee.
- Brendan Keaveney, Kileen, Dromahaire, Co Leitrim on the death of Phylis Keaveney.
- Mr Gavin Reilly, Clonart, Bornacoola, Co Leitrim on the death of Marian Reilly.
- Mrs Nellie Gaffney, Wardhouse, Tullaghan on the death of Thomas Gaffney.
- Keaveney Family, Brackerybeg, Manorhamilton on the death of Mary Kate Keaveney.
- Rooney Family, Drummonds, Glencar, Co Leitrim on the death of John Rooney.
- Margaret McTiernan, Breffni Crescent, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Bridget O'Dowd.
- McGee Family, Dromodmore, Dromod, Co Leitrim on the death of Richard McGee.
- Marie Bohan, Drumnid, Mohill, Co Leitrim on the death of Mary Moore.
- Michael Raferty & Family, Furnacehill, Drumshanbo on the death of Mrs Raferty.

09/338

6/7/09 Notice of intention to dispose of rural cottage

Notice of intention dated 24th June 2009 from Aideen McGovern, Senior Executive Officer, Housing & Corporate Services to dispose of rural cottage in the townland of Curraghatawy, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim as circulated to each member appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That disposal of rural cottage in the townland of Curraghatawy, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim to Noel & Yvonne McGirl, Drumdiffer, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention to dispose of rural cottage dated 24th June 2009 circulated to each Member be approved.”

09/339

6/7/09 Approval to raise Loan

Proposed by Councillor Tony Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Martin Kenny AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the raising of a loan not exceeding €1,000,000, in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001, to provide supplementary funding in respect of loan charges to finance residential accommodation by Respond (Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme) under Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act and to further seek Ministerial approval for this loan be approved”

09/340

6/7/09 Casual Trading Bye Law 2009

Report dated 24th June 2009 from Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community, Cultural and Enterprise Development as circulated to the members, recommending the adoption without amendment of the proposed Casual Trading Byelaws, as approved for public display by the Council at its April meeting, appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that the statutory public display period for the Draft Casual Trading Bye Laws as approved by the Council members at the April meeting is now completed. She advised that one submission had been received within the consultation period in relation to the designation of Market Square, Manorhamilton as an area with trading spaces. She outlined that the submission has been considered but that it is considered that there is adequate provision for street trading in the town. She advised that the Draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws are recommended for adoption without amendment.

Councillor Colreavy asked if this issue could be looked at again – he suggested that the Market Square area lends itself to a small marketplace. He outlined that he had noticed stalls there on a number of occasions and stated that they added to the overall ambience of the area. He suggested that what would be permitted could be confined to particular types of stalls. The County Manager outlined that any trading activity occurring at this location would be unauthorised. She confirmed that the whole Main Street area of the town could be looked at separately and the matter could be reviewed in that context.

Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Casual Trading Bye Laws 2009 in accordance with the provisions of Section 6 of the Casual Trading Act 1995 be adopted”.

09/341

6/7/09 Draft Housing Estate Management Grant Scheme 2009

Report dated 30th June 2009 from Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services as circulated to the members, recommending the adoption of the Housing Estate Management Grant Scheme 2009, appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Ellis expressed his disappointment with the proposed scheme and queried who would carry out the work currently carried out by Residents Associations if these Residents Associations disband over the new requirements. Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Corporate Services outlined that the Contribution Scheme was originally introduced to support Residents Associations in maintaining their estates in an aesthetically pleasing condition. She advised that Residents Associations and the Estate Management initiative generally have also been supported under various other initiatives. She advised that a flat-rate contribution of €1,000 applied in recent years. She advised that this is now being replaced by a reduced flat-rate contribution based on the size of the estate, together with an opportunity to avail of additional funding for specific projects/activities eg. planting scheme, replacement of equipment, extraordinary repair of

equipment etc. She advised that Residents Associations now have the opportunity to secure significantly higher amounts of funding than previously, based on their particular activities. She outlined the importance of accountability and transparency in any such scheme and advised that the revised scheme targets additional resources at the more active associations. She accepted that the revised scheme represents a change for Residents Associations but stated that this is a change in the right direction. She further stated that the Housing Department will continue to work with Residents Associations and to seek to secure funding from any available sources.

Councillor Ellis acknowledged this but advised that there was a possibility that some residents associations would disband. Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager advised that this situation would be looked at should it arise. She advised that these works would fall to the Council to complete in the event of Residents Associations disbanding but advised that such works would involve a minimum amount of maintenance.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mulligan outlined that he hoped that such a situation would not arise. He outlined that a base-level of funding is available to all Residents Associations with the opportunity of supplementing this based on their particular activities.

Councillor Kenny outlined that there is concern that the fund for the activity-based aspect of the scheme would be very small and queried how much will be available. Ms Quinn advised that the overall budget for the Estate Management Grant Scheme has been retained at €24,000 as provided for in the 2009 Budget. Councillor Kilrane queried the budget for this scheme in 2008. Ms. Quinn advised that a budget of €22,000 had been provided in 2008.

Councillor Colreavy outlined concerns highlighted by Residents Associations in relation to extra administration and form filling required. Ms. Quinn advised that the revised scheme does not add to the administrative burden for Residents Associations. She outlined that it has always been a requirement of the Scheme that an application form be completed and details of activities and expenditure etc be provided. She advised that the requirements have been kept to the absolute minimum and that the staff of the Housing Department will assist Residents Associations in completing the forms as necessary.

Councillor Guckian sought clarification on the number of active Residents Associations falling into the categories of 'up to 30 houses' and 'over 30 houses'. Ms. Quinn undertook to provide Councillor Guckian with this information.

Councillor Reynolds sought clarification on whether the Community Employment Scheme which carried out work in some of the estates is still operational. Ms. Quinn confirmed that there is no change to the operation of this scheme or to the Jobs Initiative Scheme also active in a number of estates.

Councillor O'Rourke outlined that he has a difficulty with the 30-house threshold for the flat-rate grant – he stated that an estate with 28 houses could have a larger green area to maintain and this needed to be recognised in the scheme. Councillor Bohan agreed that this is an important consideration particularly where there is a very large green area involved. Councillor Enda McGloin suggested that particular consideration may have to be given to borderline estates eg. 24-30 houses, that they would be given a certain preference in relation to the application-based aspect of the scheme. Ms. Quinn suggested that the Scheme should be implemented as presented for the current year. She advised

that a full review would be undertaken towards the end of the current year to inform the 2010 budgetary process. She confirmed that these comments would be taken on board in this review.

Councillor Hughes queried the possibility of looking at a group-policy insurance for all Residents Associations to be taken out by the Council. Ms. Quinn confirmed that the Residents Network takes out a Group Policy on behalf of the individual Residents Associations.

Councillor Mulligan asked that the issue in relation to grass cutting along the road at Cappagh and Knocklongford estates in Mohill be looked at as a matter of urgency and that the provision of a lawnmower capable of cutting a steep slope also be looked at.

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

“That the Housing Estate Management Grant Scheme for 2009 be adopted”.

09/342

6/7/09 Higher Education Grant Scheme 2009

Ms. Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator outlined that the Higher Education Grant Scheme for the 2009/2010 Academic year had not yet been received from the Department of Education & Science. She outlined that in previous years the Members had approved the Scheme in principle to ensure that there would be no delays in processing applications under the Scheme. She advised that the Scheme will be brought to the September Council meeting for final approval. She advised that the Members are required to note and approve the Scheme but have no function in relation to amending the scheme which is determined nationally.

Councillor Colreavy expressed disappointment at the delay in the publication of the Scheme and outlined his concern at the members noting and approving a scheme which they have not had sight of. Councillor Bohan acknowledged the difficulty in this regard but stated that the members cannot allow the processing of grant applications to be delayed pending the September Council meeting. She suggested that it would be appropriate to approve the Scheme in principle to ensure that applications can be processed as quickly as possible. This was supported by a number of members who stated that it is imperative that students are not inconvenienced as a result of the Department delaying the issue of the Scheme. Members also pointed out that, despite representations in relation to the terms of the HEG Scheme, the members have no role in relation to altering the scheme as determined nationally.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND RESOLVED;

“That the Higher Education Grant Scheme 2009 be approved.”

Councillor Colreavy requested that his objection to this matter be noted in the Minutes.

09/343

6/7/09 Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Report dated 26th June 2009 from Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Corporate Services in relation to the approval of the appointment of the Traveller Representatives and Leitrim County Council Officials to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee as circulated to the members, appears as **Appendix 4** to the minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms. Quinn advised that there is a requirement that the first meeting of the new Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee takes place by 15th September 2009.

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

“That the appointment of the following Local Traveller Representatives and Local Authority Official Representatives to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, in accordance with the provisions of Section 22 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, be approved:

Local Traveller Representatives:

- Mr. Bernard McDonagh
- Mrs. Mary McDonagh
- Mrs. Mary Stokes and
- Mr. Edward Stokes

Local Authority Official Representatives:

- Ms. Sinead Flynn, Administrative Officer
- Ms. Linda Flanagan, Senior Social Worker”.

09/344

6/7/09 Corporate Policy Group

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

Updates from Strategic Policy Committees

Ms. McGovern advised that no Strategic Policy Committee Meetings had taken place since the last meeting of the Corporate Policy Group. She advised that members had noted that the new Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme would be prepared, in conjunction with the Corporate Policy Group, for presentation to the members at the September Council meeting following which the formal consultation process will be undertaken. She outlined that it is likely to be the end of the year before the new Strategic Policy Committees are in place.

Draft Housing Estate Grants Scheme for 2009

Ms. McGovern advised that the Corporate Policy Group had considered the Draft Housing Estate Management Grants Scheme for 2009 which was listed on the Agenda for discussion.

Non Principal Private Residence Charge

Ms. McGovern advised that the members had also received an update on the proposed Non Principal Private Residence Charge which is currently going through the Dáil.

Financial Position

Ms. McGovern outlined that the Corporate Policy Group had received an update in relation to the current financial position. She advised that the report from the County Manager in this regard has been circulated to the members - the report as circulated appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager gave an overview of the financial position as outlined in her report. She advised that the 3.22% reduction in the Local Government Fund equates to €492,816 and together with the reduced road grants allocation equates to a total reduction of €4,154, 286 in the Councils funding for 2009. She outlined that there are currently a range of uncertainties and it is difficult to predict the 2009 out-turn at this point. She outlined that the Incentivised Scheme of Early Retirement is not as incentivised as the previous Scheme and advised that there would be a clearer picture of the scheme and the potential savings after the closing date for applications (14th July). She outlined that the Non Principle Private Residences Charge is expected to become operative from 30th July 2009 which should provide an additional source of income. She advised that the members would be presented with regular updates in relation to the financial position.

Councillor Gilmartin sought clarification on whether the permanent outdoor staff will be affected by this reduction in the Local Government Fund. The County Manager advised that the reduction in funding will affect everybody. She advised that the Road Grants have been reduced. She advised that the revised Roads Programme was put together in such a way as to try and stretch the funding to the end of the year. She stated however that it is very difficult to say anything for certain at this point. She advised that regular meetings are taking place with the unions but that the cuts in funding will affect everyone.

Councillor Reynolds queried the collection of Commercial rates compared to the first 6 months of 2008. He also queried if individual local authorities are required to identify the owners of second homes under the Non Principle Private Residences Charge and queried what the chances of getting money in under this scheme are in the short-term. He queried the margin being charged by the Banks on top of the current interest rate for loans. He also queried the potential to achieve savings when such a high proportion of the budget relates to wages and salaries of predominantly permanent staff. He also queried what the legal position is should the Council find itself in a deficit position at the end of the year.

The County Manager confirmed that there has been a fall-back on rates collection at this stage of the year. While difficult to predict she outlined that this is not hugely of concern at this point. She advised that some businesses are experiencing cash-flow difficulties but it is anticipated that these rates will have been paid by the end of the year. She advised that the larger rate payers are generally paying on time. She advised that many businesses traditionally pay towards the latter end of the year. She advised however that the level of overall income will be reduced given the increase in vacant commercial properties. Ms. Katrina Murphy, Head of Finance advised that there would be a clearer picture in relation to anticipated out-turn on rates collection at the end of September. She advised that the Banks do charge a margin over the interest rate on loans and this varies depending on when the loan was taken out.

In relation to the Non Principle Private Residences Charge Ms. Murphy advised that the process is initially self-registration with the onus on the individual who owns the property to declare this. She advised that when the period for self-registration elapses the local authority will have to seek to identify who owns individual properties with assistance from Revenue, the PRTB (Private Rented Tenancies Board), ESB and possibly Geodirectory. She advised that the Department will be conducting a national advertising campaign to raise awareness of the requirements under the scheme. She advised that substantial penalties for non-payment act as a disincentive to non-registration or non-payment.

The County Manager advised that there is a requirement that the local authority doesn't enter into a deficit situation. She further advised that provision would have to be made for any deficit arising to be recouped in the following year. She reiterated that every effort has and continues to be made to achieve savings. She advised that all contract staff are being let go when their contracts expire and the Council will shortly be in a position where it has only permanent staff. She advised that this is an issue for all local authorities. She advised that every effort has been made to seek to ensure that cost savings have minimal impact on service delivery. She advised however that the notification of a further €0.5m reduction in the Local Government Fund received on 24th June leaves the Council in a very difficult financial position and it will be extremely difficult to try and claw this back. She advised that every possible service has been put back out to tender and all discretionary spend has been cut back. She advised that other incentives have been offered to staff including shorter working year etc. She advised that the financial situation is being kept under constant review and there should be a clearer picture of the position by September.

Councillor Hughes queried when the Non Principal Private Residences (NPPR) legalisation will become operative and the number of properties involved in the county. Ms. Katrina Murphy, Head of Finance advised that the legislation is due to come into effect from end July 2009. She advised that the charge will be €200 per house per annum and will apply for the year 2009. She advised that the legislation is being written in such a way that the scheme is self-regulatory. She advised that an indicative figure of 2,000 units in Leitrim has been cited.

Councillor Colreavy stated that the Department is effectively making it impossible for any local authority to plan expenditure or services for the year. He also highlighted potential data protection issues in relation to the sharing of information between agencies for the purposes of the NPPR. He queried whether the revised Roadworks Programme for 2009 now needs to be further revisited. He also queried whether the income and pension levies are reflected in reduced payroll costs.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager advised that the data protection issues in relation to the NPPR are being dealt with nationally by way of a change in the legislation. She advised that the Roadworks Programme does not have to be further revised. She outlined that the gross payroll figure is not affected by the pension and income levies – she outlined that the levy deductions are applied locally and we advise the amount to the Department who then deduct this amount from the Local Government Fund.

Councillor Kilrane suggested that the Land Registry database would be a useful resource in this regard with no associated data protection issues.

Councillor Stenson queried if the income received under the NPPR charge will go directly to local authorities. Ms. Maguire confirmed that this is the case and that this will represent an additional source of income – she advised that there will be provision for centralised

online registration and payment and the money will be redistributed on a monthly basis to the relevant local authorities.

Members queried whether various scenarios would be liable for the NPPR charge. Ms. Katrina Murphy, Head of Finance outlined some of the proposed exemptions but advised that the position would be clearer when the legislation is finalised.

Items for Council Meeting

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

Any other Business

Ms. McGovern advised that the matter of Members ICT had been considered briefly by the Corporate Policy Group and further correspondence is to issue to members in this regard.

This update was noted by the members.

09/345

6/7/09 Meeting Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated to the members:

1. Letter dated 13th May 2009 from Eamon O'Cuiv, TD, Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs in relation to the suspension of the Community Support for Older People Scheme.
2. Letter dated 13th May 2009 from Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government in relation to the resolution passed by the members of Leitrim County Council at its April Meeting to increase the level of litter fines.
3. Letter dated 18th May 2009 from Sean Haughey, Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science in relation to the School Transport Increases.

Councillor Kenny stated that school transport is an integral part of the free education system and the charges proposed will cripple many families and is counter-productive. He requested that a further letter issue to the Minister renewing our appeal that he look at the situation.

This was supported by all the members who highlighted the huge burden that this places on families. Councillor Ward also pointed out that the charge had previously been phased over 3 terms and is now required to be paid in full in advance, placing an additional unreasonable burden on families availing of the service.

4. Letter dated 24th June 2009 from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the Local Government Fund General Purpose Grant Allocations 2009.

The following issues were also raised under Meeting Correspondence;

Cuts to Pharmacists Payments:

Councillor Gilmartin referred to correspondence received by Members from Kieran's Pharmacy, Mohill in relation to the forthcoming cuts to Pharmacists payments on government schemes and seeking the support of the Members on issues raised. He proposed that a letter issue to the Minister for Health & Children requesting that she do what she can to resolve the issues and concerns in relation to this proposal in advance of the proposed 1st August 2009 implementation date. This was agreed by the members.

Public Light at Drumcong:

Councillor Gilmartin sought clarification on whether any correspondence had been received from the ESB in relation to the extra public light at Drumcong Church. Mr. Shay O'Connor, Acting Director of Services, Infrastructure confirmed that this matter would be followed up with the ESB.

Retirements from Leitrim County Council

The members paid tribute to Mr. Gabriel Miney, Senior Executive Engineer, Manorhamilton Area Office on his impending retirement from Leitrim County Council and wished him every health, happiness and success for the future. Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager, on her own behalf and on behalf of the staff, both past and present, also paid tribute to Mr. Miney for his tremendous work over the years and wished him and his family well for the future. Mr. Miney in turn thanked the Members and the County Manager for their kind wishes and he paid tribute to the great work of past elected members and wished the incoming Council well in their term of office.

The Cathaoirleach, Members and the County Manager also paid tribute to the following staff members who recently retired from Leitrim County Council and wished them well for the future – Mr. Michael Tom Reynolds, Carrick Area; Mrs. Bridie Doran, Motor Tax Office; Mr. Michael McDermott, Revenue Collector; Mr. Dermot Fallon, Revenue Collector and Mr. Francie Bohan, Storekeeper.

Special Meeting re Casual Vacancies on VEC

Councillor Thomas Mulligan, Cathaoirleach proposed that a Special Council meeting be scheduled for Wednesday 22nd July 2009 at 5.00pm in Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon to consider the filling of two Casual Vacancies arising on the Community Representatives to the County Leitrim Vocational Educational Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin.

Councillor O'Rourke queried if this business was urgent and if a Special Meeting was necessary. Councillor Bohan outlined that members may not be available.

The Cathaoirleach outlined that he considered that the business of the meeting is urgent and cannot be held over until September. He advised that this was the only matter to be considered at this meeting.

This was noted by the members.

Proposed by Councillor Thomas Mulligan, seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin AND RESOLVED;

“That a Special Meeting of Leitrim County Council be held on Wednesday 22nd July 2009 at 5.00pm in Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon to consider the filling of two Casual

Vacancies arising on the Community Representatives to the County Leitrim Vocational Educational Committee.”

Rural House Design Guidelines

Councillor Enda McGloin queried whether any progress has been made to date on the review of the Rural House Design Guidelines. The County Manager advised that work is due to commence shortly on the review of the guidelines.

09/346

6/7/09 Conferences

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

That Leitrim County Council approves of the following

- Attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson at the Western River Basin Advisory Council meeting in Oranmore, Co Galway on the 15th April 2009.
- Attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson at the Western River Basin Meeting and Lake Visit on the 15th May 2009 in Dromahair, Co Leitrim
- Attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Caillian Ellis and Councillor Paddy O'Rourke at the Byrne Perry Summer School in Gorey, Co Wexford on the 26th to 28th June 2009.
- Attendance of Councillor Caillian Ellis, Councillor Francis Gilmartin and Councillor Gerry Kilrane at the Annual Baltimore Seminar on Friday 3rd July to 5th July 2009 in West Cork Hotel, Skibbereen, Co Cork.
- Attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson at the National University of Ireland Galway conferring ceremony on the 26th June 2009 in Galway.

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

“That Leitrim County Council approves the attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson and Councillor Mary Bohan at the Traveller Enterprise & Employment Conference on the 22nd July 2009 in the Hilton Airport Hotel, Dublin”.

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

“That Leitrim County Council approves the attendance of Councillor Enda Stenson, Councillor Gerry Dolan, Councillor John McCartin, Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Gordon Hughes, Councillor John McTernan, Councillor Enda McGloin, Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Martin Kenny and Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the 29th McGill Summer School in the Glenties, Co Donegal.

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

"That Leitrim County Council approves the attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson at the Conference on "Serving people, preserving heritage" in Kilkenny on the 9th July 2009.

Part 1 Notices of Motion.

09/347

6/7/09

Retention of Cancer Center in Sligo

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

"I call on this Council to once again call on the Minister for Health to upgrade and retain the Cancer Center and Stroke unit in Sligo"

Councillor Gerry Dolan outlined the seriousness of this issue and cited one particular case. He stated that the Minister must be called upon to act. Councillor Ward supported the motion and stated that the views of the people are being ignored by the Minister. He stated that a strongly-worded letter needs to issue to the Minister in relation to this matter. Councillor Bohan also fully supported the motion and stated that this has been the Fianna Fáil members' position throughout this campaign. Councillor Colreavy supported the motion but stated that issuing a letter will have no effect. He outlined that he had previously called for the resignation of the Minister over this issue. He outlined that the Mayor of Galway has acknowledged that Galway Hospital cannot cater for its present level of patients and yet the Sligo centre is being closed down. He also stated that the Stroke Unit in Sligo is being shut down despite assurances to the contrary and he outlined concern that orthopaedics will be the next area to be hit.

Proposed by Councillor Gerry Dolan, seconded by Councillor John Ward AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council once again call on the Minister for Health to upgrade and retain the Cancer Center and Stroke unit in Sligo"

09/348

6/7/09

Bus Services

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

"To ask the Council to write to the Regional Manager of Bus Éireann, Mr. Rory Leahy seeking a deputation be received by Leitrim County Council as a matter of urgency to discuss the proposed removal of bus services in Ballinamore/Carrigallen & other public transport routes within the county. These bus services are the only state public transport available in the Ballinamore area & if removed will result in this area having no access to either a bus or rail network."

Councillor Hughes outlined the background to his motion and proposed that a deputation be requested to attend a Council meeting to discuss the proposed and recent removal of bus services.

Councillor Kenny supported the motion and stated that a lot of people are dependent on this service and the proposed removal of the service is scandalous. He stated that the Regional Manager must give answers and should attend a Council meeting.

Councillor Guckian fully supported the motion and outlined that for the past eighteen months Leitrim County Council has been in correspondence with Bus Éireann in relation to the reinstatement of the Bus Éireann service in Drumsna, without success.

Councillor Bohan also supported the motion and reiterated that it is essential that Bus Éireann representatives attend a Council meeting to respond to the issues raised. She stated that the removal of services is militating against people living in rural areas.

Councillor O'Rourke also supported the motion. He outlined that the availability of a good bus service had ensured that Carrigallen was a viable investment location, and this service is now being removed. While acknowledging that there is less dependence on public transport he outlined that there are still significant numbers who rely on this type of transport.

Councillor Mulligan and Councillor McTernan also supported the motion. Councillor McGowan proposed that this deputation be sought for the September meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Gordon Hughes, seconded by Councillor Martin Kenny AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That the Council write to the Regional Manager of Bus Éireann, Mr. Rory Leahy seeking a deputation be received by Leitrim County Council as a matter of urgency to discuss the proposed removal of bus services in Ballinamore/Carrigallen & other public transport routes within the county. These bus services are the only state public transport available in the Ballinamore area & if removed will result in this area having no access to either a bus or rail network."

**09/349
6/7/09**

Area around Drumcong School

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to look at the area around Drumcong School, and meet with the Parents Association to work out a mechanism to make it a safer area."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The District engineer will be happy to meet with the parents association on site to discuss the situation."

The Motion was moved by Councillor Guckian on behalf of Councillor Gilmartin.

09/350

6/7/09 **Parking Restrictions along the N4 From the Dublin Road roundabout to Bridge roundabout**

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure if he would introduce parking restrictions for heavy vehicles, buses and vans along the N4, from the Dublin Road roundabout to the Bridge roundabout, at Carrick on Shannon."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"In light of the development of the river side park it would be desirable to restrict heavy goods vehicles from parking in this area. However we also have a desire to have a coach/bus parking area at this location. If we restrict any parking in this area we will have to have a designated parking area for these vehicles in some other location. The matter might best be progressed through the Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee"

Councillor Reynolds thanked the Director of Services for his response. He outlined that this is a major issue for people trying to cross the road at this location. He asked that the possibility of preventing heavy vehicle parking within a restricted area as an interim measure be looked at urgently.

Mr. Shay O'Connor, Acting Director of Services, Infrastructure undertook to examine the potential for such an interim measure.

Councillor Stenson supported the motion and outlined that the matter had previously been discussed by the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee. Councillor Guckian also supported the motion and stated that the matter needs to be taken into consideration in the Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mulligan also fully supported the motion.

09/351

6/7/09 **Safeguards to protect farmers from negligence of Private Agricultural Consultants**

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

"Leitrim County Council calls for safeguards to protect farmers whose income has been damaged by the negligence of private Agricultural Consultants who failed to submit REPS 111 or REPS IV applications or submitted incomplete applications by due date. A number of farmers stand to lose thousands of euro in respect of 2008 and 2009, and may face difficulty in securing approval for 2010 - solely because of the incompetence or negligence of their paid Consultant. The Department of Agriculture do not publish a list of approved consultants, but do require consultancy input because of the complexity of the schemes and associated forms."

Councillor Colreavy outlined the background to his motion. He outlined that Teagasc had today issued a report highlighting the current difficulties for farmers. He outlined that there

is no requirement that Reps Advisors have Professional Indemnity Insurance and farmers have no fall-back where their advisors have been negligent. He stated that there must be safeguards to protect farmers. He stated that the Department of Agriculture will insist that a Reps Advisor must be used. While they say they don't approve advisors they have a list of approved agencies. He stated that the message must go out to farmers that they need to check that their advisor has appropriate Insurances.

Councillor Kenny seconded the motion. He stated that the issue of REPS is a huge problem for farmers. He stated that Teagasc lost 101 Reps Advisors who had been on short-term contracts, in June 2009. He stated that Teagasc was earning €8m from REPS planning and the cost was €5m and this now represents lost money to the Exchequer. He stated that Teagasc is not now in a position to compete in this market due to the huge loss of planners, and more farmers are now being pushed into engaging private consultants.

Councillor McCartin highlighted that there had also been some problems with the quality of advice given by Teagasc planners/ advisors.

Councillor Ward supported the motion and outlined that there has been a 17% cut in REPS but this has not been reflected in planners/advisors fees.

All of the members supported the motion. The Cathaoirleach also acknowledged the effort which Members have put in over the years in assisting farmers in filling out their REPS forms.

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

"That Leitrim County Council calls for safeguards to protect farmers whose income has been damaged by the negligence of private Agricultural Consultants who failed to submit REPS 111 or REPS IV applications or submitted incomplete applications by due date. A number of farmers stand to lose thousands of euro in respect of 2008 and 2009, and may face difficulty in securing approval for 2010 - solely because of the incompetence or negligence of their paid Consultant. The Department of Agriculture do not publish a list of approved consultants, but do require consultancy input because of the complexity of the schemes and associated forms".

09/352

6/7/09 Ardvoley Group Water Scheme

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

"What is the current position regarding the completion of the Ardvoley Group Water Scheme. This matter needs to be dealt with as a matter of urgency."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The extension sought for this Group Water Scheme will form part of the over-all take-in-charge of Ardvoley/ Kilavoggy scheme which is nearly completed. The delay in commencing this extension is due to issues in relation to ownership of a pumping station not yet resolved between the Group water scheme and the council. It is hoped to finalise matters in the near future."

Councillor Bohan outlined her concern in relation to this Group Water Scheme. She stated that there are a number of houses involved where the current water supply is not fit for use. She outlined that she understood that the issue of the pumping station had been resolved. She requested that some form of interim measure be put in place to facilitate these households as a matter of urgency.

Councillor McTernan supported the motion and stated that this is an unacceptable situation for the households involved.

Mr. Shay O'Connor, Acting Director of Services, Infrastructure confirmed that the Group Water Scheme is to be taken in charge by the Council. He outlined however that the pumping station is not in the ownership of the Group Water Scheme and this issue has to be resolved. He outlined that an interim solution would be to turn on the pumping station and he confirmed that this would be implemented to provide an adequate water supply to the households in question.

09/353

6/7/09

Re-surface streets in Kinlough and Kiltyclogher

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

"When is it proposed to re-surface the streets in Kinlough and Kiltyclogher and to re-line these areas as well including the road at Duncarbry leading on to the N.15 which is in very poor repair."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The streets in Kinlough and Kiltyclogher have already been reinstated and re-lined following major upgrading of water and sewerage services in both villages. Work also commenced in recent weeks on the reconstruction of the Kinlough road at Tullaghan past the former Duncarbry Lodge site."

The Motion was moved by Councillor Mulligan on behalf of Councillor Ferguson.

09/354

6/7/09 Level Access at the Front of St Michael's National School in Mohill

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Thomas Mulligan;

"I ask that Leitrim County Council contact the Department of Education and request that provision be made for level access at the front of St. Michael's National School in Mohill. This problem was highlighted recently when this school was used as a Polling Booth."

Councillor Mulligan outlined that this problem became apparent on Polling Day and he stated that it is unacceptable that the level access to the school is to the rear. He stated that level access to the front of the building must be provided.

Councillor Kilrane seconded the motion and stated that the matter had recently been brought to the attention of the Board of Management.

Councillor Stenson and Councillor McGowan also supported the motion.

***Proposed by Councillor Thomas Mulligan, seconded by Councillor Gerry Kilrane
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That Leitrim County Council contact the Department of Education and request that provision be made for level access at the front of St. Michael's National School in Mohill. This problem was highlighted recently when this school was used as a Polling Booth.”

09/355

6/7/09 Traffic Calming Measures

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to introduce traffic calming measures

- (1) On the Enniskillen side of the Mart Entrance on the N.16 in Manorhamilton
- (2) Outside of the filling station on the N.16 Sligo Road Manorhamilton
- (3) To introduce some form of safety measures at the "Corner" in Manorhamilton."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"(1) The Council has prepared plans for a major Traffic Calming Scheme on the Eastern approach to Manorhamilton, commencing at the location in question. Funding for this project has been sought from the NRA, but not yet provided due to current financial difficulties.

(2) Traffic calming measures in the form of a Right turn lane, extensive hatching , parking restrictions and an extension of the 50 km/hr speed limit to the West side of the petrol station, have already been put in place by this Council. The approach road from the West is already very narrow, so no space is available for centre islands. NRA approval for the extension of the 60 km/hr speed limit to the Windy Bridge has been sought, but has not so far been forthcoming.

(3) In consultation with the NRA Road Safety Engineer, the Council is preparing a plan for the N16/ R280 junction in the centre of Manorhamilton involving altered priorities, additional parking restrictions and warning signage. Preliminary discussions have taken place with the Garda Authorities who have indicated support for the proposals. It is expected that the plan will be ready for presentation to the next meeting of Leitrim Co. Council. It should be also be noted that the recent diversion of HGV's away from the Main Street end of that junction makes a significant contribution to increased safety for all road users."

Councillor Frank Dolan outlined that these traffic issues had been raised repeatedly while out on the canvas. He stated that speed is a huge issue, that signage is ineffective and that some form of physical traffic calming is required.

Mr. Gabriel Miney, Senior Executive Engineer, Manorhamilton Area advised that all of the issues raised are being addressed. He stated that speed is a problem and more enforcement is required. He stated that the owner of the Petrol Station on the Sligo Road has agreed to implement a one way system through the petrol station and this will also assist in relation to traffic safety.

Councillor Frank Dolan outlined that the issue of lorries parking on the roadside adjacent

to the Petrol Station is also presenting difficulties in relation to visibility for traffic emerging.

Councillor Siobhan McGloin supported the motion and stated that the issues at 'The Corner' in particular need to be urgently addressed. This was reiterated by Councillor Colreavy and Councillor McDermott who also supported the motion.

09/356

6/7/09

Jamestown

It was agreed that Motion No.20 in the name of Councillor Enda Stenson and Motion No. 29 in the name of Councillor Sinead Guckian would be taken together as they both relate to repair works in Jamestown.

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure when will repair work be carried out on the street of Jamestown - this street/road is in very poor condition since the laying of sewage pipes."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Commitments were given to have the full width of the street overlaid before the summer. The trenches for the recently laid foul sewer pipes are still subsiding. It would not be prudent to overlay the full street until this movement has stopped. Repair work on the trenches/road crossings at Jamestown will be carried out straight away and when we are fully satisfied the trenches have stopped subsiding we will do the full width overlay."

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

"At the July meeting of Leitrim County Council I ask the Carrick on Shannon Senior Executive Area Engineer to carry out immediate repair work on the Main Street in Jamestown. This road is in an unacceptable state of disrepair. I will also ask when will Leitrim County Council carry out a full road resurface and replace the footpaths etc. which are required since the installation of the pipeline work for the new sewerage scheme in the village. These outstanding issues need to be addressed."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Commitments were given to have the full width of the street overlaid before the summer. The trenches for the recently laid foul sewer pipes are still subsiding. It would not be prudent to overlay the full street until this movement has stopped. Repair work on the trenches/road crossings at Jamestown will be carried out straight away and when we are fully satisfied the trenches have stopped subsiding we will do the full width overlay. Anywhere footpaths are considered to be in an unacceptable state of repair shall be looked into immediately"

Councillor Stenson stated that this issue was raised by every household in the Jamestown area on the recent canvas. He outlined that he understood that the work had to be carried out but stated that the road was left in a terrible condition. He thanked the Director of Services for the reply and queried the timescale involved.

Councillor Guckian reiterated that this issue is of huge concern to the local residents. She

outlined that the Community Council have carried out significant works in the village and while they fully accept that the works were necessary and welcome, and would inevitably involve disruption, they are very concerned at the state that the road has been left in. She accepted that the repair work cannot be finalized until the sewerage is up and running but sought a time-estimate in this regard. She also asked that the footpath along the wall down by the Weir be looked at and repaired as a matter of urgency. She also outlined that there are some drainage issues to be addressed at houses beside the Arch – particularly O'Dowds. She also asked that the restoration of The Arch remain on the agenda.

Mr. Shay O'Connor, Acting Director of Services, Infrastructure outlined that arrangements would be made to carry out the overlay works in August if possible and provided no more subsidence occurs. He confirmed that repairs to the footpath will be carried out immediately and undertook to look at the drainage issue.

The motions were supported by Councillor Ward, Councillor McGowan and Councillor Mulligan.

09/357

6/7/09 Upgrading of Septic Tanks

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

"That we the members of Leitrim County Council would again call on the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to provide grant assistance to allow for people living in rural Ireland to upgrade from septic tanks to modern Effluent treatment systems (i.e. Puraflo / Bio cycle etc.). This is necessary in view of the EU Water Framework Directive which obliges each Local Authority / State to put in place a programme to protect our rivers and lakes."

Councillor Mc Gowan called on the support of the members in again requesting the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to provide grant assistance in relation to the upgrading of septic tanks. This was supported by all the members

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

"That Leitrim County Council would again call on the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to provide grant assistance to allow for people living in rural Ireland to upgrade from septic tanks to modern Effluent treatment systems (i.e. Puraflo / Bio cycle etc.). This is necessary in view of the EU Water Framework Directive which obliges each Local Authority / State to put in place a programme to protect our rivers and lakes."

09/358

6/7/09 Laghta Group Water Scheme

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

"At the next meeting of Leitrim County Council I will propose that Leitrim County Council take the necessary steps to provide an adequate reliable water supply to the Laghta Group

Water scheme as a matter of urgency."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"This scheme requires complete refurbishment. At this stage Leitrim County Council have completed the design for a new scheme here and Tender Documents are now being prepared. Unfortunately the Rural Water Allocation is substantially over committed for 2009, and the council must await the 2010 allocation, which will need to be greater than the 2009 allocation in order to cover the over expenditure committed to in 2009, and only at that stage can consideration be given to entering into any new commitments."

Councillor Siobhan McGloin stated that this is a huge issue in the Laughta area with ongoing problems with the water being cut off. She expressed disappointment with the reply which she stated is unacceptable. She requested that the Council work closely with the GWS Committee to try and limit the number of water cut-offs.

Mr. Shay O'Connor, Acting Director of Services, Infrastructure confirmed that he is fully aware of the situation. He outlined that the Council have, on occasions, repaired leaks with the Scheme. He confirmed that the Council will continue to work with the committee and assist them in whatever way it can.

Councillor Michael Colreavy seconded the motion.

09/359

6/7/09 Completion of Developments

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

"In light of the fact that there are a large number of empty houses and housing estates in the county, I ask Leitrim County Council to formulate a comprehensive policy, specific to each area, to deal with issues of completion of developments, public safety, maintenance of local environment, and the impact that a possible relocation of large numbers of people may have on local communities"

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

"In September/October 2008, the Planning Department conducted a full survey of all of the housing developments in the county and classified each permitted estate / housing development under the following classifications:

- Not Started,
- Under construction,
- Constructed,
- Request to take in charge, and
- Taken in Charge.

An estimate as to the number of completed units which were vacant was also carried out.

It is proposed to repeat this survey in September 2009 and analyse progress over the last year. Based on this analysis, it will be possible to formulate policies in relation to the housing situation in each part of the county, under the headings set out in the motion. The drafted policies will be brought to the Planning SPC prior to presentation to Council.

However, regard must be had to the fact that many of the permitted estate developments were granted planning permission in 2005 [following the rush of application at the end of

2004, the end of the Rural Renewal Scheme] and these permissions will not expire until 2010. Many of the schemes, which remain incomplete, may however apply for an extension of duration to their permission where substantial works have already been carried out. The Planning Authority must allow each developer the time periods for completion of the development as set out in the Planning statutes. Changes to the Extension of Duration provisions of the Planning Act have been proposed in the 2009 Planning Bill, where 'further extensions' will not be permitted, i.e. only one extension of duration will be allowed.

The Council operates a protocol in relation to applications for taking in charge of estates which has been agreed by the Members.

Where permissions have expired and the estates remain unfinished, the normal enforcement procedures may be undertaken to ensure that all completed houses have a level of service normally provided when an estate is completed e.g. roads to these houses, but not beyond will have to be completed to the appropriate standard."

Councillor McCartin stated that this is probably the most crucial issue facing the Council in the immediate future. He expressed concern at the social impact of a large influx of people into any village. He also expressed concern that the level of vacant properties might present an opportunity to other local authorities to relocate people to Leitrim. He welcomed the reply and the proposal to conduct a further survey of permitted housing developments in the county. He suggested that consideration may have to be given to what housing estates/developments are viable into the future. He also requested that an extremely tight policy be developed in relation to dealing with applications for the extension of durations of planning permissions for housing developments.

Councillor Colreavy supported the motion which he said was timely. He outlined that every town and village had changed substantially and there is a significant level of unoccupied properties. He outlined that we need to look at how best we can position ourselves to maximize use of the property that is available.

Councillor Enda McGloin also supported the motion. He welcomed the proposed report which he stated would require a special debate.

Councillor Bohan supported the motion and stated that unfinished housing developments are a significant issue. Councillor McTernan also supported the motion and outlined his opposition to granting extensions of planning permissions.

Councillor Hughes stated that the Council needs to be more proactive in working with developers in seeking to have estates taken in charge.

Mr. Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services outlined that the Council is complying with the policy as adopted by the Members in relation to taking-in-charge and is very pro-active in dealing with developers who have made applications. He advised that there are currently 23-24 ongoing applications with a number of these almost ready to be finalized. He outlined that the Planning Authority is anxious to ensure developers complete their developments. He outlined that an applicant is entitled to seek a time extension on their permission. He outlined that the Council is anxious to ensure, if an estate is built in stages, that the area closest to the entrance is completed first. He advised that an updated housing development survey will form the

basis of the development of a policy in relation to unfinished housing developments.

**09/360
6/7/09**

Road exit from old N4 onto new N4

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

"I call on the Director of Services, Infrastructure in conjunction with the NRA to investigate the road exit from the old N4 (from Dromod) onto the new N4 (Dromod/Rooskey by pass) at Fearnought, Aughamore. This junction is extremely dangerous as the old N4 road comes directly on to the new N4 road rather than merging at an angle with an integrated slow lane. A number of near misses have occurred recently and I am concerned for traffic safety. I urge Leitrim County Council to bring a Senior Inspector from the NRA to this junction so that they can observe for themselves the traffic movement here."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Following previous representations from this council the layout of this junction was brought to the attention of the NRA and the designers of the Dromod Rooskey Bypass. Their answer to our concerns was the design of the junction

"a realistic interpretation of the design standards and Works Information and that the design complies with these standards and contract documents. It has also been through the usual self checks, contract design checks and reviews by both the Client's representative and our road safety auditors without adverse comment".

The junction was discussed with the NRA at steering group meetings and they have advised us that they will not fund any alterations to this junction as it complies with the required design standards. We will take up the concerns expressed of excessive speeds at this location with the Gardaí"

Councillor Ward requested that this matter be firmly pushed before a serious incident occurs. He outlined that the land is available and the works involved are relatively minor.

Councillor McGowan supported the motion which has been raised previously. He stated that he does not understand or accept the logic of what the NRA are saying.

Councillor Reynolds supported the motion and stated that this is a very dangerous junction which needs to be sorted out before a serious accident occurs. Councillor Guckian also supported the motion. She stated that this is a very dangerous junction and there have been a number of crashes at this location. She stated that local knowledge and opinion must overrule the N.R.A.

Councillor Stenson supported the motion and expressed his disappointment that various outstanding works were never completed on this project.

Councillor Kilrane and Councillor Mulligan also fully supported the motion.

Mr. Shay O'Connor, Acting Director of Services, Infrastructure advised that this junction has been discussed with the NRA on numerous occasions. The junction has undergone various safety checks and audits without adverse comment. He stated that excessive speed coming off the by-pass is an issue and this has been taken up with the Gardaí. He

outlined that given that the junction is within current design standards and audit it will be very difficult to get it addressed. He undertook however to take the matter up further with the NRA.

09/361 **Solar panel heating power at Drumshanbo Swimming pool**
6/7/09

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

"I call on Leitrim County Council in conjunction with the local voluntary management group to look at applying for funding towards providing solar panel heating power at Drumshanbo Swimming pool. It is vital that ways and means of reducing the heavy running costs are found to ensure the pool's future viability. I believe that all funding sources should be considered and applied for to upgrade this fine local amenity in Drumshanbo."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The County Council are investigating the options in relation to solar panel heating and will work with the local group to seek funding."

Councillor Enda McGloin acknowledged the reply. He also acknowledged the response from the local community who had worked closely with the Council in securing the opening of the pool for the 2009 Summer Season. He outlined that there are great fears for the future of the pool and it is imperative that priority is given to ways and means of lowering the maintenance and running costs. He also requested that all potential sources of funding be explored.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported the motion. She complimented the local people who had worked so hard to keep the pool open in the current season. She stated that this is a fantastic and very valuable facility/amenity and everything must be done to secure its future.

09/362 **Road leading to Gulladoo LS 55980**
6/7/09

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

"I call upon Leitrim County Council to provide a number of setbacks/over taking bays along the road leading to Gulladoo LS 55980. There is more than adequate space along the roadside with little to be done other than level some existing clay fill and surface with stone. Presently motorists have to reverse back to a number of private gateways in order to allow oncoming traffic pass safely."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"It is the policy of this council to install lay bys on narrow local roads when we are doing a grant scheme on the road. The installation of lay bys on other roads is subject to when resources and funds are available. No more funding is available for laybys this year. This particular road can be considered for this work next year."

Councillor O'Rourke acknowledged the reply. He stated that this road needs set-backs for safety. He outlined that the road leads to the Gulladoo Lake Amenity with its new floating jetty, water safety courses etc contributing to increased traffic volumes. He stated that very basic works would be required at this location.

Mr. Shay O'Connor, Acting Director of Services, Infrastructure undertook to look at the possibility of carrying out basic works at this location.

09/363

6/7/09

Signage Indicating entrance to Shannagh Grove

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

"I call upon Leitrim County Council to erect signage indicating the entrance to Shannagh Grove Housing Estate at Shannagh, Mohill which is a very concealed entrance and to complete the remedial works to the speed bumps at the same location."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services & Housing

"The statutory junction signs will be erected at this location.

The speed ramps were installed as part of a low cost safety scheme approved by the NRA. The NRA safety officer recently inspected the speed ramps at this location. His opinion is that they should remain in place as they are very effective in serving the purpose they were meant for."

Councillor Kilrane acknowledged the response. He requested that the name of the estate be included on the signage. He queried the NRA Inspectors Report and stated that the ramps are quite dark and difficult to see and also appear to be different heights.

Councillor Stenson, Councillor Mulligan and Councillor McGowan supported the motion.

Mr. Shay O'Connor, Acting Director of Services, Infrastructure outlined that painting works could be carried out to the ramps to address the visibility issue.

09/364

6/7/09

Register of Electors

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

"At the July meeting I will ask Leitrim County Council to write to the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr John Gormley, regarding the state of the Register of Electors for the recent Local and European Elections. The present system for including people on the Register of Electors is totally unsatisfactory and is open to abuse."

Councillor McDermott outlined that the current Register of Electors system appears to be very cumbersome and the Supplement to the Register is a huge undertaking. He stated that the process needs to be reviewed.

Councillor Guckian supported the motion. She outlined that a similar discussion had taken place following the 2004 Local Elections and suggestions had been made to the Minister in relation to a link to a persons PPSN.

Councillor Ward and Councillor Colreavy also supported the motion.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr John Gormley, regarding the state of the Register of Electors for the recent Local and European Elections. The present system for including people on the Register of Electors is totally unsatisfactory and is open to abuse".

09/365

6/7/09 Credit Facilities

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

"I am proposing that Leitrim County Council officially write to the main banks that have been given billions of tax-payers money, demanding that they forward credit to small businesses, farmers and sole traders who are in difficulties and cannot pay bills or restock, due to the freeze on overdraft and loan facilities."

Councillor Kenny outlined that the Banks have been substantially subsidized with no return for the public. He outlined the various issues facing businesses and stated that the Council has a right to ask the banks to provide a service to the people. He stated that local officials have no autonomy and correspondence must issue to the Area Managers.

Councillor Enda McGloin supported the motion. He outlined that the Bank Guarantee should have included certain provisions and suggested that a copy of the letter issue to the Minister for Finance. Councillor Stenson also supported the motion and agreed that the correspondence should also issue to the Minister for Finance as he stated that the Banks are not 'open for business'.

Councillor Reynolds also supported the motion and stated that it would be a good exercise to request the Area Managers of the main Banks to come to a Council meeting.

Councillor Kilrane outlined that he supported the motion substantially. He cautioned that imprudent lending had got us into this situation. He stated that the European Investment Bank was to stimulate finance to small businesses but this does not appear to have happened.

Councillor Colreavy proposed an amendment to the wording of the motion to the effect that the banks and building societies be requested to publish verifiable information regarding their credit lending performance. This was agreed by the members.

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

"That Leitrim County Council write to the main banks that have been given billions of tax-payers money, demanding that they forward credit to small businesses, farmers and sole traders who are in difficulties and cannot pay bills or restock, due to the freeze on overdraft and loan facilities. That the banks and building societies be requested to publish verifiable information regarding their credit lending performance".

Part II - Questions.

09/366

6/7/09 New Relief Road at Tully, Ballinamore

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;

"I ask the District Engineer when will the development works and landscaping be completed alongside the new relief road at Tully, Ballinamore (at junction with main Carrigallen road) which is presently in a very poor state of repair and also when will an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing be installed at this location as previously agreed."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Landscaping works will be carried out on the Ballinamore Ring Road later in the year. Due to the nature of this work, all other construction element must be complete, i.e. construction,, etc. An uncontrolled crossing is already installed on the Tesco side of the Carrigallen road. Tactile paving will be constructed at a later date. (An uncontrolled crossing consists solely of dropped kerbs either side of the carriageway with tactile paving.)"

09/367

6/7/09 Installation of Lay-bys

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;

"I ask the District Engineer when will the Council install lay-bys alongside the LS53260 at Greaghglass, Aughnasheelin from Gerry Gilheaney's house as far as Marie Costello's. There are presently no lay-bys along this narrow stretch of road presently being resurfaced despite the significant volume of local traffic passing along it. Can I therefore request will the Council consult with local landowners with a view to having a number of lay-bys installed as a matter of urgency in order that it may be carried out with the existing road works."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"It is the policy of this council to install lay bys on narrow local roads when we are doing a grant scheme on the road. We will install lay bys on this road when we are completing a grant job on this road later in the year if it is possible to do so without acquiring any land."

09/368

6/7/09

Grass Cutting at Junctions

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"Will this Council please cut the grass around the junctions as the sight distance is gone and it will cause an accident?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Due to limited funding available, hedge cutting along public roads will be limited to cutting excessive growth at junctions on Regional and heavily trafficked local roads to improve sight distance. This work commenced in mid June."

09/369

6/7/09

Works in Leitrim Village

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"When is this Council restarting the works in Leitrim Village as promised?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Works in relation to the traffic claming measures in Leitrim Village will re-commence in August 2009"

09/370

6/7/09 ***Local Authority Family Type Dwellings in Carrick-on-Shannon***

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Reynolds;

"I ask the Director of Services, Housing and Corporate how many Local Authority Family-Type dwellings, two-bedroomed houses and one-bedroomed houses are vacant in Carrick on Shannon, their locations, whether any maintenance work is necessary to be carried out on any of these houses, and the number and locations of same.
How many persons are on the waiting list for each type of housing."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"There are currently 4 no. vacant local authority houses in Carrick on Shannon as follows - 2 x 1 bed in Cara Court and Amber Court respectively and 2 x 3 bed properties in Breffni Crescent and Ath na Ri respectively. The two family type properties will be allocated in the coming week. The two Limited Accommodation Dwellings have only become available in recent days and some repair works will be required. In terms of Carrick on Shannon as a first preference location, there are currently 24 people on the list for 1 bed properties, 71 for 2 Bed Properties and 50 for 3 Bed Properties. It should be noted however that the waiting list includes transfer applicants, applicants who are also on the list for other areas and applicants whose need might more appropriately be met through other measures eg. Rent Supplement, Rental Accommodation Scheme, Voluntary Housing, Improvement Works in Lieu of Rehousing etc"

09/371
6/7/09

Disabled Persons Parking Space

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Michael Colreavy;

"Will Leitrim County Council arrange for a disabled persons parking space to be installed outside Manorhamilton Health Centre?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The Manorhamilton Health Centre is located on a section of New Line (N16) governed by a double yellow line. While a dedicated disabled parking space cannot be provided directly in front of the Centre for this reason, consideration will be given to converting part of the paid parking area in front of the Methodist Church, immediately adjoining the Health centre, to use as a disabled parking space , subject to the availability of funding."

09/372
6/7/09

Internet Access

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Michael Colreavy;

"Will the Director of Services outline progress and timescale to achieve our objective of ensuring every person in Leitrim can have access to quality, high-speed internet access?"

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services & Housing

"Having contacted Three Mobile (who are rolling out the National Broadband Scheme) - they expect good progress in relation to Leitrim this Summer - some areas require new technology to rollout broadband and must go through the planning process. Three Mobile are confident of full roll out of the NBS by September 2010. The C&E section continues to provide contact details of Providers to communities experiencing broadband difficulties."

09/373
6/7/09

Unstamped ballot papers

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"What action does the Returning Officer and the County Registrar propose to take regarding the number of unstamped ballot papers in the recent local elections."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services & Housing

"The European Local Returning Officer, Mr. Kevin Doherty, dealt with the matter of the appointment of presiding officers for the recent elections. I have provided Mr. Doherty with the details in relation to unstamped ballot papers at the Local Election poll - 25 No. in total. Mr. Doherty has advised that he regards the failure of a Presiding Officer to stamp the ballot paper with the official mark as a very serious error. He has outlined however that whilst it is unfortunate that any ballot papers should be unstamped, the overall number of these spoiled papers (25) for the county is quite small in relation to the overall poll of almost 20,000. He has outlined that, in circumstances where Polling Staff had to put in a 16 hour day, dealt with 2 polls and especially in larger stations, coped with a massive voter turnout, some human error was inevitable. He has outlined that credit is due to the Polling Staff in general that so few mistakes were made. As a matter of his standard follow up procedure however he has advised that he has written to the Presiding Officers concerned and will deal with the matter directly with them in the usual way."

09/374

6/7/09 Sheena, Drumkeerin

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"When is it proposed to carry out necessary refurbishment works on some of the older stock of local authority houses in Sheena, Drumkeerin."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"Leitrim County Council made a submission to the Department in 2008 in respect of a Remedial Works Programme for Sheena Estate in Drumkeerin as part of the national call for proposals for such schemes to be funded over the period 2009-2011. Unfortunately the scheme was not one of the 21 projects nationally approved to be progressed. The Council does not have the resources to carry out major refurbishment works without the support of central funding. We will continue to explore all potential sources of funding and in the meantime will continue to maintain all of our housing stock within the constraints of the available resources."

09/375

6/7/09 Overgrowth around road signs

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"There are many road signs which cannot be seen as a result of overgrowth, branches and briars, can this matter be put right without delay?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Due to limited funding available, hedge cutting along public roads will be limited to cutting excessive growth at junctions on Regional and heavily trafficked local roads to improve sight distance. This work commenced in mid June."

09/376

6/7/09 Coast Road at Duncarbery

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"I will ask the District Engineer when will the coast road at Duncarbery be re-instated on the side where the new public lighting is installed?"

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services & Housing

"The reinstatement in question will be carried out in conjunction with the resurfacing work currently in progress on the Kinlough Road at Tullaghan."

09/377

6/7/09 Main Street, Manorhamilton

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;

"I ask Leitrim County Council when will the Main Street in Manorhamilton be opened to all traffic. Many of the business people feel that the present signage and bollards which are in place are turning shoppers and visitors out of town."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Main St in Manorhamilton was reopened to all traffic except HGV's on May 1st. on completion of the extensive repaving works carried out on the street in the previous two weeks. It is clear that construction traffic associated with the building boom of recent years was a major contributor to the damage caused to the street. A number of business interests and residents have expressed the view that this type of traffic should be excluded from this part of Main St. for good, and that it contributes nothing to the business life of the street as it is simply en route to building sites remote from the Town of Manorhamilton. Its exclusion removes a significant source of noise and air pollution and provides a more pleasant and peaceful environment for visitors to the town and residents alike. It is also safer for pedestrians and road users in general in light of the sheer bulk of these vehicles which can be quite intimidating for people having to negotiate a way around them. Their removal from the stream of traffic at the junction with N16 is clearly a bonus for safety at this location. Many towns and villages exclude HGV's from their centres where it is possible to do so. It is clearly possible to do this in Manorhamilton, and the Council is at present preparing a proposal for the necessary Bye Law changes which would give effect to the present temporary arrangement. This will provide a bonus of additional parking accommodation on Main Street, and the bollards at present in place will be replaced by hard and soft landscaping. Arrangements will be put in place for a public consultation process in the near future."

09/378

6/7/09

Skreeney Road

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;

"I ask the District Engineer to extend the footpath and lighting on the Skreeney Road, Manorhamilton out to the end of the speed limit."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The speed limits at the location in question on Route R282 are well outside the nearest housing developments on the Skreeney Road, and the benefit of such an extension of public lighting and footpaths is difficult to quantify. In any event, no funds are available for such works at the present time. It must also be recognised that the Council invested major funding in street, footpath and public lighting provision on that road in recent years which serve the public well and appear to cater adequately for present needs."

09/379

6/7/09

The old N4 road at Masonite

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"The old N4 at Masonite is presently used as a chip base by the Council, also to park lorries and by any Haulier going the road, and travellers are presently on holidays at this location. This situation is unacceptable to the residents living on this stretch of road. Commitment has been given in the past and as of yet nothing is done. I am now requesting that this Council makes an effort to resolve this situation."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"We are currently in discussion with the local residents regarding our storage area. Once agreement is reached on the future of the storage area we will inform the local councillors."

09/380

6/7/09 Public Lighting at Kilnagross

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"May I have an update on public lighting for Killnagross and completion of same at Gowel Church."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The ESB have received payment for the supply and erection of 3no. lighting columns and the fixing of a lantern to an existing timber pole at Kilnagross. It is proposed to start civil works at this location in the next few weeks. The ESB have informed the Area office that they are to return to Gowel at the end of this week or the early part of next week to complete any remaining works (take down overhead wires, pull in cables and put on the heads on the light stands)."

09/381

6/7/09 Dromod Village

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"I ask Mr. John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure, when is it planned to carry out the programme of works on the replacement of the steel lighting poles in the centre of Dromod village with the ornamental poles as was agreed with the local Development Association. Funding was provided in the 2008 lighting programme. Has a contractor been appointed to carry out the works involved."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The lights in question have been ordered and paid for. We are currently in discussion with the ESB on the most suitable way to remove the existing lights and replace with the new ones. We expect to carry out this work after the summer holidays when our roads programme will be completed."

09/382

6/7/09 Provision of Children's Playground in Bornacoola

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"I ask Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community & Enterprise, has any progress been made in relation to the provision of Children's playground at the Community centre in Bornacoola. I have been contacted by a number of families who are anxious that playground facilities be provided there."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services & Housing

"Playgrounds are provided in accordance with the adopted Play and Recreation Policy for the council. Within this there is no proposal for the direct provision of a playground in Bornacoola. If a local community group wishes to develop a playground project and to apply for grant aid from some source in order to finance it they should contact the county Play Officer who will meet them and advise as to how to proceed."

09/383

6/7/09 Largydonnell road

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Siobhan McGloin;

"I ask Leitrim County Council to replace the convex mirror at the junction of the Largydonnell road and the R280 at Largydonnell Bridge in the interests of safety."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"A convex mirror was installed at the location in question on an experimental basis a number of years ago in an attempt to provide a view to the North along R280 over the East parapet of the hump-backed bridge for traffic emerging from the local road.

The effectiveness of such mirrors and ability of the road user to interpret the proximity of traffic is extremely limited. The mirror was damaged and replaced on a number of occasions and what is now in place is a truck mirror provided by a local resident.

Leitrim County Council have no plans to reinstate the convex mirror at this location."

09/384

6/7/09 Main Street, Kinlough

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Siobhan McGloin;

"I ask Leitrim County Council to put signs on either side of the ramp on Main St, Kinlough to indicate that there is a ramp."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The ramp in question is an integral part of the recently installed pedestrian crossing at the Health Centre on Main Street. Warning signs indicating the presence of the ramp were installed on each approach in the first week of June."

09/385

6/7/09 Speed Limits

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McCartin;

"In light of the facts that the 50kph speed limit signs are on the blind side of a sharp bend and are almost in the town and that the 'No Over Taking' signs are at the start of the same bend, I would ask the council to move the speed limit sign to the start of the bend where traffic can see them as they approach the town and that the 'No Over Taking' signs be moved 50 meters out from the bend where they would be of some use. I also note that the 'Welcome To Ballinamore' sign has been removed and I would ask that it be replaced when the afore mentioned signs are being moved."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"We will consider the relocation of this speed limit when we carry out our next review of the speed limits in the county."

09/386

6/7/09 Newtowngore Village

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McCartin;

"I ask the District Engineer to complete the works on the footpath and public lighting from Newtowngore village to the primary school and to take action about the unsafe state of the footpath and open manholes in the middle of the village which pose a huge hazard to public safety."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"We have funding available within the Newtowngore Development Contribution Scheme. We will recommence construction of the public lighting later in the year and will have complete by year end. We have applied for funding under low cost safety grants to construct a delineated footway from the village to the school. The hazards referred to are due to a private development and our building control section are currently investigating this issue. We will however have the area staff investigate and leave the public area in a safe condition"

09/387

6/7/09 Drumgildra –Carrick Road

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John Ward;

"I ask the District Engineer to carry out temporary repairs on the by-road Drumgildra-Carrick Road. It is important to ensure this road remains passable during the ongoing bridge works by Irish Rail."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Temporary repairs to this road will be carried out. The Irish Rail works will be ongoing for another year but agreement has been reached with Irish Rail for the maintenance of this road during this period."

09/388

6/7/09 Broadband in the Annaduff Area

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John Ward;

"I ask Director of Services for Community and Enterprise for an up to date report on the availability of broadband in the Annaduff area. From my recent canvass, I found that the availability of broadband in this area is extremely poor and I would like to see what possible steps can be taken to improve the availability of this vital service to the local community there."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services & Housing

"Having contacted Three Mobile (who are rolling out the National Broadband Scheme) - they expect good progress in relation to Leitrim this Summer - some areas require new technology to rollout broadband and must go through the planning process. Three Mobile are confident of full roll out of the NBS by September 2010. The C&E section continues to provide contact details of Providers to communities experiencing broadband difficulties."

09/389

6/7/09 Derrinawillian Road, Ballinaglera LT 82942

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"I ask the District Engineer to immediately repair and resurface the Derrinawillian road, Ballinaglera LT 82942 which has subsided on one side due to heavy lorries with stone on the recent water scheme. The road is in a very 'rough state' and I would like a commitment for it's repair soon."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Repairs to the Derrinawillian road, Ballinaglera LT 82942 will be carried out by the Contractor laying the water scheme in this area as part of the contracted works. He will be instructed to carry out essential repairs immediately"

09/390

6/7/09 Exit junction at the R-208 and R-280 Galley bridge, Drumshanbo.

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"I ask Leitrim County Council to consider the exit junction at the R-208 and R-280 Galley bridge, Drumshanbo. Can the green and white 'bollards' be erected to signify traffic emerging?"

There has been some near misses recently as traffic coming from the town need to be more aware of the traffic coming from the R-280."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The green/white bollards will be erected at this location"

09/391

6/7/09 Aughawilin, Carrigallen

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

"When will the works which were agreed earlier in the year for the road at Aughawilin, Carrigallen (adjoining the townland of Beghbeg) commence, as there is further subsidence at this location."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services & Housing

"The works referred to at Aughawilin, will be constructed after the August break. These works will consist of localised filling of depressions and complete surface dressing. Funding available for this work will not allow complete road reconstruction."

09/392

6/7/09 Bridge between Gulladoo and Fyhora

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

"Is it the intention of Leitrim County Council to commence work replacing the bridge between Gulladoo and Fyhora, Co Longford before the annual holidays as current water levels would favour this work."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"We will carry out the culvert construction after the surface dressing season. We will endeavour to commence construction in September."

09/393

6/7/09 Taking in Charge

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Kilrane;

"I ask the Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services to advise when the Shannagh Grove, Sliabh View and Cnoc na Greine (all Mohill) Housing Estates will be taken in charge by Leitrim County Council."

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

"Shannagh Grove

Total number of houses in this estate is 27.

The road serving the first 13 houses has been declared a public one and as such is in charge of the Council. It was done in two sections – the road serving the first 6 houses first and then the road serving the next 7 houses.

The contractor has informed the Council that he is currently preparing an application for the Taking in Charge of the remaining 14 houses but has not lodged an application as of yet.

Sliabh View

The application for this estate was declared valid on 10th June 2009. Inspections are to be carried out shortly and a snag list letter will be sent out to the contractor if any are identified.

This will be done before 5th August as per our Taking In Charge protocol. Alternatively if no snags are identified then we will proceed with the Taking In Charge procedure.

Cnoc na Greine

No application for Taking In Charge of this estate has been lodged. The Council has had no contact from the developer with a view to preparing one either."

09/394

6/7/09 Maintenance and Upkeep of greens areas in Mohill

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Kilrane;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to confirm what arrangements are in place for the maintenance of and upkeep of the green areas at the Knocklongford, Cappagh and O'Carolan Court Estates in Mohill."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"For the past number of years the Council has given a contribution towards Residents Associations for the purchase of equipment such as lawnmowers etc for the maintenance and upkeep of their estates. The Council also sponsors a Community Employment Scheme, operated through Leitrim Development Company, which carries out work in

Cappagh, Treanmore and Hyde Terrace Estates in Mohill. Furthermore, Jobs Initiative Workers employed by the Leitrim Development Company, and funded by FÁS, carry out work in O'Carolan Court and Knocklongford Estates. While the Area Office previously engaged a private contractor to provide grass cutting services along the Ballinamore Road at the front of these estates there is no budgetary provision to continue this contract in the current financial circumstances. The Community Employment Scheme Supervisor has advised however that if equipment was made available from Cappagh Residents Association these areas could be included in their work programme."

09/395

6/7/09 Temporary security fencing and cones

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I ask Leitrim County Council what can be done with all the roads that have temporary security fencing and cones erected in some cases for many years? I refer to many local roads where the sides of the roads have slipped away, also bridges that have been damaged and fencing has been put in place as a temporary measure but is there for years. I ask the Council to investigate the possibility of acquiring funding through the Clar programme to address this urgent problem."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"It is acknowledged that temporary safety barriers were put in place at locations where landslides occurred and where no funding existed for permanent restoration works, due to the high cost of remediating the damage arising from such events. There is no doubt that special funding will be required in the future for such work."

09/396

6/7/09 Appropriate signage of locations of speed ramps

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to make sure that there be good signage in towns and villages where there are speed ramps to make motorists aware of these ramps."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Appropriate signage will be erected at locations of speed ramps"

09/397

6/7/09 Drumcong School

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;

"To ask this Council as to when the safety pedestrian crossing and flashing lights will be put in place outside Drumcong School for the safety of the children crossing the road."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The District engineer will be happy to meet with the parents association on site to discuss the situation."

09/398

6/7/09

Carpark at the Swimming pool at Acres, Drumshanbo

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;

"When will the extension of the carpark at the swimming pool at Acres, Drumshanbo commence as was promised in 2008 and to date nothing has been done ?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"An application for funding to the Department of the Environment for works at this location was unsuccessful in 2009. A further application for funding has been made under a Low Cost Safety scheme for 2010. A Department Inspector inspected the location last week and was extremely positive in relation to making funding available in 2010."

09/399

6/7/09

Warnings Signs

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;

"At the July meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Carrick on Shannon Senior Executive Area Engineer to erect appropriate warning signs on the Kilnagross to Keshcarrigan road, to indicate to drivers that there are vehicles entering and exiting the junction towards Kilnagross National School. A number of parents of pupils attending the national School have advised me that due care and consideration is not being given by drivers on the Kilnagross to Keshcarrigan road and the speed of vehicles passing the junction at the Post Office and exit road from the National School is causing great concern. While I fully understand that there is a role for the Gardai in ensuring speed limits are adhered to, I would ask that the council erect "school exit ahead" signs on the Kilnagross road, advising drivers that they are approaching a junction where heavy traffic is exiting and entering at school times. These signs should be erected on both approaches to the junction."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"A review will be carried out of existing signs at this location and consideration will be given to this proposal. The persons impacted will be notified of any decisions made"

09/400

6/7/09

Concerned residents at the Mohill Cross

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;

"At the July meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure, to address the concerns raised by residents at the Mohill cross, regarding the problems being experienced by the storing of Council chippings on this section of the old Dublin road and the legality of same. Historically Leitrim County Council has used a section of this road as a temporary stockpile for road chippings to be used by the Carrick on Shannon Engineering area. I will also ask if this road is still a public road and if Leitrim County Council are in breach of regulations or planning by using it for stock piling."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"We are currently in discussion with the local residents regarding our storage area. Once agreement is reached on the future of the storage area we will inform the local councillors. The road is a public road."

09/401

6/7/09 Local Authority Housing

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Martin Kenny;

"I am asking the Director of Services, Housing & Corporate

(i) How many local authority houses are occupied in the county.

(ii) How many people are on the waiting list for local authority houses.

(iii) How many people are assisted through the rent supplement scheme in the county."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"There are currently 952 occupied local authority houses in the County. The number on the Council's Housing List is currently 437 – this figure includes applications for transfers (ie. existing tenants seeking to move to alternative accommodation) and applicants whose need might more appropriately be met through other measures eg. Rent Supplement, Rental Accommodation Scheme, Voluntary Housing, Improvement Works in Lieu of Rehousing etc. THE Rent Supplement Scheme is administered by the Community Welfare Office and we do not have access to details of the number of people assisted through the scheme in the county."

09/402

6/7/09 Greagh Cross roads

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Martin Kenny;

"I am asking the Director of Services, Infrastructure when is it planned that work will be carried out at Greagh cross-roads on the Cloone - Ballinamore road."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The low cost safety funding is available for these works at Greagh Cross. These works will consist of road marking and signage and will commence after the surface dressing season is complete (Sept/Oct)"

This concluded the business of the meeting at 9.40 pm.

SIGNED: Thomas Mulligan
Cathaoirleach

SIGNED: Aideen McGovern
Meetings Administrator

DATE: 7th September 2009